

# Partnerships in Employment Project Early Outcomes Overview

## What is the Partnerships in Employment Project?

**5-year grant awarded to 14 states:** The Administration on Disabilities (AoD) awarded funding to eight states in 2011 and 2012, and six states in 2016: *District of Columbia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Massachusetts, South Carolina, and Utah.*

**Focus on competitive integrated employment for youth with I/DD:** This project promotes cross-systems and cross-agency collaboration to improve competitive integrated employment outcomes for youth and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). *Competitive integrated employment (CIE)* is when “individuals with disabilities earn wages consistent with wages paid workers without disabilities in the community performing the same or similar work.”

**States form consortiums:** The six 2016 Partnerships in Employment states formed a consortium or coalition of stakeholders that include:

- ▶ **Individual Level:** Individuals with I/DD, family members
- ▶ **Community Level:** Pilot sites, employers, providers
- ▶ **State Level:** Developmental Disabilities Agency, Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, State Education Agency, State Developmental Disabilities Council, other state agencies

**States form pilots:** All 2011 states and four 2016 states (District of Columbia, Hawaii, South Carolina, and Utah) formed pilots to create supports for youth and young adults with I/DD and create employment opportunities.

**2016 states are at the mid-point of the PIE grant.** Outcomes include strengthened relationships between consortium partners and increased expectations for employment among community members, parents, families, and employers.

**AoD contractors perform project evaluation and provide technical assistance:** The Lewin Group is conducting a comprehensive, longitudinal evaluation and the Youth Employment Solutions (YES)! Center is providing training and technical assistance to states.

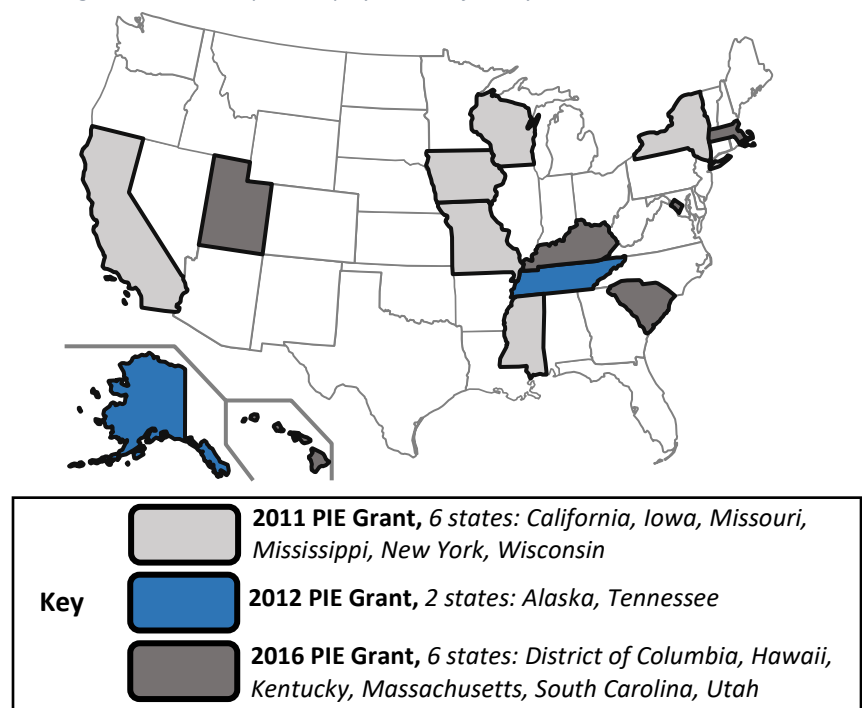
## Overview

The Partnerships in Employment (PIE) Early Outcomes Overview highlights outcomes for the 2016 states from October 2016 through August 2020. For additional information, please refer to the Semi-Annual Reporting Documents created by the Lewin Group.

### 2016 PIE Consortiums:

- [District of Columbia Learners and Earners \(DC L&E\)](#)
- [Hawaii Jobs Now Partnership \(Hawaii JNP\)](#)
- [KentuckyWorks](#)
- [Massachusetts Partnership for Transition to Employment \(MPTE\)](#)
- [South Carolina Employment First Initiative \(SCEFI\)](#)
- [Utah School to Work Interagency Transition Initiative \(USWITI\)](#)

Figure 1: Partnerships in Employment Projects by State



## Early Outcomes – October 2016 to August 2020

---

### **DC Learners and Earners (DC L&E)**

In collaboration with RCM Washington, DC L&E created a Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Academy to develop a curriculum and train DSPs. As of August 2020, 27 DSP Academy participants have met all the requirements to become a DSP and 14 have achieved CIE.

DC L&E created a self-advocacy and group discovery curriculum, People Planning Together for Employment (PPTE). Notably, DC L&E began working with one of DC's two segregated schools in 2019 to hold a four-day training. So far, 87 youth and young adults have participated in the PPTE training. DC L&E also developed [informational training videos](#) that will be available after PIE funding ends.

### **Hawaii Jobs Now Partnership (Hawaii JNP)**

Hawaii JNP collaborated with consortium partners to hold Reverse Job Fairs in 2018 and 2019. The Reverse Job Fairs attracted 181 employers and 121 students. At least 11 students received job offers as a result of the Reverse Job Fair.

Hawaii launched a pilot program that includes parent workshops, parent engagement activities, and pre-employment activities with students, such as workplace readiness, skills training, self-advocacy training, and work-based learning experience. As of August 2020, 21 families are participating in the pilot and four students have gained CIE or enrolled in post-secondary education.

### **KentuckyWorks**

KentuckyWorks supported two Employment First Executive Orders signed by the Governor in 2018 and 2020. KentuckyWorks participated in a Task Force to provide recommendations and drafted and submitted the Executive Order to the Governor's Office.

Since September 2016, KentuckyWorks held five Community Conversations in communities with providers, self-advocates, employers, families, and agency representatives to discuss employment needs and identify solutions. KentuckyWorks created implementation task forces to develop initiatives based on solutions identified through each Community Conversation.

### **Massachusetts Partnership for Transition to Employment (MPTE)**

MPTE launched a Charting the LifeCourse ambassador series to support ambassadors in their efforts to implement the Charting the LifeCourse curriculum. MPTE also conducted a survey of 150 educators statewide to assess work-based learning and employment supports.

MPTE created a [data dashboard](#) in spring 2020. The dashboard includes a summary document of data points that show the state's progress related to employment of youth with I/DD.

### **South Carolina Employment First Initiative (SCEFI)**

SCEFI increased availability and awareness of Career and Technical Education (CTE) resources by creating a three-part webinar series with local school districts on integrating non-diploma track students into I/DD into their CTE programs.

SCEFI has held four Employer Summits (October 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019). The most recent Employer Summit, held in October 2019, had 63 employers in attendance. The sponsorships for the Employer Summit have doubled each year and the 2018 and 2019 Employer Summits were fully funded through registrants' fees, vendors, and sponsorships.

### **Utah School to Work Interagency Transition Initiative (USWITI)**

USWITI had three pilot sites when the PIE grant began and developed six new pilot sites since October 2016. As of August 2020, 24 students have gained competitive employment and eight students have participated in paid work experiences or internships.

USWITI implemented two data tools for the School to Work pilot project. The School to Work Tracking Form tracks outcomes for each pilot site and student participant. The Continuous Quality Improvement Tool guides pilot sites to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and includes a place to develop a plan to address areas for improvement.

This document was created by The Lewin Group under Contract HHSP233201500088I, Task Order HHSP23337003T from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. For more information on the Lewin Group Partnerships in Employment Evaluation, contact [PIE-EVAL@Lewin.com](mailto:PIE-EVAL@Lewin.com). For more information on the technical assistance center, visit <https://www.yestoemployment.org/>.