

SWTCIE Illinois



- SWTCIE Illinois will establish a replicable and scalable model that increases opportunities for CIE among people with disabilities and leads to statewide systems change.
- **Participant goal: To support youth and adults working in or contemplating SWE to find their “dream job” and coordinate access to VR services through specially-trained employment specialists offering evidence-based, person-centered services.**
- **System goal: Illinois will provide subgrantee funding to six 14(c) certificate holders to hire and/or reassign agency personnel for program activities directly related to CIE activities. Highly-trained employment specialists embedded with the 14(c) certificate holders will share their specialized training. The project will establish a website for resource sharing.**

Interventions		
For participants	For employers and community rehabilitation providers	For state systems change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate VR services that support CIE through an emphasis on self-determination • Promote participant community integration through CIE • Coordinate wraparound services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build employment specialist expertise in increasing CIE and addressing challenges to CIE • Develop a website to share evidence-based CIE practices • Support 14(c) certificate holders for business model transformation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer community of practice sessions to encourage Interagency collaboration, coordination, and partnerships • Establish peer and family mentor support systems to address concerns related to the transition from SWE to CIE

Populations Outreach and Enrollment		
Outreach	Subpopulations	Number of participants to be offered services
320	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults in SWE 	159
150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth contemplating SWE 	69

Design Features

Industries. Essential workers, green job, home- and community-based services, arts, and transportation and related industries

Locations. Not yet determined; locations will be within six 14(c) certificate holders

Recruitment sources. 14(c) certificate holders, State Board of Education, local school districts, and social media

State Policy Context

Employment First. In 2013, Illinois passed legislation regarding Employment First. In 2021, an Executive Order identified specific recommendations to improve CIE.

Technology First. The 2021 Technology First Act, Bill SB3382, provides guidance to the Governor and General assembly on the most appropriate supportive technology to offer individuals who require developmental disability services.

Political support for state policies and system changes. Illinois has strong political support for and pending legislation to phase out subminimum wage employment by July 1, 2024.

Prior participation in federal initiatives and demonstration projects. Illinois participated in the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program. The state will work directly with state agency staff, provider agencies, direct support professionals, and advocates in identifying ways to better serve individuals with disabilities or mental illness who use supported employment services to obtain CIE.

Efforts to re-structure reimbursement rates to incentivize CIE. Illinois has revised rules that govern Community Rehabilitation Providers to embed flexibility with accreditation requirements. A study of reimbursement rates is in progress with Guidehouse and the projected date for receiving restructure recommendations is June 2024.

Settlement agreements with Department of Justice to phase out provision of services in institutional settings. Illinois has two Olmstead related decrees, and the Department of Aging has a third decree.

Other relevant state policies or context. The Department of Rehabilitation Services will revise the 2020 MOU with the Division of Developmental Disabilities to clarify roles and responsibilities.