



North Carolina Employment Collaborative Year 2

3/1/2020 – 2/29/2021

<p>System Gap Addressed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Initiative is focused on providing technical assistance, coordination and other support for the efforts of the Unified State Plan Committee. Using a Collective Impact Model of systems change to increase the percentage of positive employment outcomes for individuals with I/DD and other disabilities as lead departments under the Unified State Plan coordinate their activities to achieve their respective goals as defined in North Carolina’s Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act Unified State Plan.
<p>Initiative Goals and Timeline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide input that is specific to the needs of individuals living with I/DD and other disabilities as well as the business community, as departments attempt to accomplish the goals laid out in the Unified State Plan. Support the formation of regional Business Advisory Councils (BACs) that will inform the efforts of prosperity zone committee members. Outline efforts to advise all three departments as they collaborate and engage to accomplish the goals of the Unified State Plan. Contractor will facilitate efforts to ensure that the Unified State Plan Committee focus on areas that have a significant impact on competitive integrated employment for individuals living with I/DD and other disabilities.
<p>Description of Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that Unified State Plan Committee members focus on areas of the Unified State Plan that will have a significant impact on competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals living with I/DD and other disabilities. DI-NC has continued to meet virtually with the established DI-NC Employment Collaborative Council members on the established meeting schedule set for 2020. Council members we are focusing our collective efforts to advance disability employment strategies as outlined in the NC Unified State Plan. Successful completion of Workforce Development Boards survey in February 2020. Survey data collected has been used to guide recommendations to the Business Advisory Councils for the four targeted Prosperity Zones. These zones include the North Central, Piedmont Triad, Southwest and Western regions. DI-NC staff are assisting the regional BACs in these Prosperity Zones to align the survey data for each region with activities that form the foundation of their individual disability employment inclusion work plans for those respective Prosperity Zones.
<p>Description of COVID-19 Related Adjustments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the COVID-19 requirements for social distancing and the number of businesses, government offices, and Workforce Career Centers closed to in person traffic, there was an adjustment from using small group meetings to all virtual meetings for engaging stakeholders and self-advocates.

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(continued)

Achievements and Outcomes to Date

- Formation of the NC Employment Collaborative Council including Business Leaders and Self-Advocates, Government Agencies, Post-Secondary Education and Workforce Development
- Identification of champions across major partners
- Initial review of the Unified State Plan with focus on areas that impact employment for individuals living with disabilities
- Establishment of Core Themes for Business Advisory Councils to address these including: Accessibility/Accommodation, Education & Training Awareness Training, Business and Stakeholder Engagement, Accountability Measures and Systemic Change Issues
- Development of marketing materials, vision statements and other informational pieces to support the establishment of the BACs.

Expected System Change as Result

- Increase the percentage of positive employment outcomes for individuals with I/DD and other disabilities using a Collective Impact Model of systems change.