**Speak to California Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)**

In December 2014 the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), California Department of Education (CDE), and California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to further advance the State’s “Employment First” Policy and other federal and state laws to address employment in integrated settings, at competitive wages, for individuals with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities (ID/DD).

The three departments are in the process of developing a blueprint that aims to support the achievement of competitive integrated employment (CIE) for individuals with ID/DD. The CIE blueprint is being developed with assistance from Disability Rights of California and the public, and will identify changes in policies, practices and regulations.

If you are a consumer, parent, or advocate; or, you work in partnership with the DOR, CDE, and/or DDS to provide services and/or employment opportunities to individuals with ID/DD, please join us in our second public forum on Friday, May 15, 2015. The purpose of the forum is to share current information and collect stakeholder feedback on the development of the CIE blueprint.

We look forward to hearing your ideas and recommendations for the following questions:

* How can existing services, such as day programs and work service programs, be modified to become the stepping-stones to CIE opportunities for individuals with ID/DD?
* What are some innovative strategies we could use to create new or improve existing resources that support individuals in preparing for or engaging in competitive integrated employment?
* We have heard feedback from consumers and their families that there is a need for more job preparation services prior to engaging in employment.
	+ What skills should the job preparation services focus on improving to better prepare consumers for employment?
	+ What are other barriers or concerns that consumers and family members have about consumers entering into CIE?
	+ What suggested strategies do you have and how might these strategies be implemented statewide?

**Teleconference details:**

Friday, May 15, 2015

10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

CALL IN NUMBER:  888-889-5008

PARTICIPANT PASSCODE:  9636852

Contact us at CaliforniaCIE@dor.ca.gov if you have any questions.

For more information please visit the California Health and Human Services Agency [California CIE](http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/Competitive-Integrated-Employment-%28CIE%29.aspx) website.

Thank you,

Joe Xavier

Director