



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES**

**PRESS RELEASE**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 20, 2016

**CONTACT:** Jocelyn Harris, Public Affairs Specialist  
O: 202-730-1687 ■ C: 202-664-2162  
jocelyn.harris2@dc.gov

## **District of Columbia Receives Major Grant to Increase Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities**

**Washington, DC**—The District of Columbia is one of six states to receive a five-year grant from the Administration on Community Living (ACL) to increase competitive job opportunities for youth and young adults with intellectual and development disabilities (IDD). More than \$1.8 million was distributed by the ACL's Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) to fund Projects of National Significance (PNS). Projects of National Significance address the most pressing issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families, creating and enhancing opportunities for people with disabilities to engage all facets of community life.

The District of Columbia will receive approximately \$1.2 million over the next five years to fund D.C. Learners and Earners (DCL&E), which is designed to create a replicable model for statewide systems change that promotes successful transition to employment for youth and young adults ages 16 to 30 with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Dedicated to giving people a fresh start to pursue self-directed lives, the D.C. Department on Disability Services will lead the project in collaboration with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), the Department of Employment Services (DOES), the Public Charter School Board (PCSB), Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC), University Legal Services, and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at Georgetown University. The Consortium will work to increase employment outcomes and economic self-sufficiency for youth and young adults with IDD, creating pathways to the middle class while developing a replicable, sustainable model for employing people with disabilities.

The Projects of National Significance is an expansion of the AIDD's Partnerships in Employment Systems Change Initiative grants. It is built on the premise that with the right supports and accommodations people of all abilities can participate fully in integrated employment and community life.

For more information about the D.C. Learners & Earners, contact Erin Leveton, Program Manager, State Office of Disability Administration (SODA) at 202-730-1754.

**-30-**