



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Advisory Committee on Integrated Competitive Employment for Individuals with Disabilities (ACICIEID)

This information is intended as a guideline developed by A TEAM family members to assist others in understanding the committee and its proposed recommendations based on public information shared through their website.

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/WIOA.htm>

1. What is ACICIEID?

The Advisory Committee on Integrated Competitive Employment for Individuals with Disabilities (ACICIEID) was established by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that was signed on July 22, 2014. The purpose of the committee is to provide a report to the Secretary of Labor with recommendations on ways to increase competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities and on the certificate program authorized under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (which authorizes the special sub-minimum or commensurate wage).

2. Who is on the ACICIEID?

The Secretary of Labor selected 25 individuals to serve on the committee, including self-advocates, disability organization, academia and government. Despite guidance that committee membership be "fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed", it appears from meeting minutes and presentations that only one point of view was represented with respect to sheltered employment and Section 14(c), and that this view was one of strong opposition.

3. When will ACICIEID make its report?

The committee submitted its final report on September 15, 2016. The report was submitted to the Secretary of Labor and to Congress. The final report, committee meeting minutes and public testimony can be accessed at: <http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/WIOA.htm>.

4. What recommendations are being made in the preliminary draft report that may impact my choice for training and employment in the future?

There are many good recommendations being proposed by the committee that will help individuals with disabilities who desire, and are capable of, competitive integrated employment to succeed. Among these are improved data collection, improving transition services and transportation. However, due to the perceived bias of the committee towards community employment options only, there are also a number of adverse recommendations in the draft report regarding the choice for pre-vocational training/sheltered employment that advocates need to understand.

Recommendations that may impact CHOICE:

1. Phasing out Section 14(c) special sub-minimum wage.

If Section 14 (c) can no longer be used for pre-vocational training programs, those individuals with significant disabilities who are participating in work training at a Community Rehabilitation Program may not have this choice in the future because they will not be able to keep up with the competitive rate expected to earn minimum wage. Instead, they will be transitioned into day services, other non-work programs or just stay at home.

2. Defining the WIOA standard of a “reasonable” time period for a transitioning student to attempt to achieve competitive integrated employment as at least 24 months.

This will impact a student and the family member’s ability to choose a pre-vocational training program in a center based setting for a minimum of 24 months before the option can be considered. They will have to wait for a community based job to be found after graduating from school, either at home or another day service.

3. Making a number of funding recommendations that could redistribute money from pre-vocational training programs for competitive integrated employment programs.

Competitive integrated employment is the goal for all individuals with significant disabilities and should have funding options always available. However, it should not be at the expense of another program being phased out or eliminated altogether.

What can I do to protect ALL choices for employment?

1. Take action NOW! Voice your Choice!

2. Write a letter and share why your work choice is your choice; not the government’s to decide for you. Consider the following:

- As family members, explain why the training programs your loved ones participate in are the right choices for them.
- Explain what would happen if your work choice to attend a training program was taken away.
- Include the significant value of the 14 (c) special certificate wage that provides the opportunity for you or your loved one to build skills, confidence and experience in preparation for community integrated employment.

3. Send the letter to the following:

- a. Your Federal Legislators ; visit <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>
- b. Your Senators; visit <http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>