

International Efforts to Serve Youth with Disabilities

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Goals of the Study

- **Identify policies and programs of 10 OECD countries that promote the transition of youth with disabilities and could potentially be applied in the United States**
- **Assess the transferability of promising policies and programs to the United States based on the policies in two countries**





Limitations of the U.S. System

- **Youth with disabilities face numerous challenges (poor health, social isolation)**
- **Policy barriers include:**
 - **Insufficient employment supports, few services for youth, poor access to adult services, and poor coordination between youth and adult services**





Study Approach

- **Selected countries with well-developed benefit and rehabilitation programs**
 - Income support
 - Vocational rehabilitation
- **For each country, reviewed**
 - Published literature in peer-reviewed journals
 - OECD cross-country studies
 - Government publications and websites
 - Suggestions from international and local experts
- **Conducted in-depth case studies of promising programs and policies in two countries**





OECD Countries Included in the Study

- **Overview countries**
 - Australia
 - Canada
 - Denmark
 - France
 - Ireland
 - Norway
 - Sweden
 - United Kingdom
- **In-depth case studies**
 - Germany
 - The Netherlands
- **Contrasted with United States**





Types of Policies Examined

- **Promoting employment for people with disabilities**
- **Targeting youth and young adults with disabilities**
- **Providing access to adult services**
- **Coordinating the transition from youth to adult services**





Programs Promoting Employment for People with Disabilities

Policies	Country Examples
Promotion of supported employment over sheltered employment	Access to job coaches: <i>Ireland, Netherlands</i>
Financial incentives offered to employers	Wage subsidies: <i>Denmark, Ireland</i>
Financial incentives offered to workers with disabilities	Wage supplement: <i>Netherlands, United Kingdom</i>
Financial incentives and mandates for vocational training	Vocational training requirements: <i>Australia, United Kingdom</i>
Innovative policies to promote employment	Employer quota: <i>Germany</i> Vouchers: <i>Germany and Netherlands</i>



Policies Promoting Coordination of Transition from Youth to Adult Services

Policies	Country Examples
Improved transition planning efforts	Self-development of transition plans, access to guidance counselors: <i>Denmark, France</i>
Increased supports to postsecondary education	Educational allowances: <i>Ireland, United Kingdom</i> In-school supports: <i>Norway</i>
Increased vocational supports	Transition program to connect youth to employment: <i>Australia, United Kingdom</i>





Case Study Countries

- **Germany and the Netherlands**
- **Policies for supporting the transition of youth with disabilities to adulthood that**
 - **Were more closely aligned with U.S. programs**
 - **Seemed the most promising for transferability to the United States**
- **Assessed policies on efficiency, adaptability, and applicability for United States**





System Contrasts for Program Transfer Consideration

Germany	The Netherlands	United States
Guides all youth through transition		Leaves youth to their own path
Guarantees income support while in vocational training		Does not offer income support while in vocational training
	Guarantees services and opportunities, and coordinates delivery	Neither guarantees nor coordinates targeted services
Emphasizes employment support for youth and employers within a broader set of supports		Ambiguous about integrating employment supports with other supports



Potentially Transferable German Programs

- **Specialist Integration Services**
 - Federal-state program
 - Resource for employers and individuals with disabilities on vocational supports for workers
- **National goals and policies**
 - *Job4000* and *Initiative Inklusion* set national goals (such as 4,000 new jobs for people with disabilities) and provided resources to attain goals





Potentially Transferable Dutch Programs

- **Private-sector reintegration companies**
 - Market-based approach for private vendors to deliver services for beneficiaries
- **Improved, long-term employment supports and program rules on earnings for disability beneficiaries**
 - *Wajong* is disability program for young adults
 - Employment supports include work expectations, participation plans, access to job coaches, and trial work placements





Discussion

- **Nearly all countries have instituted policies that address the barriers faced by U.S. youth with disabilities**
 - **Insufficient information on effectiveness**
- **Germany and the Netherlands have a number of comprehensive, coordinated, efficient, and inclusive programs with high transferability to the United States**
- **U.S. policymakers could consider these programs as part of the evidence-building process**





Working Paper Available

- **“Lessons for Programs Serving Transition-Age Youth: A Comparative Analysis of the U.S. and 10 Other Countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)”, April 2013**
 - **Lorenzo Moreno, Todd Honeycutt, Stephanie McLeod, and Claire Gill**
 - http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/disability/Youth_Transition_WP.pdf





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APPENDIX: SUPPLEMENTAL SLIDE

Case Study Programs, by Country

Germany	The Netherlands
1. Transitional vocational income supports	1. Wajong
2. Vocational training centers	2. Reintegration companies
3. Supported employment	3. Targeted vocational supports for Wajong participants
4. Job4000	4. Special financing for education
5. Specialists Integration Services (IFD)	5. Centralized agency for income and work supports
6. Act on Promoting Vocational Training	6. Local transition collaborative agreements
7. Personal budget	7. Wage subsidies and dispensations
8. Employer quota system	8. Expanding program rules on earnings