

Linking Learning to Careers (LLC)

Program Overview and Preliminary Outcomes



State Rehabilitation Council
Performance Review Committee

April 1, 2021





Linking Learning to Careers (LLC)- Source and Primary Goal

- ▶ 5-year Transition age Work-Based Learning Model Demonstration research project (2016 - 2021)
- ▶ Funded by: U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration - Disability Innovation Fund Grant
- ▶ Awarded to: California, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts and Vermont

Goal: To develop and implement a model that provides work-based learning experiences and postsecondary access for secondary students and otherwise enhances their progress on a successful career path.





LLC - Central Design Elements

- ▶ **To get there, LLC Career Consultants deliver a set of ‘Enhanced Services’**
 - ▶ A continuum of **work-based learning experiences (WBLE)** – especially job shadows, unpaid internships and paid competitive employment.
 - ▶ Access to **postsecondary education** exploration and engagement.
 - ▶ Intensive individualized **Assistive Technology** support.
 - ▶ **Transportation** for WBL, employment, & post-secondary activities.
 - ▶ An individual LLC Plan including career goals and on-going reflection
- ▶ **Evaluation design:** A randomized controlled trial (RCT) recruiting 800 high school students with disabilities in 12 VR district offices statewide – half to the treatment group to receive “enhanced services” and half to the control group to receive “core” VR transition services as usual.





LLC - Significant Implementation Milestones

- ▶ Enrolled 803 high school sophomores and juniors completed by December 2018
- ▶ Hired one LLC Career Consultant and LLC Youth Employment Specialist in all 12 districts, plus two Assistive Technology Specialists dividing the state north and south
- ▶ Developed a Fidelity Monitoring process for quarterly check-ins with partner TransCen
- ▶ Created evaluation processes and on-going data review with partner Mathematica Policy Research
- ▶ Staff worked continuously with students beginning in HS through post-graduation for full duration of the grant





Impact of COVID-19

- ▶ VR suspended in-person student supports from mid-March forward
- ▶ Transition supports for youth provided throughout with switch to virtual formats
- ▶ Guidance developed for providing WBL placements (virtual and in-person) safely
- ▶ Developed new post-secondary options available virtually statewide
- ▶ Created virtual employer engagement opportunities (e.g. informational interviews, employer career panels)





LLC Data Snapshot (provisional data)

Description	Enhanced Group	Core Group
Short Term Unpaid WBLE (e.g., job shadow)	10.7%	3.4%
Long Term Unpaid WBLE (e.g., internship)	38.9%	12.9%
Competitive Integrated Employment (paid job)	45.2%	20.1%
At least one of the above three WBLE types	70.9%	29.4%
Post-secondary education or training (e.g., ICC)	282	58
Post-secondary counseling	65.7% (1214)	38.7% (410)
Youth Employment Specialist	93.2%	69.8%
Purchased Services	59.5% (1392)	27.8% (445)
Assistive Technology Specialist	28.0% (123)	N/A





LLC Data Snapshot

- ▶ 70.9% of Enhanced Participants have had a WBLE (job shadow, unpaid experience, or paid job) vs. 29.4% for control (core) group
 - ▶ Short term unpaid WBLE (e.g., job shadow) - 10.7% enhanced vs 3.4% core
 - ▶ Long term unpaid WBLE - 38.9% enhanced vs. 12.9% core
 - ▶ Paid employment - 45.2% enhanced vs. 20.1% core
- ▶ 59.5% of enhanced group vs. 27.8% of the core group have had purchased services (counts of 1392 vs. 445, respectively)
- ▶ Enhanced participants have had 3 times the amount of post-secondary counseling compared to the Core group 1214 vs. 410 (65.5% vs. 38.7% of participants, respectively)
 - ▶ And participated in post-secondary education or training at nearly 5 times the rate of the core group (282 for enhanced vs. 58 for core)
- ▶ 123 Enhanced Students (28%) have worked with an Assistive Technology Specialist





Policy and Practice Recommendations

- ▶ All Transition youth staff work with students/youth through age 24
- ▶ Continue the development of youth teams in every district
- ▶ Emphasize WBL experiences for all youth
- ▶ Additional resources applied to progressive education/post-secondary education and training
- ▶ Incorporate assistive technology support into the transition program





Questions or Comments

Thank You!

