

## OVR Public Listening Session Announcement

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will be hosting two public Listening Sessions to seek input from stakeholders as it prepares to apply to the Rehabilitation Services Administration for a competitive discretionary grant. The public is invited to attend and share comments. CART and ASL services will be available.

### Listening Sessions

1. Wednesday, May 11, 2022, from 7 – 8 p.m. EST

[May 11th Listening Session Zoom Registration](#)

2. Thursday, May 12, 2022, from 1 – 2 p.m. EST

[May 12th Listening Session Zoom Registration](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### Grant Information

FY22 Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) was issued to support innovative activities aimed at increasing Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE), as defined in section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act) ([Gov Regs Definitions](#)), for youth and other individuals with disabilities.

The priority of the grant is: Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE) Innovative Model Demonstration Project. The project seeks model demonstration projects designed to develop, implement, refine, evaluate and disseminate, for easy adoption, new or substantially improved model strategies or programs to transition individuals in subminimum wage employment into CIE in any one of the following 6 topic areas:

(1) Essential Workers;

(2) Green Job Workers;

---

OVR's Mission: To assist Pennsylvanians with disabilities to secure and maintain employment and independence.

Department of Labor & Industry | Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

1521 North Sixth Street | Harrisburg, PA 17102

717.787.5244 | Fax 717.772.1629

[www.dli.pa.gov/OVR](http://www.dli.pa.gov/OVR) | Facebook: @PAVocRehab | Twitter: @PA\_OVR | Instagram: @PA\_OVR | LinkedIn: PA OVR

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

- (3) Home and Community-Based Service Workers;
- (4) Arts;
- (5) Transportation Industry and Related Industry Workers; or
- (6) Field-Initiated: Field initiated projects will identify and implement innovative strategies that assist SWTCIE program participants to secure CIE. A field-initiated project may (1) address innovative topic areas not otherwise included in this notice or (2) combine two or more topic areas described in this notice into one application.

The purpose of this competition is to increase competitive-integrated employment opportunities for students, youth and adults with disabilities contemplating, actively seeking or engaged in subminimum wage employment. To achieve this purpose, projects funded under this priority will create innovative models, for dissemination and replication, to:

- (1) identify strategies for addressing challenges associated with access to CIE (e.g., transportation, support services);
- (2) provide integrated services that support CIE;
- (3) support integration into the community through CIE;
- (4) identify and coordinate wraparound services for any individual served by the project who obtains CIE;
- (5) develop evidence-based practices and share those practices with other entities holding 14(c) certificates, State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies, local rehabilitation providers, State and local workforce agencies and regional and local employers; and
- (6) provide entities holding section 14(c) certificates with readily accessible transformative business models for adoption.

[Access the OVR Competitive Discretionary Grant Request for Information \(RFI\).](#)

The public is invited to also share written comments if unable to attend a listening session. Written comments should be submitted to [RA-li-OIT-BAS-Procur@pa.gov](mailto:RA-li-OIT-BAS-Procur@pa.gov) with the subject line 12 OVR SWTCIE Discretionary Grant before 5/10/2022 at 4 p.m.