**CCEPD Legislative Framework**

**Overview**

California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (CCEPD) members have expressed interest in developing a legislative program that will improve diversity, equity, and inclusion for workers with disabilities. As legislation is developed at the state and federal levels, it is critical workers with disabilities are included in policy conversations and focus on workforce initiatives and support systems to be employed.

The CCEPD will develop a tracking mechanism for state legislation and will create a separate legislative committee to determine which legislation to follow. The CCEPD will evaluate legislation for its implementation efforts. At the beginning, CCEPD staff will work with state partners on identifying legislation until the expertise is developed among the CCEPD staff. The CCEPD’s legislative program will be aligned with the CCEPD’s strategic priorities and its mandates.

**Legislative Topics for Consideration**

The CCEPD’s legislative program should initially concentrate on workforce topics identified among the purviews of the Employment and Training and State Coordination subcommittees. These topics were selected based on the CCEPD’s strategic priorities and aligned with strategies of WIOA local workforce plans for workers with disabilities. Additionally, each of these topics must consider the barriers and efficiencies previously referenced. This focus will ensure the legislative work of the CCEPD is aligned and coordinated with other CCEPD work.

Initial topics to follow for the CCEPD’s legislative program should focus on the following workforce issues:

* Ensure disability in included in legislation where diversity, access and inclusive efforts are outlined for state programs and intersectionality of disability for employment training programs that may target a specific population.
* Co-enrollment and no wrong door policies and cross-system collaboration for people with disabilities to achieve better employment outcomes.
* Career pathways, work-based learning and/or apprenticeships when working towards achieving employment goals and inclusion of systems serving people with disabilities.

**Other Topics**

The CCEPD would also follow long term services and supports that support people with disabilities living independently. Other areas will include benefits, asset building and reforms to programs removing penalties that may exist and other assistive technology or adaptive technology needed for community living and employment. Each legislative session will have specific topics that the CCEPD may consider providing implementation information. Therefore, issues may change from year to year.

**Recommendations for Next Steps**

The Executive Committee will discuss the framework for feedback. At May’s CCEPD Full Committee presentation/discussion, members will discuss the legislative framework and timeframes for implementation of the legislative program. By August 2022 Full Committee Meeting, the CCEPD will establish the framework and process for following legislation. By 2023, CCEPD will have implemented the legislative program.