



ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT FIRST UPDATE MAY 10, 2018

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FEATURED OPPORTUNITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DISABILITIES

36Squared Business Incubator has put together a small grant program to assist disabled entrepreneurs. Applications, along with a short video pitch, need to be submitted online by May 31st. We're hoping to fund up to 5 applicants with up to \$1000 each. For additional questions about the grants please contact Andrew Fogaty: afogaty@36squared.com

Application and details are here: <http://www.36business.org/36squared-boost-grants.html>.

To learn more about entrepreneurship:

UIC's CEED Chicagoland Entrepreneurship Education for People with Disabilities

<http://www.ceedproject.org/> Look under articles and resources for some of the project materials.

RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

- **May is Mental Health Month**

The month of May is host to a full calendar of events and observances, starting with [Mental Health Month](#), sponsored by Mental Health America. The theme is Fitness 4Mind4Body, spotlighting tools and resources that benefit minds and bodies together. Research has shown that people with psychiatric disabilities may be at high risk for being overweight, which can lead to cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, and other conditions. Programs that focus on physical wellness for people with psychiatric disabilities may help lower those risks. We looked at [research and resources from the NIDILRR community and elsewhere which may help individuals with psychiatric disabilities focus on wellness](#) in our Spotlight blog.

- **Let's Talk Employment: A Guide for Family Members of Individuals in Mental Health Recovery**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Improving Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities](#) has published a new resource, [Let's Talk Employment: A Guide for Family Members of Individuals in Mental Health Recovery](#). The guide is a resource for families who wish to support their family member in getting and

keeping employment. The guide covers 15 major topics related to employment and recovery and is a companion to the [Family Members portion of the Employment Repository](#). This project is also supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

- **Free Resource Guide for Parents of Students with Disabilities**

The Community for Accredited Online Schools offers a free online “Resource Guide for Parents of Students with Disabilities.” “Students with disabilities face unique challenges, and there are laws in place to ensure that school districts give them the assistance they need,” according to the guide. “To determine if these needs are being met, parents should familiarize themselves with the laws and know their rights if their children aren’t being given the protections they’re entitled to. In this guide, readers will find information about the rights of students who have disabilities and what schools are required to provide so they have equal opportunity for academic success.” For the free guide, [click here](#). In a related story, for the proceedings from the Transitions to Adulthood Center for Research 2018 State of the Science conference, [click here](#).

- **Autism Spectrum Disorder Resources**

Resources from ACL and our Grantees and Partners

- AbleData Directory of Tools and Technology to Enhance Life: [Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)
- UC Davis MIND Institute and the International Society for Autism Research: [Access to Services Across Diverse Communities: Service Expansion to Rural and Underserved Areas](#)
- UMass Boston Institute for Community Inclusion: Expanding the Dialogue on Autism Webinar Series: Reflections on Research & Real Life ([Webinar 1: Education](#), [Webinar 2: Employment](#), [Webinar 3: Community Life and Engagement](#))

Resources from our Federal Partners

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Autism Resources](#) and "[Learn the Signs. Act Early.](#)" Campaign
- [Meet the new National Autism Coordinator, Dr. Ann Wagner](#)

Job Accommodation Network: [Accommodation Ideas for Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)

- **What's New at NARIC, ASD Awareness and Acceptance?**

In April, several organizations focused on [awareness](#) and [acceptance](#) of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), which the [Autistic Self Advocacy Network defines](#) as a neurological variation that occurs in about 1% of the population and is classified as a developmental disability. Research in ASD seeks to understand the needs of individuals with ASD across the lifespan and to develop programs, technologies, and policies to support full inclusion for these individuals and their families. [You can read about some of the current NIDILRR-funded work in this area in our latest Spotlight blog post.](#)

- **Know the Science**

The [National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health \(NCCIH\)](#) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) offers [Know the Science](#), a collection of resources to help consumers to better understand complex scientific topics related to health research. The site features a variety of materials including interactive modules, quizzes, videos, and factsheets providing engaging, straightforward content about health research, so that readers can be more discerning about what they hear and read about new or alternative treatments and

make well-informed decisions about their health. While complementary approaches are occasionally highlighted, the materials cover topics common to all areas of health research.

- **A Purpose in Life: Why Employment First Matters to Self-Advocates**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Advancing Employment for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#) has published a report, [A Purpose in Life: Why Employment First Matters to Self-Advocates](#) (PDF). The report discusses key findings and quotes from interviews with self-advocates across the US who were asked to describe Employment First efforts in their states and why those efforts are important. The report was produced in collaboration with Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered and Green Mountain Self-Advocates

- **Vocational Rehabilitation May Help People with HIV/AIDS and Substance Use Disorder Overcome Employment Challenges**

Research In Focus looks at how vocational rehabilitation (VR) services can support people with HIV who also have substance use disorders, and whether these programs meet the needs of clients from minority groups.

- **Peer Support Specialists May Offer Unique Support for People with Psychiatric Disabilities in Finding and Keeping Jobs**

Peer support specialists who have lived experience with psychiatric disability may offer unique support for their clients, this week's [Research In Focus](#) finds.

- **2018 Youth and Young Adult Mental Health State-of-the-Science Conference Presentations**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Learning and Working During the Transition to Adulthood](#) has posted [presentations from the 2018 Youth and Young Adult Mental Health State-of-the-Science Conference](#), presented during the 31st Annual Research & Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health in March. Presentations covered research on youth and young adults with mental health disabilities, including topics such as enhancing the young adult voice in research, developing academic self-management skills, employment, justice involvement, and transition to the workplace. This project is also supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

- **Gentrification May Be Bad for Your Mental Health**

“Gentrification can be hazardous to your health, according to a team of New York City researchers. Their recently published study finds that hospitalization rates for mental illness—including schizophrenia and mood disorders—are two times as high in displaced people versus those who remain in their neighborhood. It is one of the first U.S. studies to quantify the hidden mental health consequences of gentrification. According to the conclusions of a recently published study, ‘These findings suggest negative impacts of displacement on healthcare access and mental health, particularly among adults living in urban areas and with a history of frequent emergency department visits or hospitalizations.’” For the story, with a link to the study, [click here](#).

- **Raising Our Girls: Stories from Mothers with Disabilities and Daughters Who've Been There**

The NIDILRR-funded Parents Empowering Parents: National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities and Their Families has posted a webinar recording, Raising Our Girls: Stories from Mothers

with Disabilities and Daughters Who've Been There. The webinar featured a panel of mothers with disabilities and their daughters who shared their experiences and perspectives as mothers and adult children of mothers with disabilities, strategies used by mothers with physical disabilities to raise their children, and resources for parenting with a disability. More webinars are archived on the project's website.

- **April nTIDE: Tight Labor Market Spurs Unprecedented Job Gains for Americans with Disabilities**

The NIDILRR-funded Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (StatsRRTC) reported unprecedented job gains for Americans with disabilities in the National Trends in Disability Employment (nTIDE) April 2018 Jobs Report. The monthly nTIDE compares the labor force participation rate and employment-population ratio between people with and without disabilities. The report notes that the continuing gains may be due to the tight labor market. The report also discusses strategies that may help close the employment gap between people with and without disabilities. These topics were also discussed in the monthly nTIDE Lunch & Learn archived on the project's website.

- **Financial Inclusion:** Please watch the video – [Financial Inclusion: Voices from the Disability Community](#) – for insight on how some people with disabilities view their finances and banking relationships.
- **Peer connections and learning-web-based resources**



PatientsLikeMe

An organization that seeks to improve health outcomes by providing opportunities for patients to learn from each other. Many mental health and behavior issues are represented among the

registrants. Use of the site is free, but registration is required.



- **MANAGE PAIN**

Retrain Pain Foundation

A free online course for people with persistent or chronic pain. [Learn a science based approach to reducing symptoms and getting back to the life you want to live. Available in 21 languages.](#)



WEBINARS

- **Project Sidewalk: Mapping Accessibility Through Google Street View**
The NIDILRR-funded [Mid-Atlantic ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, [Project Sidewalk:](#)

[Mapping Accessibility Through Google Street View](#), May 15th, 12:30-1pm ET. Presenters will discuss [Project Sidewalk](#), where volunteers reviewed the accessibility of streets and sidewalks in Washington, DC. The presenters will also discuss how the collected data is shared and used to develop new accessibility-friendly mapping tools, to train machine learning algorithms to automatically assess accessibility, and to create better transparency about accessible infrastructure. Registration is free and required.

- **May 15, 2018, 2:00 p.m. ET**
Webcast: Ask the JAN Psychiatric Team

In this live webcast, Job Accommodation Network (JAN) Cognitive/Neurological Team members Melanie Whetzel and Sarah Small will talk about workplace accommodations for people with mental health disabilities, including in the context of disclosure, attendance, performance and conduct. They will also field questions about specific situations related to applicants or employees with mental health disabilities. The webcast is free of charge, but registration is required and processed on a first come, first served basis. [Register for the May 15 webcast.](#)

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- **Don't miss this upcoming webinar! "Hiring & Keeping the Best: Creating Effective Talent Acquisition & Retention Processes"**
May 22, 2018
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET

In addition to taking steps to attract and recruit qualified individuals with disabilities, businesses should ensure that they are encouraging disability inclusion across the employment lifecycle. Join EARN for a webinar exploring key strategies employers can use to create policies and processes that facilitate the hiring, retention and advancement of individuals with disabilities, including disabled veterans.

Hear from experts including:

- Brett Sheats (Moderator), National Project Director, EARN
- The Honorable Katherine McCary, Temporary Policy Advisor, Employer Policy Team, U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)
- Michael Murray, Director, Employer Policy Team, U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)
- Tom Downs, Senior Manager, Corporate Diversity and Inclusion, Capital One
- Vu H. Pham, Chair, Elevate, Center for Executive Development, University of California San Diego Rady School of Management

Participation is free, but space is limited, so be sure to [register](#) today!

This event is approved for 1.0 HR general recertification credit hour through the HR Certification Institute (HRCI) and Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

- **Webinar: “The Value of a Peer Workforce in the Homelessness System”**

On May 23 at 1 p.m. ET, SAMHSA’s Homeless and Housing Resource Network will host a 75-minute webinar on “The Value of a Peer Workforce in the Homelessness System.” SAMHSA writes: “The May 23 webinar will feature three members of the peer workforce talking about their experiences working in the homelessness system, along with the transformative roles peers play in supporting housing and reducing homelessness...It is immensely valuable for individuals with mental and/or substance use disorders who are experiencing homelessness to receive support from someone who has walked in their shoes.” For more information and to register, [click here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **[Grants to Chicago, Illinois and Los Angeles, California Nonprofits to Promote Post-Secondary and Career Success](#)** (*Letter of Intent LOI due 6/1/18, Deadline for Chicago Grants 7/31/18*) | Grants generally ranging from \$40,000 to \$60,000 to Chicago, Illinois and Los Angeles, California nonprofits, public schools, school districts, and IHEs to promote access to college, post-secondary success, and career opportunities. LOIs are due by June 1, 2018 for Chicago applicants. The Foundation funds direct services and programs in these interest areas, and also considers funding applied research or evaluation intended to develop or improve evidence-based programming. <http://kapfam.com/site/program-areas/education/>
- **[Grants to USA Nonprofits in Eligible States for Housing, Economic, Neighborhood, and Workforce Development Programs](#)** (*due 7/6/18*) | Grants starting at \$10,000 to Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, South Dakota, and Texas nonprofit organizations in eligible counties for programs and projects that focus on promoting stable housing, strong local economies, vibrant neighborhoods, and an educated workforce. Grants can support the direct implementation of programs, services, and initiatives of eligible nonprofit organizations, consistent with the grant program goals. Funds can be used to support program related expenses, including: personnel, supplies, materials, and sub-contracts. Grants may be used for funding multiple programs or general operating expenses if the organization’s mission and overall activities are consistent with the Community Development goals and a majority of the organization’s beneficiaries are low or moderate income. <https://www.1stnationalbank.com/site/about-us/in-the-community/request-support.fhtml>
- **The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation – Small Grants Program (SGP)** | (*Deadline Ongoing*) | The Small Grants Program (SGP) allows smaller nonprofits in Maryland, Northeastern Pennsylvania, and Greater Chicago to apply for a grant of up to **\$50,000 for two years (\$100,000 total)**. This program includes all Foundation areas of giving. This funding is to provide direct services to low-income and vulnerable populations in the region.
- **Funding Opportunity for Housing Vouchers for People with Disabilities**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced a notice of funding availability for Mainstream (Section 811) Vouchers. HUD will award up to \$100 million in funding to public housing agencies, with remaining funding reserved for future awards.

This opportunity provides funding to assist non-elderly people with disabilities who are:

- Transitioning from institutional or other segregated settings to community living;
- At serious risk of institutionalization;
- Homeless; or
- At risk of becoming homeless.

Applications for this funding opportunity will be reviewed for capacity and experience; leveraging resources; and achieving results and program evaluation. This opportunity is reserved for public housing agencies. **Extra points will be rewarded to applying agencies that partner with health and human services agencies and community-based disability organizations.**

Vouchers must be used to assist non-elderly people with disabilities (ages 18 up to 62) and their families. The eligible household member does not have to be head of the household. Eligibility is determined at the time the voucher is first issued.

This funding opportunity advances community living for people with disabilities. It also encourages partnerships with health and human service agencies and community-based organizations with a demonstrated capacity to coordinate services and supports that enable people with disabilities to live independently in the community.

Applications for this funding opportunity are due by 11:59 PM ET on June 18, 2018. [View the details and application instructions.](#)

Learn more about the [HUD Housing Choice Voucher Program](#). Email mainstreamvouchers@hud.gov with questions.

- **New Funding Opportunity for Research on Community Living and Participation of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

A new funding opportunity from the [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research](#) (NIDILRR) at ACL has been announced for an Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on community living and participation for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The purpose of the [RRTC](#) program, which are funded through the [Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program](#), is to achieve the goals of, and improve the effectiveness of, services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act through well-designed research, training, technical assistance, and dissemination activities in important topic areas as specified by NIDILRR. These activities are designed to benefit rehabilitation service providers, individuals with disabilities, family members, and other stakeholders.

The purpose of this particular RRTC is to conduct research, training, and related activities to contribute to optimal community living and participation outcomes of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. [View more details and application directions.](#)

Please visit the link above for more details about the grant opportunity and application process. **This grant opportunity closes on June 4, 2018.**

To stay current on NIDILRR grant opportunities, please visit www.grants.gov and search: **NIDILRR** or **93.433**.

Within ACL, NIDILRR works to generate new knowledge and promote its effective use to improve the abilities of individuals with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community; and to expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for people with disabilities. NIDILRR conducts its work through grants that support research and development.

EMPLOYER CORNER

EMPLOYER
SPOTLIGHT



Kwik Trip

Convenience store chain Kwik Trip - which operates in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa - has found hiring people with disabilities an effective strategy for meeting its workforce needs. To ensure its Guest Services Coworkers can deliver exemplary customer service, especially at peak times, the company partnered with VR to create a new position, Retail Helper, to assist with other tasks. Today, Retail Helpers are in all three states, with VR serving as a single point of contact for recruitment and training. In recognition of its efforts, Kwik Trip was named 2018 "Business of the Year" by the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation's National Employment Team (NET). [Learn more about the NET.](#)

OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE



What Are Barriers to Gaining Employment?

Individuals with Disabilities, Families and Staff, please join us for:

Supported Employment Listening and Learning Sessions

HILLSIDE

May 23

9:30-11 am

Aspire, Hillside IL

Register (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GS6MMZW>) or email meg@thearcofil.org

MASCOUTAH

May 30

9 :30-11 am

Trinity Services, 973 N 6th St, Mascoutah

Register (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GXN8MYJ>) or email meg@thearcofil.org

Participants will listen, learn and:

- Share your experience and talk about how to improve supported employment.
- Learn more about policy changes that could impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Illinois Employment First in Illinois.
- Get involved and advocate with a new project, the Supported Employment Action Team (SEAT).

Register by emailing meg@thearcofil.org. For more information, email Meg Cooch at meg@thearcofil.org or 773-558-5136. The SEAT Project is funded by the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities.

SUPPORTS FOR RETURNING CITIZENS/THOSE WITH JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

- **SUMMIT OF HOPE EVENTS:**
Sent on behalf of Marcus King (Illinois Department of Corrections)

Greetings Community Partners & Friends,

I need you all to get ready for two of our biggest events ever! On June 7th and June 27th there will be two remarkable Summit of Hope events. Below are the addresses for both events and the link to register as a vendor or volunteer.

- **June 7, 2018 - Hillside - Proviso West High School (Field House), [4701 Harrison Street, Hillside, IL 60162](#)**
- **June 27, 2018-Chicago (Westside) – By the Hand Club Austin-[415 N. Laramie Ave, Chicago, IL 60644](#)**

Registration Link:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/communityresources/SummitofHopeRegistration/Pages/default.aspx>

Both events will run from 8a.m. until 2p.m. and breakfast and lunch will be served. All vendors and volunteers should arrive at 7a.m.

At each event, I am requesting that you bring enough material for 1200 returning citizens.

FYI: We are in desperate need of vendors and volunteers

- **Second Chance Expungement Summit
June 2 @ 8:30 am - 6:00 pm**

Adult and Juvenile Expungement Summit.

Volunteer attorneys will be on site to help with expungement and sealing applications.

Must bring your RAP sheet(s).

Filing and Service Fees may apply.

For additional information, call 312-603-5200 or visit www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

When: Saturday, June 2, 2018

Time: Registration begins at 8:30am, doors close at 6:00pm

Where: Kennedy King College, 6301 S Halsted St

Details

Date:

June 2

Time:

8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Organizer

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Fox

Phone:

312-603-8710