

Press Release

California Policy Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (CPCIDD) Receives Grant from Ability Central to Continue the Important Work of Elevating the Importance of Employment for People with IDD.

The Journey to Employment for People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Project is a partnership with Joey Travolta from Inclusion Films and CPCIDD that will employ and train media crews with IDD, document individual experiences of people with IDD who want to work and convene a statewide Employment Symposium.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The California Policy Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (CPCIDD) announced receiving a grant from Ability Central to support Journey to Employment for People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, a two-year initiative running January 9, 2026 through December 31, 2027. The project will produce a feature-length documentary, expand the RISE UP Retail Fundamentals program, and host an Employment Symposium to share findings, best-practices, and innovative strategies for increasing employment opportunities for people with IDD in California.

Purpose and Impact

This initiative centers the lived experience of people with IDD who want to work and intends to highlight the value and importance of meaningful employment. By combining storytelling, lessons learned, research, and hands-on experience, CPCIDD aims to increase employer awareness, share the experiences of people with IDD who want to

work, and provide helpful information and resources to people who want to know more about employment for people with IDD.

Quotes

Teresa R. Anderson, Executive Director, California Policy Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

“We are very grateful to Ability Central for their unwavering commitment to prioritizing employment for people with IDD. By funding this project they enable us to continue to build upon the work we are doing to support policies and practices that increase employment opportunities for people with IDD in California.”

Griffen Stapp, Executive Director, Ability Central

“We are proud to support CPCIDD’s approach that combines storytelling, workforce training, and systems change. This project will amplify voices often left out of mainstream media and demonstrate scalable inclusive employment practices.”

Media Requests

For interview requests contact:

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About California Policy Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities:

<https://www.cpcidd.org/about-us/what-we-do/>

About Ability Central:

<https://abilitycentral.org/about-us>