

2020 Legislative Priorities for Community Employment Alliance

- 1. Begin transition services for students earlier so that students do not “graduate to the couch.” CEA proposes that every student who needs one graduates with a coordinated transition plan to obtain work or enter post-secondary education.**

Students would engage with DVR in the fall of their second to the last year of school and as needed, per the DVR-DDA-OSPI MOU, to provide students with the necessary supports and accommodations to obtain employment. Extended supports to maintain employment would be available through DVR and DDA, as appropriate and outlined in the MOU.¹ Increase the number of Basic Plus Medicaid waivers to provide capacity for students pursuing employment.

- 2. Cost of living adjustments for employment and community inclusion providers.**

When providers can maintain healthy businesses, attract and retain quality staff, better outcomes for people with disabilities necessarily follow. Employment and Community Inclusion Service providers need to keep pace with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in order to stay even with the rising cost of doing business. Over the last 5 years, providers have received ½ of the CPI increases determined by the US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Western Region.² As such, Community Employment Alliance requests a 2.9% cost of living adjustment for providers to keep pace with increasing costs of wages, benefits, and regulatory requirements.

¹ Memorandum of Understanding between Division of Vocational Rehabilitation And Developmental Disabilities Administration, signed 8/31/2018

² For King County, the CPI between 2015 and 2019 increased 10.7%, however, providers have only received total increases of 5.5%.