NTACT THE COLLABORATIVE

Collaborative Innovations: Transforming Systems for Youth through the Disability Innovation Fund

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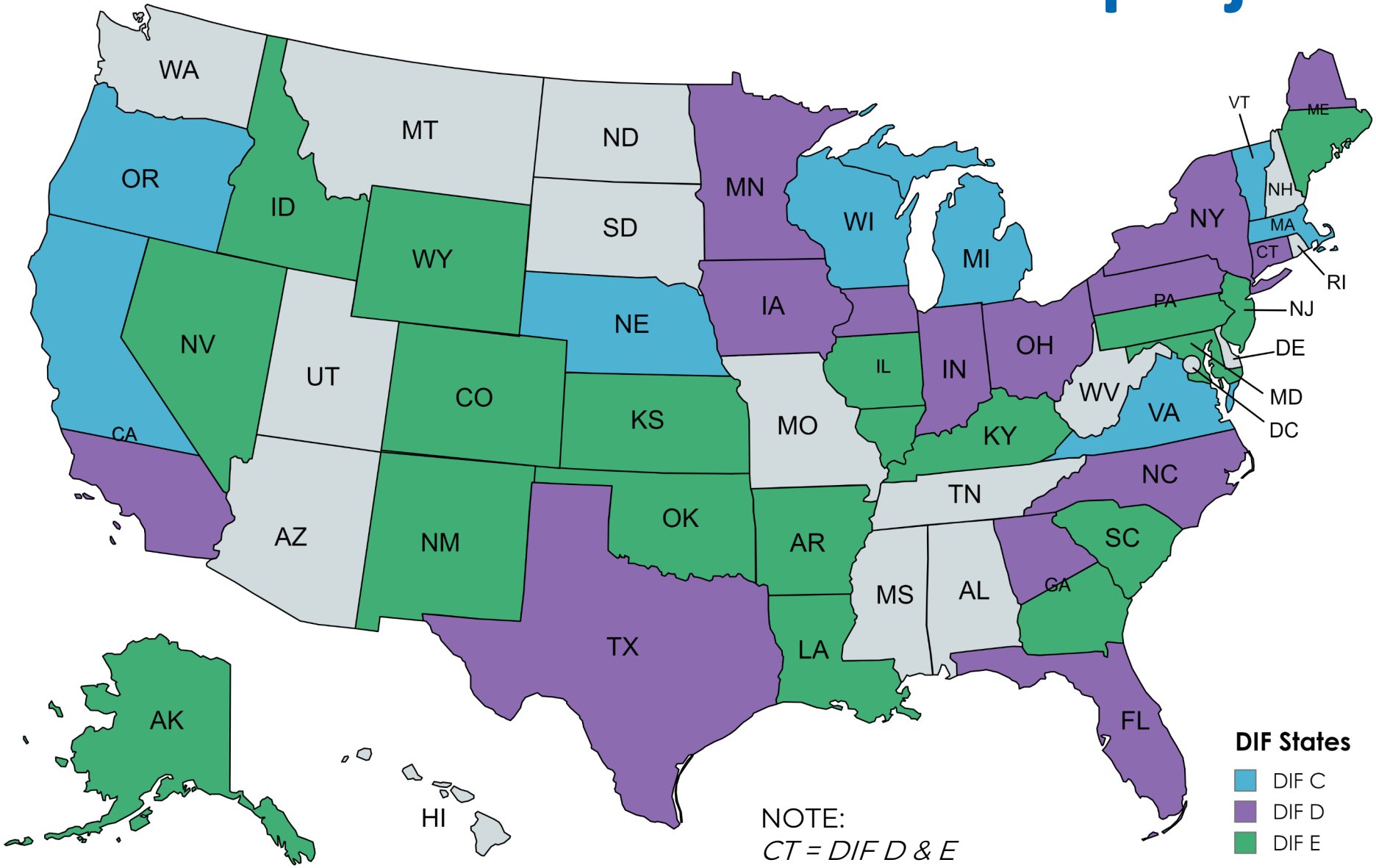
Disability Innovation Funds (DIF)

- **Purpose**: to support innovative activities aimed at improving the outcomes of "individuals with disabilities," as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- **Program office**: Rehabilitation Services Administration (US Department of Education) **CFDA#**: 84.421
- **Program type**: Discretionary/Competitive grants
- **Also know as**: DIF

Rehabilitation Services Administration Disability Innovation Fund demonstration projects

- 84.421C Career pathway projects
  - 8 state VR agencies
- 84.421D Subminimum wage to competitive integrated employment projects
  - 14 state VR agencies
  - National Evaluation Center (evaluation only)
- 84.421E Pathways to partnerships
  - 20 state grantees (VR, SEAs)
  - National Coordinating Center (evaluation, technical assistance, and grants management)

States with RSA demonstration projects



NOTE:
CT = DIF D & E
VT = DIF C & E

DIF C: Career Pathways

- identify and demonstrate practices in improving VR-eligible individuals with disabilities, including previously served VR participants in employment who re-enter the VR program, to **advance in high-demand, high-quality careers**, such as science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM),
- **promote career pathways in industry-driven sectors** through pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships and Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Program (IRAP);

DIF C: Career pathway projects

- California
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Nebraska
- Oregon
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Wisconsin

Career Advancement

Wisconsin

Ellie Hartman
Chief Evaluation Officer
Bureau of Workforce Information & Technical Support

Career Advancement

- Why did you apply? Who are the key partners?
- What do you hope to achieve?
- What is your innovation? How is it filling a gap in the transition system?
- What surprised you with the implementation of the intervention?
- What system change are you seeing?

DIF D: Subminimum wage to competitive integrated employment (SWTCI) projects

- Increase the opportunity for SWTCIE program participants to obtain **competitive integrated employment**
  - Students and youth with disabilities contemplating subminimum wage employment.
  - Individuals with disabilities who are employed and earning subminimum wage.
- Coordinate wraparound services
- Support entities holding section 14(c) certificates with transformative business models for adoption

DIF D: Subminimum wage to competitive integrated employment (SWTCI) projects - states

- California
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Maine
- Minnesota
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Texas

SWTCIE

Iowa

Mary Jackson
Transition Service Program Manager
Vocational Rehabilitation Services

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SWTCIE - Questions

- Why did you apply? Who are the key partners?
- What do you hope to achieve?
- What is your innovation? How is it filling a gap in the transition system?
- What surprised you with the implementation of the intervention?
- What system change do you hope to see?

DIF E: Pathways to Partnerships

- **Support innovative activities aimed at increasing competitive integrated employment** (CIE) for children and youth with disabilities including an innovative approach to the provision of seamless transition services focused on career exploration, CIE aspiration, and achievement of CIE leveraging the expertise of the required partners to **increase the success of the transition process**

- Develop an **innovative model of collaboration and partnerships**, with coordination of funding from, and a seamless system of services provided by, the required partners State vocational rehabilitation agencies (SVRAs), State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), and federally funded Centers for Independent Living (CILs) who are actively collaborating to support coordinated transition processes

DIF E Pathways to Partnerships

- Alaska
- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Nevada
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Vermont
- Wyoming

Pathways to Partnerships

Kentucky

Allison Johnson
Assistant Program Administrator
Office of Special Education and Early Learning

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Pathways to Partnerships – Questions

- Why did you apply? Who are the key partners?
- What do you hope to achieve?
- What is your innovation? How is it filling a gap in the transition system?
- What has surprised you as you define your intervention?
- What system change do you hope to see?

Resources

- Disability Innovative Funds
- Engaging 14(c) Certificate Holders to Increase Competitive Integrated Employment
- Engaging People with Disabilities and Lived Experience
- Staffing Models to Support Service Delivery
- The Role of Centers for Independent Living (CIL) – Three Briefs

Find us on:

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IDEAs that Work

Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education

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