



ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The purpose of the Orange County Local Partnership Agreement (OCLPA) is to enhance partnerships that promote preparation for and achievement of competitive integrated employment (CIE) for youth/adults, 14 years old through 30 years+, with disabilities and related “At Risk” populations including individuals with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities (ID/DD).

The OCLA was established in July 2017 and has grown to over 228 members from 90+ agencies. Partners include...

Local Education Agencies	Disability Resource Agencies
Workforce Development Programs	Families
Individuals with Disabilities	Disability Advocacy Organizations
Post-Secondary Education	Foundations & Non-Profits
Adult Service Providers	Career Pathway Programs

Over the last seven years, the OCLPA’s actions have included...

Developed Disability Related Glossary	Develop an Annual OCLPA Action Plan
Monthly Steering Committee Meetings & Resource Google Drive	Completed Orange County Workforce Development Information Sheets
Universal Referral Process	OC Business Partner Supports
CU TPI Transition Web Site	OC Ask the Experts Zoom Conversations
Community Conversation SB 639	OC Challenge Think Tanks
OC Business Intermediary Action Plan	Transition Planning Workshops & TA

Additionally, once the OCLPA has identified a need and a group of interested individuals make a commitment...an OCLPA Work Team is developed, implemented, and made operational. At the current time, the OCLPA has **(10)** Work Teams as indicated below.

OCLPA WORK TEAMS 2024-25

August 6, 2024

1) Project SEARCH Orange County (Kathi Millett, Goodwill of Orange County)

Project SEARCH is part of an internationally recognized program dedicated to building a workforce that includes people with disabilities. This benefits the individual, the community, and the workplace. The purpose of this program is to develop skills that advance employment opportunities, provide pathways to careers, and enable participants to succeed as contributing members of their community. There are currently 656 Program Sites in 48 States and 10 Countries.

Project SEARCH Orange County works in collaboration with employers, school districts, state agencies, community partners, community colleges, and other organizations

committed to providing year-long unpaid internship opportunities to young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The internships occur in professional, integrated, and inclusive settings

The purpose is to explore employment options and job preferences, through specialized skill development opportunities. This is especially helpful to individuals who have a limited workforce experience. The goal of the program is to better prepare our interns for competitive integrated employment (CIE) outcomes.

The Project SEARCH Orange County Work Team including RCOC, DOR, families, adult service providers, business partners, K-12, community colleges, and advocacy groups, oversees the operation of two sites: 1) Children's Hospital of Orange County and Kaiser Permanente Anaheim Medical Center. The newly developed Kaiser Permanente Irvine Medical Center will be implemented in Winter 2025. Additional sites are in the planning process.

2) Post-Secondary Disability, Equity & Inclusion Services & Supports (Adam Gottdank, North Orange Continuing Education)

Members of the Postsecondary Education (PSE) subcommittee includes K-12, DOR, RCOC, families, adult service providers, Orange County PSE, and additional California community colleges. The purpose of this subcommittee is the identification of student needs, services that currently exist, services that are needed, program models and research that promotes the transition, inclusion, persistence, and success of students with disabilities with consideration of intersectionality factors in postsecondary education and employment; and provide recommendations for best practices and implementation to the OCLPA Steering Committee.

Current efforts include the development and distribution of an "Inclusion Survey" to relevant PSE stakeholders to identify effective and needed PSE services and supports to promote success and positive outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities. This survey has also been translated into Spanish and Vietnamese by the Chapman University Thompson Policy Institute. Survey results will be reviewed, and a report developed.

Additionally, team members will be conducting a review of over (20) PSE Sites in California and the nation, with robust disability-related programming and services. The interview format and questions are currently being finalized. Once approved, members of the sub-committee will be assigned to PSE Programs and the interviews will be conducted. It is anticipated that this process and its report will be completed by Fall 2022 with the assistance of a CU TPI Graduate Research Intern.

This team has completed the PSE Best Practices White Paper. There has been a call to continue this effort with a focus on CIE Best Practices. We need to find a Work Team Leader.

3) Agriculture Work Team (Ray Bueche, Saddleback Valley Unified School District)

The Saddleback Valley Adult Transition Program and the University of California South Coast Research and Extension Center (SCREC) oversee this work team. This is a

vocational training program for students and adults with disabilities and is located on two hundred acres in Orange County South Coast Research and Extension Center, one of nine research and extension centers in the UC agriculture and natural resources system. It was established by the University of California in 1956 as a representative site for agricultural and horticultural research in California's south coastal plain-temperate climatic zone

Members of this work team include representatives of school districts and adult service providers. Current work efforts include preparing individuals with disabilities for jobs in the garden centers, commercial nurseries, and landscaping. Specific strategies include identifying

business partners, including Master Gardeners of Orange County, curriculum development and basic use of landscaping tools, irrigation management, and maintenance of fruiting and landscape.

Members of this work team meet to discuss methods to expand farm-to-table programming with a focus on Career Pathways including:

• Agribusiness Systems	• Environmental Service Systems
• Animal Systems	• Food Products & Processing Systems
• Natural Resources Systems	• Plant systems
• Power, Structural & Technical Systems	

4) Benefits Planning & Management (Judi Uttal, OC Asperger's Support Group)

This Work Team has been developed to address the many benefits-related concerns voiced by families and Individuals with Disabilities. Members include Families, the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), the Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC), Disability Rights California (DRC), the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), and CU TPI.

Specifics will include reviewing:

- On-going benefits issues reported by families
 - ✓ Eligibility
 - ✓ Application process
 - ✓ Combining Employment with benefits receipt
 - ✓ Overpayments
 - ✓ Re-determination Status
 - ✓ Use of Work Incentives (SSI & SSDI)
- Social Security Administration (SSA) Policies & Procedures
- SSA Work Incentives Reporting
- Benefits Planning and Management Certified Planners Services (Work Incentives Planners (WIPs) & Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPAs))
- ABLE ACT

Efforts will also include identifying resources for the CU TPI Website to assist families and IWD who have questions and or encounter benefits-related issues. Additionally,

when needed, TPI Staff will reach out to the SSA Benefits Division in Baltimore, Maryland to ask questions and receive guidance from federal benefits experts.

**5) Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Data Collection
(Adam Gottdank, NOCE & Linda O’Neal CUTPI, RCOC & SDSUII)**

Data collection and sharing across agencies is the next step for the OCLPA as we strive to demonstrate positive outcome measures for the employment of people with disabilities. This OCLPA Work Team and includes DOR, RCOC, NOCE, Adult Service Providers, K-12, Illumination Institute, and CU TPI.

Currently, we have separate systems collecting different types of employment-related data on individuals with disabilities. This team will address differing data collection variables including...

• Data Collection Methods	• Strategies to share data across agencies
• Individuals with Disabilities specifics	• Competitive Integrated Employment
• SB 639 Minimum Wage Requirements	• Business Partner/employer Lists
• Career Pathway Employment Opportunities	•

These outcome measures are needed to verify best practices and inform the need for additional and revised programming efforts.

At the present time, we are developing a data dictionary, data collection elements for collection, and a collaborative data-sharing agreement.

**6) Family Work Team
(Melissa Cory, OC Families, President Emeritus, Spirit League)**

This is a great opportunity for families who have adult children with disabilities to get together on Zoom or in person to discuss needs, challenges, and other topics of interest. Specific parents have been invited based on expertise and willingness to share firsthand experiences at conferences, in meetings, and workshops. This team meets once per month for one hour.

Focus Areas:

- Disability-Related Needs of Family Members
- Identifying Community Resources
 - ✓ K-12 Education
 - ✓ Post-Secondary Education Opportunities
 - ✓ Service Agencies
 - ✓ Service Providers
 - ✓ Benefits use & problem solving
- Competitive Integrated Employment
- Transportation
- Access & Accommodations
- Success Stories
- Conservatorship & Alternatives
- Life Planning for after Parent

Outcomes currently being worked on:

- ✓ Benefits Survey for stakeholders
- ✓ Benefits Issues White Paper
- ✓ Vetted Transition/life Planning Materials for Families
- ✓ Vetted/recommended TPI Website Resources for Families
- ✓ “How To” Information Sheets (One-Pagers)
- ✓ Identification of Systems Challenges

7) Business Advisory Committee (BAC) & Business Site Accommodations (Jeanette Real, AUHSD and Richard Rosenberg, CUTPI & SDSUI and OCBPI Grant Staff)

As the OCLPA addresses success in Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE). This team will participate in the OC Business Intermediary Process-II development and implementation which seeks to better utilize business partner/employer resources. Additionally, there is a need to review practices in identifying, requesting, and implementing work-related accommodations. Reports from Individuals with disabilities and their families and reports from business partners indicate a gap in services including:

- Identifying needed and appropriate accommodations
- Assisting Individuals with Disabilities to utilize self-advocacy skills in the workplace
- Understanding the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Legislation & its application
- Requesting accommodations from employers
- Assisting employers with the use of accommodations taking into consideration appropriateness, cost, and effects in the workplace
- Monitoring the effectiveness of implemented accommodations
- Understanding the business side of accommodation use

This work team includes RCOC, DOR, Business Partners, Job Developers, Families, IWD, and CU TPI. Efforts will include developing materials to assist stakeholders in the successful use of accommodations in the workplace. The OCBPI-II is looking to pilot collaboration strategies in the OC.

8) OC Work-Based Learning CIE Document Revisions (Linda O’Neal CUTPI, RCOC & SDSUI)

This work team has been meeting since Fall 2022 to revise all of the Orange County Work Based Learning (OCWBL) Documents developed in 2012 by a team of individuals representing RCOC, DOR, and school districts. Updating and formatting with a Fillable option for all documents:

- **OCWBL #1 Pre-Employment Skills Development Chart**
- **OCWBL #2 Employment Skills Development Evaluation Chart**
- **OCWBL #3 Employment Rating Referral Summary Chart**

Specific Employment Development Skills include:

- 1. Follows Directions**
- 2. Dress/Hygiene**
- 3. Time Management & Employer Expectations**
- 4. Work Tasks**
- 5. Productivity/Quality of Work**

- 6. Communication & Socializations with Supervisor & Co-Workers**
- 7. Utilizing Workplace Natural Supports &/or Job Coaching**
- 8. Mobility/Community Safety/Transportation Options**
- 9. Technology Literacy**

This work team includes representatives from RCOC, DOR, School Districts, CUTPI Interns, Community Colleges & Adult Service Providers

9) Disney Enchanted Inclusion (DEI) Work Team
(Charlotte Dobyys, Fullerton Joint Union High School District)

This is our newest work team with efforts to develop an action plan with goals and activities to support Competitive Integrated Employment at Disneyland. This Work team includes FJUHSD, AUHSD, NOCE, Families, Individuals with Disabilities, RCOC, DOR, and CUTPI.

10) Orange County Transition Event
(Adam Gottdank, NOCE, Arturo Cazares, RCOC, Juile Ornelas-Smith, AUHSD , Charlotte Dobyys, FJUHSD and Linda O'Neal, CUTPI & RCOC)

This is a Work Team that includes representatives from K-12, Community Colleges, Universities, and Adult Service Providers. We are currently looking for a Chairperson and Leadership Team to oversee this county-wide Transition Planning Event development, coordination, and implementation. It is intended to support families, IWD, business partners, educators, and service providers. This event will provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to access disability-related services information and resources at one convenient location