



ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT FIRST UPDATE, JULY 9, 2018

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1. FEATURED EVENTS

Access Chicago 2018 EXPO for People with Disabilities



The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities announces the Return of Access Chicago 2018 EXPO for People with Disabilities

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Health Pavilion
- Disability Organizations
- Government Services
- Products
- Recreation
- Raffle Prizes

Navy Pier, Festival Hall B
600 E Grand Ave
Chicago, IL 60611
JULY 19, 2018
9am - 4pm

The only event of its kind, Access Chicago is FREE and open to the public! Hosted by MOPD, the biennial expo promotes the independence and inclusion of people with all types of disabilities by showcasing Chicago's wide range of accessible venues, products, and services.

To learn more, visit <https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mopd/provdrs/accesschicago.html>

- **Sat July 21: 11 am -2pm. Disability Equality is Long overdue! Disability Pride Parade.** Starts at Balbo & Columbus Drive in Chicago. Volunteers needed! To register (312) 476-9563.

2. WEBINARS

- *Date: Tuesday, July 10th, 2018*
Time: 12:00pm-1:30pm Eastern
Duration: 1.5 hour
Title: Inclusion Branding - Global Thought Leader Debra Ruh on Maximizing ROI for Inclusive Employers and Employees with Disabilities

The team here at RespectAbility is delighted to personally invite you join us for a brand-new webinar next week. **Did you know that according to [Nielsen Research](#), consumers with disabilities represent a \$1 billion market segment?** When you include their families, friends and associates, that total expands to more than \$1 trillion.

Tapping into that market and hiring talented people with disabilities can provide a significant advantage to companies working in the competitive marketplace. **As such, we are delighted to be hosting global thought leader and inclusion expert Debra Ruh for a special webinar on Tuesday, July 10th at 12:00pm Eastern.**

[You can RSVP for the webinar HERE.](#)

- **"Ask Me Anything" Employment Series,**

National Resource Center on Employment

You're invited to ask an expert about coping with mental health conditions that interfere with work.

On, Fabricio Balcazar, via webinar, will answer any questions you have related to self-employment.

This **free, online event** is not a presentation but an [interactive question & answer webinar.](#)

Regardless of whether you are a person living with a mental health condition, a family member, an administrator of a service, a provider, a researcher — you can use the time to ask anything related to benefits and employment to our guest expert.

For example, you could ask about:

- What are the best ways to find ideas to start a business?

- How do I complete a business plan?
- Where do I find help?

Fabricio E. Balcazar, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

[Register for the FREE webinar now and ask your questions!](#)

- **Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program**
Community of Practice Monthly Webinar
July 11, 2018, 3:00-4:00 ET

<http://www.econsys.com/eflsmc/copwebinar/>

Topic: Applying WIOA Pre-ETS for Transitioning Students and Youth

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) represents a significant change in how state vocational rehabilitation (VR) programs interact with schools and offer services to students and youth preparing to transition from school to adult employment. The implementation of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), a way for VR to authorize services while students are in secondary school, is still relatively new. VR agencies and schools throughout the country are continuing to learn how, when, and under what circumstances to effectively apply Pre-ETS within the parameters of WIOA requirements. This webinar will provide information on the current state of Pre-ETS implementation in the country. At the end of this webinar, the participants will be able to:

- Examine how Pre-ETS has the potential to significantly impact employment outcomes for students and youth with disabilities;
- Consider approaches to address the challenges and opportunities for fulfilling the potential of Pre-ETS, and;
- Learn from implementation examples in one state, Tennessee

Special Guests: Rich Luecking & Jeremy Norden-Paul

Webinar Procedures

1. In advance of the webinar, we strongly recommend you test your connection and review the [Adobe Connect Instructions and Troubleshooting Tips](#).
2. On the day of the webinar, enter room here: <http://www.econsys.com/eflsmc/copwebinar/>.
3. In the GUEST field, enter your **first and last name followed by state abbreviation (i.e., Jeff, Smith, DC)**.
4. To connect your audio, follow the prompts to enter your phone number (direct line), and the system will immediately call you back (see [step-by-step instructions](#)).
5. If you are unfamiliar with Adobe Connect, please review these [tips](#) before participating.

- **Webinar on Disaster Response Efforts**

The NIDILRR-funded [Pacific ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, [The Disaster Response Efforts of the Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, July 12th, 2:30-4pm ET](#). Presenters from the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) will introduce CRCL's disaster-related responsibilities drawing

from experiences during recent disasters. They will describe CRCL's collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA, a component of DHS) and federal civil rights partners to provide proactive guidance, address emerging issues, and engage members of the disability community. Registration is free and required.

- **Register for Webinar: Best and Promising Practices in Integrating Reentry and Employment Interventions Date: Tuesday, July 17 Time: 2–3:30 p.m. ET**

Hosted by the National Reentry Resource Center, with funding support from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance

REGISTER FOR WEBINAR

This webinar is based on lessons learned from integrating reentry and employment interventions to help people returning home after incarceration find and keep employment. The presentation will be especially useful for corrections, reentry, and workforce development administrators and practitioners that are interested in maximizing scarce resources and improving recidivism and employment outcomes.

Presenters will:

- Discuss promising practices for connecting people to appropriate services based on their specific risk of reoffending and the associated needs;
- Highlight examples of integrating evidence-based and promising practices from the corrections and workforce development fields to improve outcomes for people in the criminal justice system;
- Demonstrate the importance of engaging leadership and direct service staff in planning a systems-wide coordinated process; and,
- Discuss strategies for realigning resources to improve reentry and employment outcomes.

3. ILLINOIS ABLE ACCOUNTS AND A CONVERSATION ON POVERTY AND WELL-BEING

- **THREE WAYS AN ILLINOIS ABLE ACCOUNT CAN HELP YOU BUILD YOUR INDEPENDENCE**



An Illinois ABLE account means greater independence for people with disabilities. How?

1. You own your ABLE account. You – the individual with the disability – are always the owner and the beneficiary of your ABLE account.
2. If you are an SSI recipient, you still get your SSI benefits when your ABLE account balance goes over \$2,000. In fact, you can save up to \$100,000 before your SSI benefits will be impacted.
3. It's your money – the funds in your ABLE account are for your use and you do not have to ask permission or get approval to use the funds for your disability-related expenses.

Now, that's something to celebrate! For more information about Illinois ABLE, or to enroll, visit www.IL.SaveWithABLE.com.

**TUNE IN NEXT WEEK TO AN ABLE PODCAST
WITH STATE TREASURER MICHAEL FRERICHS**



Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs and Missouri State Treasurer Eric Schmitt will join Education Talk Radio Host Larry Jacob on July 11 at 8 a.m. Central Time for a live interview to talk about ABLE "A Better Life Experience" accounts. To listen live go to EducationTalkRadio.Wordpress.com and click on the live button. Can't listen live? You can download the recorded podcast the next day from the [Education Talk Radio website](http://EducationTalkRadio.com).

WHAT DISABILITY EXPENSES DO YOU WANT TO SAVE FOR?

As an Illinois ABLE account owner, you can select from [six investment options](#) based on your needs and goals, in addition to an optional checking account. Your Illinois ABLE account gives you the flexibility to select the option that makes the most sense to you. The ABLE checking account option can be used for ongoing expenses that require easy access to funds, such as weekly therapy appointments.

The six investment options give you flexibility to save for a short, medium and long-term needs, like saving for a rainy day or purchasing accessible equipment. How will you use your ABLE savings? To learn more about the investment and checking options offered by the Illinois ABLE plan visit [Investment Options](#) at IL.SaveWithABLE.com.

- [A Conversation on Poverty and Well-Being](#)



As we strive to make Illinois a state characterized by safety, equity, and opportunity for all, it's important to look at the dynamics of poverty and well-being not only at the state and national levels, but also locally. That is why on Tuesday, July 10th, we will be releasing county-level poverty data to take a look at indicators of poverty and well-being on a local level.

In addition to viewing this new data, we invite you to join us, along with the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois, on Thursday, July 12th, for [a conversation](#) on what these data show about poverty throughout Illinois, what these findings means for our state, and discuss how you can use this data in your own work.

[Register Today](#)

See our [2018 Illinois Poverty Update](#) to discover more about that state of poverty of Illinois.

- Last year, Heartland Alliance convened experts from throughout the nation: individuals with lived experience of homelessness, community-based organizations, government partners, philanthropy, national workforce, homelessness, and anti-poverty policy experts, and researchers, to **consider the lessons learned, challenges, and successes in supporting pathways to employment and economic mobility** for individuals who experience homelessness or housing instability.

Informed by the participants at this [collaborative event](#), Heartland Alliance has released [a new brief](#) intended to drive federal-level action aimed at supporting pathways to employment and economic mobility for a greater number of people experiencing homelessness or housing instability. [Pathways Forward](#) puts forth **recommendations for federal agencies**, including actions that federal agencies can take to:

1. Address **data or knowledge** gaps;
2. Support **new or continued pilot or demonstration efforts**;
3. Support **community, provider, or system capacity** building; and
4. Clarify **policies or provide guidance** to the field.

The recommendations also highlights the role of partners from the public and private sector to support the implementation of key activities and strategies.

In addition to our recommendations, [this brief](#) outlines significant challenges facing communities in their journey to create pathways to employment and economic mobility for individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

[Read the Brief](#)

[Learn more](#) about our work to elevate and activate the national discussion about the importance of income and employment in preventing and ending homelessness or housing instability.

4. RESOURCES

- **Natural Support Networks**



Capstone
JUNE 2018

[Connecting To Natural Support Networks](#)

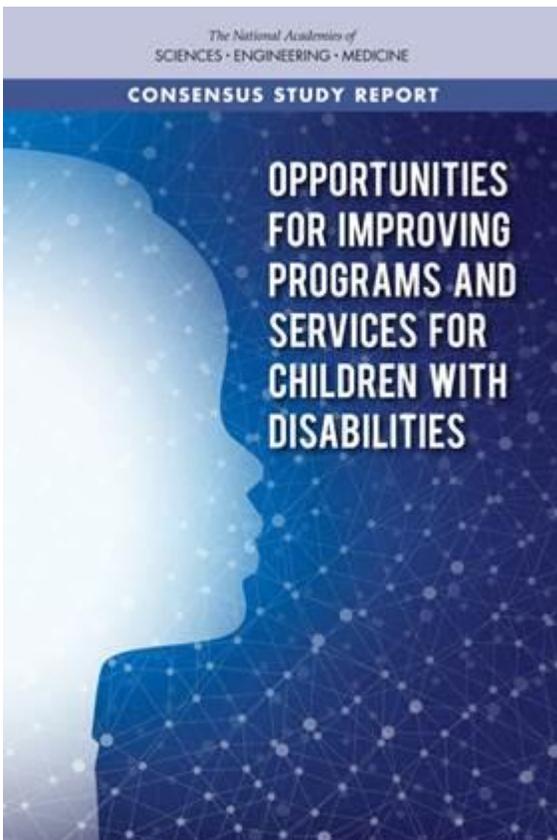
As detailed in the Personal Outcome Measures® Manual, "natural support networks are groups of people whose commitment to support each other is usually lifelong. These support networks cannot be manufactured or created. They can only be nurtured as they grow and evolve over time. Families provide lifelong support and a safety net for many people. Lifelong relationships with non-family members are also part of the support network."



Although data tells us that the majority of people receiving services have a natural support network, they feel that they do not have enough contact with that network. Considering that the presence of natural support networks affects other quality of life outcomes involving community participation, choices, rights, and more, it's important that organizations provide desired supports for people surrounding natural support networks.

In this edition of Capstone, we're looking into natural support networks, their impact on other outcomes, barriers organizations may experience, and tools to help out agencies in their efforts. [Read Article>>](#)

- [Opportunities for Improving Programs and Services for Children with Disabilities](#)



Although the general public in the United States assumes children to be generally healthy and thriving, a substantial and growing number of children have at least one chronic health condition. Many of these conditions are associated with disabilities and interfere regularly with children's usual activities, such as play or leisure activities, attending school, and engaging in family or community activities. In their most severe forms, such disorders are serious lifelong threats to ...

[\[read more\]](#)



[Buy This Book](#)



[Download Free PDF](#)

- **Self-Employment for People with Psychiatric Disabilities: Advantages and Strategies**

The researcher from the recently-completed NIDILRR-funded fellowship project on [Workers with Psychiatric Disabilities and Self-Employment Through Microenterprise](#) has published an article, [Self-employment for people with psychiatric disabilities: Advantages and strategies](#), in the [Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research](#). The article discusses the positive aspects of self-employment in light of employment challenges experienced by individuals with psychiatric disabilities and provides recommendations based on larger trends in entrepreneurship. The article is available free in full text.

- **NAS Workshop Proceedings Address Aging and Disability Stereotypes**

The [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine \(NAS\)](#) have published a report, [Aging and Disability - Beyond Stereotypes to Inclusion: Proceedings of a Workshop](#), which summarizes the presentations and discussions from a workshop, Disrupting Stereotypes of Aging and Disability: Societal Impacts and Opportunities for Change, hosted by the NAS Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence in October 2017. The workshop was held to better understand how stereotypes affect older adults and individuals with disabilities and how a person's expectations about and perceptions of aging can predict future health outcomes. The report is available free in full text.

- **Transportation Guide for Persons Who are Blind or Have Low Vision, 2nd ed.**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment for Individuals with Blindness or Other Visual Impairments](#) has released the second edition of [A Transportation Guide for Persons Who are Blind or Have Low Vision](#), containing helpful information and tips about finding and using transportation options. Transportation has historically been one of the most challenging obstacles to employment for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. This updated guide, originally published in 2014, is designed for persons with vision impairments, and those who serve them, to explore available transportation options and find the best solution.

5. GRANTS/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **In-Kind Donations of Surplus Property**

In-kind donations to USA and territories nonprofit organizations and local government agencies that are interested in receiving surplus property no longer needed by the federal government. This program distributes property of all types, with the exception of federal government records, certain naval vessels, and land and other real property.

State agencies and public organizations seeking donations of surplus federal property should contact a SASP representative in their region. These state-run organizations coordinate with the federal program for the donation of federal surplus property to public, tax-supported entities and eligible private nonprofit tax-exempt organizations.

Program Overview:

<https://www.gsa.gov/acquisition/government-property-for-sale-or-disposal/personal-property-for-reuse-sale/for-state-agencies-and-public-organizations>

Before starting your grant application, please review the funding source's website listed below for updates/changes/addendums/conferences/LOIs.

Contact your regional SASP representative: <https://www.gsa.gov/node/86680>

- **Grants to Illinois and Iowa Nonprofits in the Quad Cities Area for Education, Health, Arts, and Economic Development**

Grants to Iowa and Illinois nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools, and libraries to support charitable activities within the funding source's Quad Cities service area. Program categories include education, healthcare, social services, arts and humanities, and workforce and economic development.

The Moline Foundation serves seven counties: Scott (Iowa), Rock Island, Henry, Warren, Mercer, Henderson and McDonough. **Grant deadline is Friday, September 28, 2018.** Application Instructions:

[http://www.molinefoundation.org/Page/How to Apply for a Community Grant.aspx?nt=1174](http://www.molinefoundation.org/Page/How%20to%20Apply%20for%20a%20Community%20Grant.aspx?nt=1174)

- **Grants to Rock Island, Illinois Nonprofits for Projects that Benefit Children and Families**

Grants averaging between \$500 to \$1,000 to Rock Island, Illinois nonprofit organizations to enrich the quality of life of children and families. Funding is specifically intended for projects in the areas of health and wellness, literacy, children and youth, the economically challenged, and serving the developmentally disabled.

Grant Requests must be received on the Board approved Kiwanis Application Form, complete and no later than the last day of February of each year or **the last day of September**. Review the grant at: <http://www.rockislandkiwanis.org>

- **Grants to Illinois Nonprofits in Eligible Areas for Arts, Health, Humanities, and Social Services**

Grants of up to \$20,000 to Illinois nonprofits in the Greater Aurora Area, the TriCities, and Kendall County for capital projects. Letters of Intent are due March 31, 2018. Funding is available for programs in the categories of the arts and humanities, education, healthcare, and social services.

Community Foundation grants are intended to support charitable projects that utilize companies, firms or vendors whose principal offices are located within the Community Foundation service area. Since funds that support the Community Foundation Grantmaking Program are received from local donors, every effort should be made to return these grant dollars to the local community. **Fall Grantmaking Cycle: September 30 last day to submit Letter of Intent, November 1 Application is due.** Review the grant at <https://www.communityfoundationfrv.org/grantmaking-program/grant-faq/>

- **Grants to Illinois Nonprofits in Eligible Counties for Education, Health, and Human Services for the Underserved**

Grants to Illinois nonprofit organizations for education, health, and human services programming for underserved populations in DuPage, Kane, Lake, and McHenry counties. Priority will be given to charitable organizations that address the needs of children or the disabled. Before starting your grant application, please review the funding source's website listed below for updates/changes/addendums/conferences/LOIs. **The deadline for application to the Grace Bersted Foundation is August 1, 2018.** Grant decisions will be made by November 1, 2018. Register and apply online:

https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_1116?SA=SNA&FID=35038

EMPLOYER CORNER

- Free Course

K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan
Institute on Employment and Disability



Learn (Free-access) how to use disability inclusion in the workplace as a strategic advantage!

Want to learn how to access a driven, qualified and surprisingly untapped pool of talent at your organization or company?

Join Cornell University and ITCILO and learn how to use disability inclusion to your advantage. Seize this FREE opportunity and register [here](#) for the online course!

A small investment of your time in this course will get you started on how to make disability inclusion a reality in your organization. Discover what advantages disability inclusion could bring to your company and register to the ITCILO e-Campus!

Click [here](#) to access the free course.

More about the course

People with disabilities account for 15% of the world's population, that's one billion people, and yet, they are significantly more unemployed and under-employed than their nondisabled peers.

People with disabilities represent a driven, qualified and untapped source of talent for businesses and employers, who are recognizing that disability inclusion in the workplace represents a competitive advantage.

To address this changing perspective about disability inclusion and to help businesses and employers seize this opportunity, the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO) has partnered with Cornell University to create a self-paced e-Learning course, "[Disability in the Workplace: A Global Perspective](#)."

This 90-minute course is designed for employers and their representatives, such as HR professionals, to enable them to efficiently and knowledgeably design and implement a disability inclusion strategy.

After completing the course, participants will be able to:

- Articulate the business case for hiring, retaining and advancing individuals with disabilities;
- Identify the related international regulations that support disability inclusive employer policies and practices;
- Discuss the policies and practices needed within their organization to facilitate disability inclusion across the employment process;
- Design and initiate a disability inclusion strategy unique to your organization.

Short videos of personal stories, views and experiences of international experts and people with disabilities are accompanied by checklists, interactive content, and quick exercises. Also included are an organizational self-assessment tools and resources for further learning.

Click [here](#) to access the free course.

- [*Responding to an Employee's Serious Illness*](#)

A recent article published by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) explored the human resource (HR) professional's role in responding to an employee's disclosure of serious illness,

such as cancer or heart disease, and how it differs from that of line managers. According to the article, it is important is to continuously emphasize HR's value and position it as a resource for both managers and colleagues in crisis situations, which requires talking and listening in order to build strong, trusting relationships with both management and staff. [Read the SHRM article.](#)

JULY 2018

- **CBLN Announces Call for Proposals for October's Disability Inclusion Opportunity Summit**

On October 19th, the CBLN will host its 4th annual Disability Inclusion Opportunity Summit at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, 300 E. Randolph Street in Chicago. The conference brings together business leaders and talent acquisition, human resources and diversity & inclusion professionals from around Chicagoland for a day of learning, best practice-sharing and networking all centered on disability inclusion.

The CBLN's Program Committee is seeking proposals from individuals and organizations interested in presenting at the conference. The Program Committee will prioritize sessions that actively engage Summit attendees and highlight data-driven best practices for businesses building disability inclusion into the fabric of their organizational culture. We invite you to [submit a proposal for a 60-minute breakout session using this form](#). The submission deadline is 11:59 pm CT on July 27, 2018.

All applicants will be notified of Program Committee decisions by Friday, August 10, 2018. More information is available [here in the Call for Proposals document](#). Questions? Contact Laura Wilhelm at lwilhelm@chicagolandchamber.org.

Disability & Business:
A Peer-to-Peer Conversation
on Inclusion

7.25.2018 | 3–5:30pm
Northern Trust | 50 S. LaSalle St.

USBLN AFFILIATE
CBLN BUSINESS LEADERSHIP NETWORK
CHICAGOLAND
DRIVING SUCCESS THROUGH DISABILITY INCLUSION

REGISTER TODAY ➔

UPCOMING CBLN EVENT: Disability & Business | July 25th

A discussion about disability inclusion and how it can add value to your workplace, drive innovation, enhance the customer experience, provide community benefits, support strategic goals and positively affect the bottom line.

[More Information](#)

The CBLN is a program of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Foundation and is generously supported by the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust.

*The Wrigley Building, 410 North Michigan Ave, Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 494 6747 - www.chicagolandbln.org - lwilhelm@chicagolandchamber.org*

- [6 Ways to Make Your Careers Site More Accessible](#)



SHRM's **Roy Maurer** discusses how employers committed to diversifying their applicant pools and improving their candidate experience need to be aware of the problems that applicants with disabilities may encounter when using careers sites, job portals, and electronic applications.

[Read more](#)

- [GSA's Got Some New Tools for You](#)



Brooke Aiken details the new features and tools recently launched at Section508.gov, the federal government's website for IT accessibility. While aimed primarily at federal employees and contractors, these tools are broadly useful for anyone seeking to ensure that the technology they are buying is accessible.

[Read more](#)

- [Developing a NextGen Disability Inclusive Workplace, Part I](#)

Monday, July 9, 9am-12pm

From piloting accommodation practices, to assessing your current disability climate, to conducting a technology audit, presenters will share the "How To's" of replicating practices towards your goal of having a disability inclusive workplace.

[Read more](#)

- [Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary](#)

Thursday, July 26 **ANNOUNCEMENT**



Celebrate the 28th anniversary of this landmark legislation in your workplace by using the [anniversary toolkit](#) provided by the ADA National Network and its 10 regional ADA Centers.

[Read more](#)