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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Karen Leventhal
kleventhal@mednet.ucla.edu

“Let’s go to Work California” awardees will document innovative practices for integrated competitive employment”

The California Employment Consortium for Youth and Young Adults with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities (CECY) led by the Tarjan Center of the University of California Los Angeles awarded seven grants as part of the “Let’s Go To Work California!” Initiative.

Selected programs are located in diverse communities across California including; the Glenn County Office of Education, Taft College in Taft, Sweetwater Unified School District Chula Vista, TransCen in San Francisco, East Bay Innovations in San Leandro, Whittier Union High School District, and the Irvine Unified School District.

Awardees will shed light on specific barriers to employment and describe new solutions that can be utilized by programs across the state. These solutions include: using hybrid funding streams to overcome forced tracking, obtaining industry certificates to become more competitive in the job market, creating collaborations to increase job development capacity after funding cuts, and more. Programs will have 12 months to document best practices in a format that is effective to catalyze wide spread adoption.

CECY is an employment work group comprised of representatives from state agencies, expert organizations and self -advocates that seek to increase employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and other disabilities. CECY is one of 6 state groups nationwide which were awarded a federally funded Project of National Significance Partnerships in Employment Systems Change Grant by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

For more information on the Let’s Go To Work California! awardees contact Karen Leventhal at kleventhal@mednet.ucla.edu. For additional information on the overall CECY project contact Olivia Raynor, Ph.D at oraynor@mednet.ucla.edu.