

PROMISE - California

Promoting the Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE) is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of Education (ED), the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to promote positive outcomes for children who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and their families.

The purpose of PROMISE is to improve the provision and coordination of services and supports for child SSI recipients and their families in order to achieve improved outcomes, such as completing postsecondary education and job training to obtain competitive employment in an integrated setting that may result in long-term reductions in the child recipient's reliance on SSI.

Who Will Be Served: Children with disabilities receiving SSI, ages 14-16 at the time of enrollment, and their families. Children and their families are randomly assigned to either: a group that receives required interventions (treatment group) or a group that receives services they would ordinarily receive (control group). Each group will be comprised of at least 1,539 children and their families for a total of at least 3,078 children and their families.

Services and Supports: California would provide an array of services and supports to participating children and their families, including

- case management,
- benefits counseling,
- career and work-based learning experiences, and
- parent training and information.

Partnerships: California must form interagency partnerships to implement the project. The partnership must include a lead State entity (Department of Rehabilitation) and the following departments that administer certain programs that serve transition-aged youth with disabilities:

Intra-Agency

- Department of Rehabilitation (State vocational rehabilitation services under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act);

- Department of Health Care Services (Medicaid services under Title XIX of the Social Security Act) (Mental Health Services);
- Department of Social Services (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act);
- Department of Developmental Services (Developmental/intellectual disabilities services)

Inter-Agency

- Department of Education (Special education and related services under Part B of the IDEA);
- Employment Development Department (Workforce Development services under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act, including Youth Services);

Implementation Efforts

- **Partners:** 21 local education agencies (schools) throughout California, TransAccess, SDSU – Interwork Institute, 5 State Departments.
- Finalizing an MOU with SSA and Department of Health Care Services to receive the list of names to begin outreach and recruitment efforts, and to provide Medi-Cal data to SSA on participants.
- Human Subjects review through Agency: protocol to ensure that we are protecting the security of the participants as well as their data. (Institutional Review Board)
- Work Teams: Members include participating schools, TransAccess, San Diego State, and DOR.
 - Interventions: Develop a tool kit of intervention resources that can be used by the career service coordinators as they work with students and families.
 - Training: 3 Boot Camps: San Diego (April), LA (May), and Sacramento (June); and certified benefits planner training through Cornell University (August and September).
 - Outreach and Recruitment: Letters for recruitment, feedback for the PROMISE website: CaPROMISE.org, strategies for outreach. CaPROMISE.org includes FAQ, link to State Partners, list of participating schools, and e-mail box for questions/comments: e-mail box overseen by the DOR.

- Case Management System: Public portion for partners, families; and a private portion for case service coordinators and CaPROMISE staff.
- *Through San Diego State, the Exceptional Family Resource Center will provide support, information and education for families of children with disabilities and the professionals who assist these families. Parenting classes, support groups, access to resources.*
- Interagency Council Meeting on March 20th: As a component of the grant, the DOR as the lead coordinating agency is required to form partnerships with the following state departments: DHCS, EDD, DOE, DSS, DDS. The Interagency Council facilitates this partnership through:
 - Providing statewide input regarding systems and policies in implementation and execution of grant activities.
 - Reviewing progress of the CaPROMISE grant in meeting its goals and objectives.
 - Addressing specific issues on grant implementation, execution, and coordination.
 - Facilitating collaboration among partners at the local level.
 - Each partner will enter into an MOU with the DOR.