



# Empowering transitions: the critical role of mental health providers in youth transition planning

Competitive Integrated Employment Workgroup

# Wisconsin's Employment First Law

**2017 Wisconsin Act 178 requires :**

- **DWD-DVR, DHS, and the DPI collaborate**
- **Input of partners**
- **Development of a joint plan to increase Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)**
- **Establishes performance improvement targets for programs, policies, and procedures to support CIE**
- **Plan updated at least biennially**
- **Requires an annual report**

# Analyzing the Data

- Created a cohort of people who were CIE eligible in 2019
- Ages 14-64 AND served by at least one agency between 2019-2024
- Analyzed employment outcomes 5 years later



## NUMBER OF CIE-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN WISCONSIN BY DISABILITY TYPE AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WORKING	PERCENT OF INDIVIDUALS WORKING	CIE DISABILITY TYPE	<div> <div></div> <div>Number of Individuals</div> </div> <div> <div></div> <div>Number of Individuals Working</div> </div>
74,246	18,050	24.31%	Psychological/Psychosocial Disability	
62,472	12,803	20.49%	Physical Disability	
61,524	17,111	27.81%	Intellectual/Learning Disability	
22,633	5,248	23.19%	Auditory/Communicative Disability	
15,636	2,781	17.79%	Visual Disability	
50	15	30.00%	Uncategorized	

# Employment By Disability Category

# Opportunity for Collaboration

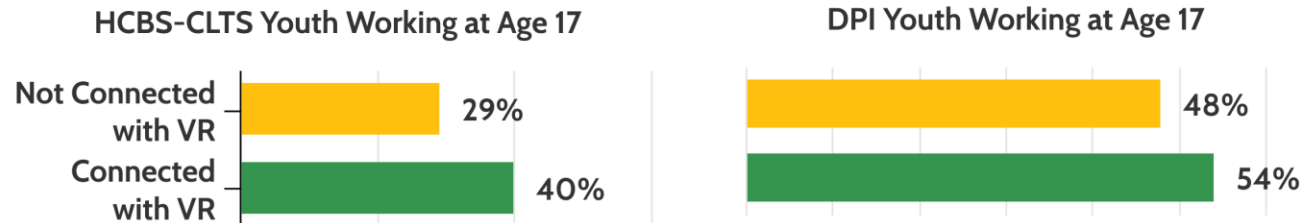
## BETTER TOGETHER

- Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) for Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS)
- Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)



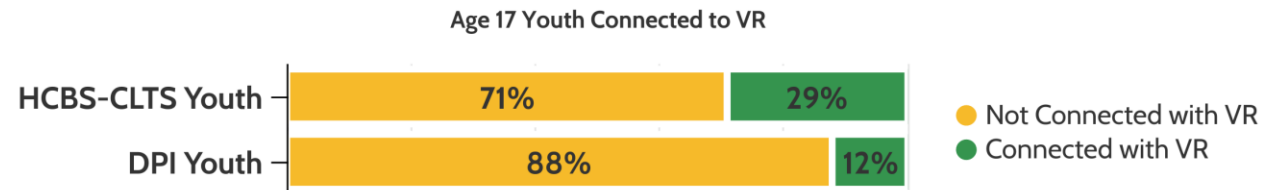
CIE Eligible Youth Age 17 as of June 30th, 2022

### Youth Working with Wisconsin VR Have Better Employment Outcomes



Employment rates<sup>1</sup> in SFY 2023 for 17-year-olds with disabilities who previously connected to VR.

### Opportunity for More Interaction with VR



Percentage of youth in SFY 2022 for 17-year-olds with disabilities who previously connected to VR.

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### Youth Working with Wisconsin VR Have Better Employment Outcomes

HCBS-CLTS Youth Working at Age 17



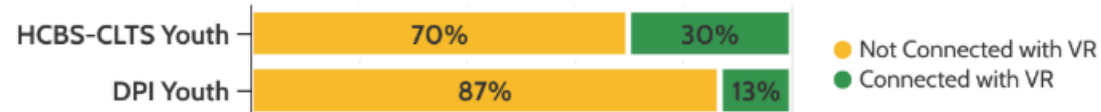
DPI Youth Working at Age 17



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### Opportunity for More Interaction with VR

Age 17 Youth Connected to VR



Percentage of youth in SFY 2023 for 17-year-olds with disabilities who previously connected to VR.

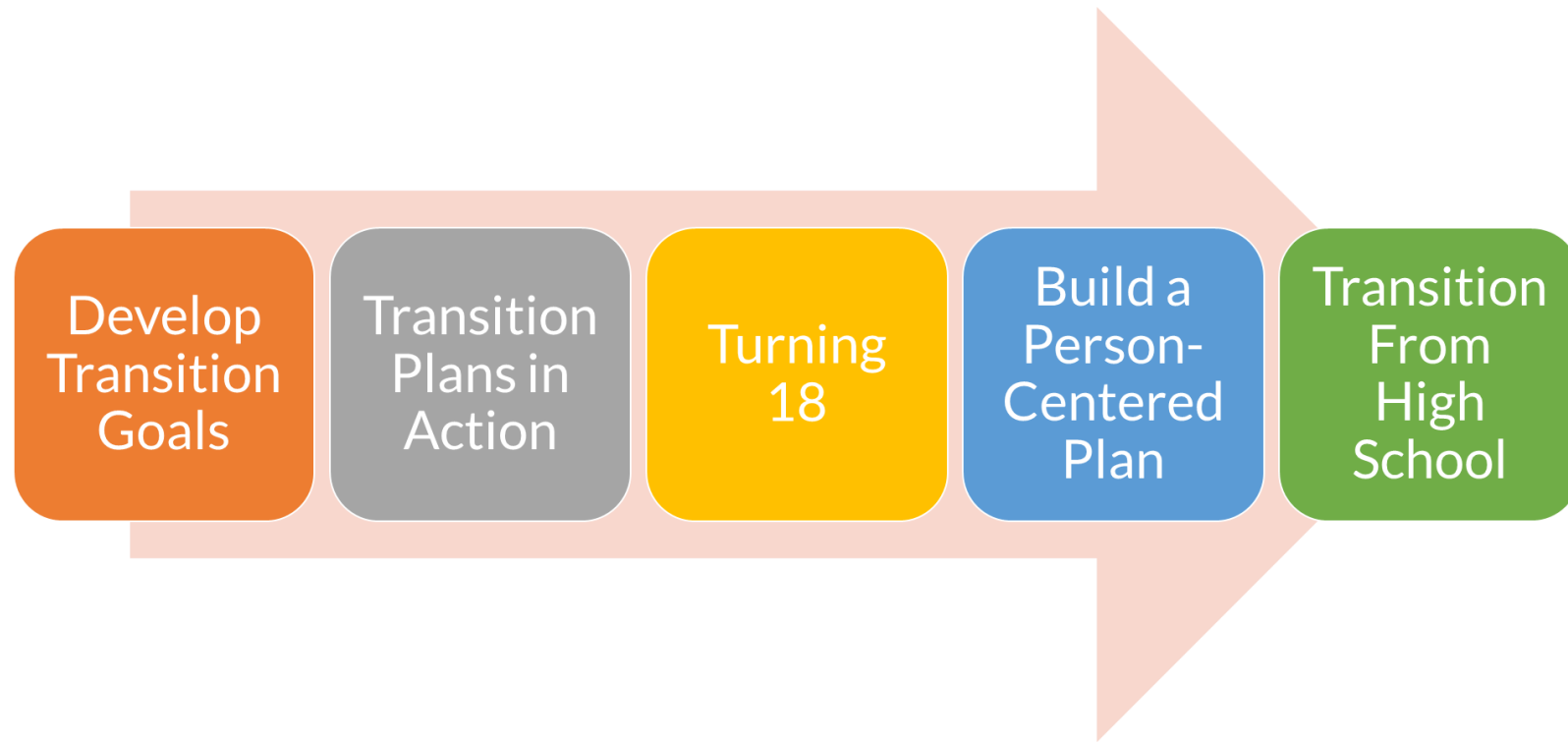
SFY	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CO-ENROLLED WITH DVR	TOTAL NUMBER OF CIE- ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS, DHS-DPI	PERCENT CO-ENROLLED
2018	5,205	36,826	14.13%
2019	5,367	36,991	14.51%
2020	4,750	37,033	12.83%
2021	4,178	37,875	11.03%
2022	4,294	37,631	11.41%
2023	4,528	37,266	12.15%
2024	4,817	37,040	13.00%

SFY	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CO-ENROLLED WITH DVR	TOTAL NUMBER OF CIE- ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS, DHS-CLTS	PERCENT CO-ENROLLED
2018	598	2,776	21.54%
2019	763	3,394	22.48%
2020	762	3,802	20.04%
2021	831	4,627	17.96%
2022	973	5,392	18.05%
2023	1,159	6,482	17.88%
2024	1,440	7,438	19.36%

# Youth Co-Enrollment

## Data Takeaways

- Engagement with vocational rehabilitation (DVR) supports has a significant impact on employment outcomes. There is huge opportunity for improvement in co-enrollment with DVR.
- Youth are having some of the highest rates of employment, however competitive employment outcomes are not sustained.
- While DHS has served more youth in CLTS, the co-enrollment rates have remained stable.
- Co-enrollment rates for youth served by DPI have not returned to pre-pandemic levels.



# The Transition Model

# Transition Action Guide

- Defines roles and responsibilities of transition partners
- Provides information on collaboration and commonly asked questions
- What role do you see yourself in?

[Home](#) Vocational Rehabilitation > Policy/Processes/Guidance > Toolkits/Guides/Manuals > Transition Action Guide

## Transition Action Guide

Transition Process

Benefits of Collaborating

FAQs

Glossary

Need an Alternate Format?

If you have comments regarding any documents on DVR's website or need an alternate format, you may contact us via email at: [dvr@dwd.wisconsin.gov](mailto:dvr@dwd.wisconsin.gov)

Or you can reach us by phone at: 800-442-3477 (Toll Free)

## Transition Action Guide

The Transition Action Guide (TAG) was created to provide a resource to educate all partners on their roles and responsibilities in the transition process. This guide was created in collaboration between the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Department of Workforce Development's (DWD) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), and the Department of Health Services (DHS) Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) and the Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS).

Each partner uses this guide as the source for best practices and technical assistance to support the transition for youth with disabilities from school to adulthood. [PDF Version](#)

Teachers and School Team  
Members

Parent(s)/Legal Decision Maker

Student

DHS Long-Term Care Professionals


DVR Representatives

Behavioral Health Providers



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 **DWD**

Department of Workforce Development

UNEMPLOYMENT WORKPLACE INJURY EQUAL RIGHTS EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT ABOUT DWD

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## Behavioral Health Providers

[PDF Version](#) [Expand](#) | [Collapse](#)

As a Behavioral Health Provider I can expect:

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Parent(s)/Legal Decision maker to:

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Teachers or school team members to:

-

- With consent, share relevant information related to student's strengths & needs, goals, and IEP meeting dates & times.
- Support the student to reach goals, identify natural supports, and access needed resources.
- Share information and resources related to behavioral health to student and family.
- Help the student connect to community resources and supports.
- Make sure student, family, and natural or professional supports are invited to IEP meetings.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Representatives to:

+

DHS Long Term Care Professional to:

+

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) or Tribal Aging and Disability Resource Specialist (Tribal ADRS)

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# Behavioral Health Provider Role

# Technical Assistance Guide

The resource for supporting employment practices for adults with disabilities is the Technical Assistance Guide (also known as the Adult TAG).

This guide has been updated to have a similar structure to the Youth TAG and will be available as an online resource very soon!





## Resource Feedback:

As a small group:

- Review Behavioral Health and FAQ tabs
- What resources or information could enhance the Transition Action Guide for the Behavioral Health Provider Role?

# Joint CIE Strategies

## 2026-27 Joint CIE Plan Highlights:

- Set and measure agency performance targets to increase CIE including youth engagement.
- Develop and implement a strategic plan to broaden access to IPS including implementing new IPS sites in each year of the joint plan.
- Identify and conduct outreach to other provider industries (e.g., direct care, mental health, youth justice, unhoused, etc.) to gauge interest in providing employment services to CIE target groups.
- Revise the Youth Transition Action Guide (YTAG) to include additional roles (e.g., school nurses, mental health professionals, etc.) in the transition from school to employment for youth with disabilities.

# Questions



# Resources

- [Competitive Integrated Employment: Act 178 website](#)
- [2025 CIE Annual Report](#)
- [2026-27 Joint CIE Plan](#)
- [Transition Action Guide](#)
- [Technical Assistance Guide](#) (update coming soon!)
- [Preparing for Life as an Adult: Transition Planning for Youth](#) (ADRC)

# Contact Information

Please feel free to reach out to any member of the CIE workgroup with additional questions.

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