



CPSD
Real lives. Real work.

Collaboration
to Promote
Self-Determination

CPSD: *Careers, Income and Assets for Citizens with Disabilities*

Mission

CPSD was founded in 2007 to push for major systemic reform of the nation's disability laws and programs so that people with significant disabilities can become employed, earn competitive wages, live independently in inclusive communities, and ***rise out of poverty***.

CPSD is the only disability collaboration led by organizations representing people with disabilities and their families, and is committed to educating Congress and federal agencies about what people with disabilities need to rise out of poverty and live more independently.

Vision

CPSD envisions a modernization and alignment of federal policy and resources that:

- Affirms high expectations of citizens with significant disabilities to live and work independently in typical community settings;
- Emphasizes the attainment of employment (in integrated settings at competitive wages with commensurate benefits) as the priority outcome for the expenditure of public funds;
- Promotes opportunities and eliminates barriers to working and saving while ensuring the continuation of individualized supports that make employment possible;
- Eliminates the segregation of people with disabilities in "sheltered workshops", as well as Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which allows wages less than minimum wage, outdated practices which are known to cause social isolation and poverty;
- Increases access to disability service providers competent in working as partners with business to facilitate employment for individuals with significant disabilities.

CPSD Successes

CPSD members have successfully worked together to achieve the following milestones:

- Helped galvanize the disability community to oppose the use of 14c certificates, which allow for sub-minimum wages paid to people with disabilities;

- Played an instrumental role in passage of the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA), with a focus on improved competitive integrated employment outcomes and the commissioning of cross-agency reform recommendations;
- Influenced WIOA regulations and implementation by providing comments, recommendations, and best practices to responsible federal agencies and the WIOA Advisory Committee, authorized by Congress to develop systemic recommendations for reform.
- Drafted and found champions to introduce the TEAM Act, a package of three reform bills that modernize and align education, vocational rehabilitation, and workforce development systems toward a goal of integrated employment. Key TEAM Act provisions were incorporated in WIOA because of CPSD's advocacy.
- Made it possible for people with disabilities to develop financial assets in a meaningful way for the first time, through the development and passage of the Achieving Better Life Experience Act of 2013 (ABLE)

CPSD Members: Autistic Self-Advocacy Network; Autism Society; Institute for Educational Leadership; Interwork Institute; National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services; National Disability Institute; National Down Syndrome Congress; National Organization on Disability; Service Employees International Union; TASH