

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Mass Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 05.114

☐ Policy

☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Board Chairs
Workforce Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: August 1, 2016

Subject: **Promoting Employment and Economic Advancement: A Toolkit for Centers for Independent Living and American Job Centers**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators, and other local workforce partners of Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Training and Employment Notice ([TEN 04-16](#)) released 07/27/2016 providing information about services available from Centers for Independent Living (CIL) and American Job Centers (AJC) which will strengthen opportunities for collaboration between CILs and AJCs that can improve employment outcomes for jobseekers with disabilities.

Background: On July 22, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which replaces the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) and amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. WIOA offers new opportunities to fortify the public workforce development system's capacity to ensure the full inclusion of job seekers with disabilities in services and supports offered through AJCs and mandated partners. AJCs must be in compliance with physical, programmatic, and communication accessibility requirements established in the non-discrimination regulations related to Section 188 of the WIOA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Title II of the ADA. CILs are well-positioned to support multiple aspects of WIOA implementation at the state and local levels. Centers for Independent Living (CILs) can support American Job Centers (AJCs) in the many key areas.

Promoting Employment and Economic Advancement: A Toolkit for CILs and AJCs is a collection of resources for CILs and AJCs to deepen their understanding of each other's services and structure to improve the lives of job seekers with disabilities through employment. The Toolkit includes checklists, guides, and fact sheets that leverage both CILs' knowledge and skills on disability issues and community resources and AJCs' training and employment services to maximize the talents and skills of both partners to create a win-win-win for CILs, AJCs, and job seekers with disabilities.

The LEAD Center - known formally as the National Center on Leadership for the Employment and Economic Advancement of People with Disabilities (LEAD) - has worked with a number of CILs, as well as (or "along with") the National Council on Independent Living, to develop tools that could be used by both CILs and AJCs. *Promoting Employment and Economic Advancement: A Toolkit for CILs and AJCs*, which is available on the LEAD website (www.leadcenter.org), will be expanded as new resources are developed. The resources include a Guide targeted to CIL staff on the necessary information to educate job seekers with disabilities about AJC services, changes under WIOA, how to access AJC services, and self-advocacy for AJC customers. Embedded throughout the Guide are suggested opportunities and recommendations for CIL and AJC collaboration toward improved opportunities in employment and economic self-sufficiency for job seekers with disabilities.

Action

Required: Please share the information with management, staff, and partners as appropriate.