

Family Empowerment Centers on Disability and Family Resource Centers

One of the California Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Blueprint objectives is to continually include stakeholders for input. Another objective is to identify existing resources and publish them on the CIE website and continue to provide and update as appropriate, especially when the resource proves to be an exemplary, effective, and emerging practice (“Triple E”). Including the Family Resource Centers and the Family Empowerment Centers as a resource and as a local member to be invited into Local Partnership Agreements (LPAs) is proving to be a “Triple E” practice.

The CIE Blueprint Leadership team encourages Family Empowerment Centers on Disability (FECs) and Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to be invited to join Local Partnership Agreements (LPAs). FECs and FRCs offer a wealth of information about the needs of youth with disabilities, and they could also greatly benefit from the information each LPA has to share.

The FECs provide training and information to families with children and young adults with disabilities, between the ages of 3 and 22. Several centers are a part of other federal, state, or local initiatives and serve families with children from birth to age 3 or specific focused programs. These parent-led nonprofit organizations offer the following services:

- Specialized training
- Peer-to-peer support
- Information and referral services

FECs aim to assist parents to better understand their child’s educational and developmental needs, effectively communicate with service providers, serve as a resource for the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process, participate in school reform and improvement activities, promote alternative dispute resolutions, and support positive relationships between parents and professionals. Services available through each FEC vary based on the needs of the community.

To find your nearest FEC, visit the Seeds of Partnership California FEC web page at <https://www.seedsofpartnership.org/familyEmpowerment.html>

The FRCs offer supports to families raising youth with disabilities such as:

- Family Support & Mentoring
- IEP Guidance
- Health Care & Mental Health Information
- Teen Transition to Adult Life
- Advocacy Information
- Parent and Community Support and Training
- ... and much more

To find your nearest FRC visit the Family Resource Centers Network of California website at <https://frcnca.org/get-connected/>