



## **2022 DDS Employment Grants for**

### **Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Opportunities**

The Developmental Services Budget Trailer Bill, AB 136 (Chapter 76, Statutes of 2021), effective July 16, 2021, authorized additional funding to advance competitive integrated employment. Enacted as W&I Code Section 4870.1, DDS, received \$10 Million in funding to increase pathways to employment. The purpose of the grant program is to increase competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals served by regional centers.

#### The 2022 Employment Grant priorities include:

- Implementing evidence-based, new, and emerging best practices for job attainment, retention, and career advancement through an individualized, self-directed, and whole person approach to services.
- Providing pathways to employment for individuals with high support needs through an individualized and whole person approach to services.
- Developing business or industry focused collaborations to increase workforce preparation and employment opportunities.
- Increasing family, adult and youth knowledge and use of community employment-related resources and services.
- Changing service delivery models to promote competitive integrated employment for all individuals served.

Through the Employment Grant opportunity, identified entities will develop and implement innovative and replicable strategies and practices to increase paid work experiences and employment opportunities for individuals who are served by regional centers.

In January 2023, DDS identified 45 preliminary grant recipients. The complete list of preliminary awardees for the 2022 Employment Grant is available at the DDS website:

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/employment-grants/>

Many of the programs and services are not presently vendored, however are providing or preparing to provide the services identified in their grant. Please do not hesitate to reach out to them directly for more information. Attached we will provide the links to the websites for these programs as available, as well as information releases as we receive them.

**Bridges to Inclusion** - <https://www.bridgestoinclusion.org/>

*Project: Bridges to Employment*

Sofia Vergara and Kimberly Austin [bridgestoinclusion.org@gmail.com](mailto:bridgestoinclusion.org@gmail.com)

**Orange County Asperger's Support Group:**

*Project: Autism IN Entertainment Conference* - <https://ocaspergers.org/>

Judi Uttal [autism.in.entertainment@gmail.com](mailto:autism.in.entertainment@gmail.com)

**Zavikon LLC** - <https://www.zavikon.net/>

*Project: Zavikon Supported Placement*

Rebecca Beam/Hilary Kokenda [info@zavikon.net](mailto:info@zavikon.net)

**California Department of Developmental Services  
2022-2023 Employment Grant  
Preliminary Awardees**

Projects below are shown alphabetically by "Organization Name"

Organization	Project Title	Project Type	Regional Center(s) Served	Region	Description	website	for more information contact:
Bridges to Inclusion LLC	Bridges to Employment	Employment Preparation Services and Supports	WRC	Los Angeles	Bridges to Employment is a person-centered holistic program to support individuals with Austims Spectrum Disorder (ASD) on their journey to explore, secure and maintain competitive integrated employment.	<a href="https://www.bridgestoinclusion.org/">https://www.bridgestoinclusion.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:bridgestoinclusion.org@gmail.com">bridgestoinclusion.org@gmail.com</a>
Orange County Asperger's Support Group	Autism IN Entertainment Conference	Training and Implementation - Professional and Staff	FDLRC, NLACRC, RCOC, WRC	Southern; Los Angeles	1-day Autism In Entertainment Conference in Los Angeles, to be held in Spring 2024. The conference focus will create a bridge to employment for individuals on the autism spectrum in the field of film, television, animation and game design.	<a href="https://ocaspergers.org/">https://ocaspergers.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:autism.in.entertainment@gmail.com">autism.in.entertainment@gmail.com</a>
Zavikon LLC	Zavikon Supported Placement	Business Focused Practices	ACRC, ELARC, FDLRC, GGRC, HRC, NLACRC, RCEB, RCOC, SARC, SCLARC, WRC	Northern; Southern; Bay Area; Los Angeles	Zavikon is an employment agency pioneering the way for companies to incorporate neurodiversity and disability hiring into their diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. Zavikon's mission is to place neurodivergent individuals and those with disabilities in career-oriented, meaningful jobs, in a supported manner.	<a href="https://www.zavikon.net/">https://www.zavikon.net/</a>	<a href="mailto:info@zavikon.net">info@zavikon.net</a> or (833) 928-4566



# Autism In Entertainment Conference

Announcing plans for a 1-day Autism In Entertainment Conference in Los Angeles, Spring 2024. The conference will create a bridge to employment for individuals on the autism spectrum in the field of film, television, animation and game design.

Info: [autism.in.entertainment@gmail.com](mailto:autism.in.entertainment@gmail.com)



Register your interest  
to learn more

# BRIDGES TO EMPLOYMENT

new program preparing individuals for  
Competitive Integrated Employment

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO ...

- are served by the Westside Regional Center (WRC)
- have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- have completed high school
- have previous work experience (internship/volunteer/paid)
- can travel to Santa Monica/West LA (travel funds available)



This program includes weekly sessions, social & employment focused outings, as well as chromebooks/professional attire for participants



### APPLY HERE:

<https://forms.gle/s9qogLN8AajHEbZx8>

For questions, please email:

[bridgestoinclusion.org@gmail.com](mailto:bridgestoinclusion.org@gmail.com)





## SERVICES

### For Job-Seekers

- Job search assistance
- Employer and job identification and matching
- Interview preparation and support
- Job placement
- Job accommodations identification
- Career coaching
- Candidate advocacy

### For Employers

- Disability and neurodiversity recruitment, candidate assessment, and placement
- Interview and onboarding support
- Accommodations identification and implementation
- Individualized guidance throughout the recruitment and hiring processes
- Professional education
- Individualized education, preparation, and career coaching

## CONTACT

4500 Park Granada Blvd.  
Suite 202  
Calabasas, CA 91302  
(833)928-4566  
info@zavikon.net  
[www.zavikon.net](http://www.zavikon.net)

## ABOUT ZAVIKON

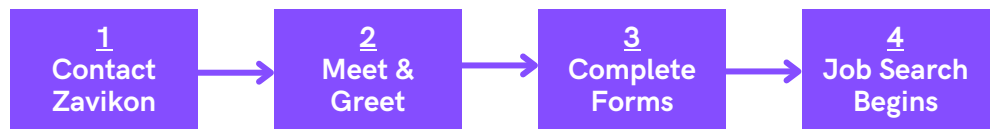
Zavikon is an employment agency pioneering the way for companies to incorporate neurodiversity and disability hiring into their diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts. Our mission is to place neurodivergent individuals and those with disabilities in career-oriented, meaningful jobs, and we do this in a supported manner.

## ZAVIKON SUPPORTED PLACEMENT (ZSP)

Zavikon received a generous grant from the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to fund the ZSP program which subsidizes placement and support costs enabling Zavikon to extend its reach to a broader range of employers and departments.

**ZSP services are free to job seekers.**

## GETTING STARTED



1. Contact Zavikon via one of the following methods:
  - Complete Referral form - [ZSP Referral Form](#) or
  - Email info@zavikon.net or
  - Website contact form - www.zavikon.net
2. Zavikon sends initial forms and schedules Meet & Greet
  - Initial forms to be completed in advance of Meet & Greet
  - Informal Meet & Greet typically lasts 30-45 minutes
3. Complete Zavikon forms
  - Additional forms sent after Meet & Greet
4. Once all forms are complete, Zavikon partners with you to strategize and match your career aspirations to job opportunities

## SUPPORTED PLACEMENT

- When an opportunity has been identified, Zavikon supports both participant and employer through the following:
  - Interview(s)
  - Onboarding
  - Acclimation (via 90 days of career coaching)