



## ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT FIRST

**UPDATE 9/25/2017**

\*\*\*\*\*ATTENTION\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**SEEKING ILLINOIS AGENCY OPEN TO SHARING THEIR STORY OF SUCCESSFUL TRANSFORMATION FROM SHELTERD WORK PROVISION TO COMMUNITY, INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROVISION FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISABILITIES. PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES DURING THE CORNELL TRAINING SERIES!**

*We are proud to present this fantastic opportunity for an Illinois community rehabilitation agency to discuss their transformation activities during a 5 minute segment of one of the Cornell Diversity Partner's Webinars. Don't miss this chance to showcase your success and share insights with the supportive Illinois Employment First Community of Practice!*

*We learn from first-hand experience and information shared in this cohort; we move forward together as we share our complex and rewarding stories. Please contact [Tania.Morawiec@illinois.gov](mailto:Tania.Morawiec@illinois.gov) for more information on this opportunity.*

**REMINDER TO REGISTER! FREE DHS DEMAND SIDE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TRAINING SERIES BY CORNELL'S DIVERSITY PARTNERS INITIATIVE (Please fill out attached form and follow registration links)**



The Diversity Partners Project at Cornell University's Yang-Tan Institute on Employment & Disability is partnering with the Illinois Department of Human Services to present a **no-cost**, four-part webinar series that addresses topics to improve competitive integrated employment options for people with disabilities. The content of the series is aligned with the Employment First initiatives already advanced by the state of Illinois. **Agency leaders and program personnel who provide employment services (or aspire to) are encouraged to attend. There is currently no limit to the number of program personnel who can participate.**

The curriculum of this series is informed by the interests and needs of Illinois based rehabilitation service providers and strengths-based assessment strategies. The training series, scheduled between 10/25/17-11/29/17, seeks to strengthen the bridge between labor supply and demand in the disability focused workforce development system.

To aid supervisors, Cornell University has also created an Illinois dashboard for tracking employee participation in the comprehensive Diversity Partners Training Suite which includes:

- Over a dozen modules in 6 topical areas
- Self-assessment, guided learning, tools and resources

Added benefits of participation are access to the dashboard, connection to service providers committed to the Employment First Initiative, and **free CRC CEUs!**

To participate in this free training series:

1. Please complete the attached participant agreement and send it to [Tania.Morawiec@illinois.gov](mailto:Tania.Morawiec@illinois.gov)
2. To register, click on following links.

Registration links:

[Taking the Lead: Developing an Employment First Culture in Illinois](#)

[Preparing for Competitive Integrated Employment Supports](#)

[Improving Pathways to Employment](#)

[Building Relationships to Improve Employment Outcomes](#)

Testimonial:

"I believe [Diversity Partners] is a really innovative, up-to-date and necessary/valuable approach to the work we do and our constituents!"

– *Employment Specialist at Capabilities, Inc., a disability service provider.*

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### 1. SEPTEMBER RECAP

*Last week was National Rehabilitation Awareness Week! I hope that many of you hosted or participated in events to commemorate the accomplishments of people who have disabilities in the workforce and job seeker pools. Our work compliments their drive and efforts. I was struck by the fact that the most popular day of National Wellness Week was Thursday (see more below), which was Occupational and Financial Wellness Day. Employment and financial wellness are important topics across the nation; they are integral to health, recovery and holistic wellness.*

*We have come a long way in advancing policy and practice supporting employment opportunities for individuals who have disabilities but we have a long way to go! Did you know that adults with disabilities are twice as likely as to live in poverty as those without a disability. Learn more: <https://disablepoverty.org/>*

***Along with additional information on September events I want to get people thinking about October activities celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)! The poster, social media content and event ideas are now available! Please follow the ODEP link to learn more.*** The official poster for [National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2017](#) is now available to order for free in [print](#) or [electronic copy](#) in English and Spanish from the ODEP website! Show how "Inclusion Drives Innovation" by displaying these colorful and dynamic posters in your business, organization, classroom or wherever you would like to share the message of NDEAM.

Observed each October, NDEAM is a national campaign that celebrates individuals with disabilities and their contributions and achievements to America's workforce. Reflecting the important role that different perspectives play in workforce success, ODEP created this year's theme with input from a wide variety of its partner organizations, including those representing employers, people with disabilities and their families, and federal, state, and local agencies. ODEP offers a range of resources

to help organizations plan NDEAM observances, including not only the official poster in English and Spanish, but also sample articles, a news release, proclamation and social media content. These resources can be found on ODEP's website at [www.dol.gov/ndeam](http://www.dol.gov/ndeam).

- **It's Not Too Late to Take the Pledge for Wellness**

**September 10-16, 2017, was National Wellness Week.** Communities across the country organized events and collaborated with partners to draw attention to the importance of wellness in recovery from mental and/or substance use disorders. Each day of the week focused on different wellness dimensions, which gave individuals and communities the opportunity to emphasize a different area of wellness each day.

**The most popular day of National Wellness Week was Thursday, which was Occupational and Financial Wellness Day, and the day with the most tweets about #ShareWellness!** All of the Dimensions of Wellness are equally important and interconnected. **#ShareWellness** reached nearly 1.2 million people, making more than 1.5 million impressions!

**During National Wellness Week, individuals and organizations from across the country took the [Pledge for Wellness](#). It's not too late: You can still show your commitment to wellness by taking the [Pledge for Wellness](#) by September 30, 2017. [Sign the Pledge](#) today to join your peers and make your personal wellness commitment!**

If you have any National Wellness Week photos or videos, don't forget to send them to [@samhsagov](mailto:@samhsagov) to show off how you and your community focus on wellness! And, feel free to contact SAMHSA's Program to Achieve Wellness at [paw@prainc.com](mailto:paw@prainc.com) and tell us what you did for National Wellness Week!

- **September is [National Spinal Cord Injury \(SCI\) Awareness Month](#)** and we're looking into the future of SCI. Advances in treatment and technology mean people with SCI are living and working longer than ever before. In the last 10 years we've seen innovations in mobility technology, like exoskeletons and stair-climbing wheelchairs; smarthome technology that can control lights, doors, and thermostats; even brain-computer interface technology, using signals from the brain to move robotic arms or type a message on a computer. In honor of SCI Awareness Month, [NARIC's Director Mark Odum reflected on the future of SCI in our Spotlight Blog](#), and we shared research and resources from the NIDILRR community and elsewhere.
- **September is [National Preparedness Month](#)**, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This week's theme is Plan to Help Your Neighbor and Community. With recent events like Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose, and Katia, an earthquake in Mexico, and wildfires in the western US, people may want to know how they can help their community get ready for potential disaster. Everyone can take a role in community preparedness, starting with making sure you and your family are prepared. You can also get involved in disaster planning in your community, map and plan for your neighborhood, and take courses on community emergency response and first aid. We gathered some resources from the NIDILRR community and elsewhere that you can use to [get involved in emergency preparedness in your community](#), from personal planning to interacting with people with disabilities as a volunteer or responder. Stay safe!

## **2. WEBINARS**

- **Mental Health Needs and Service Use Among Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness**  
The NIDILRR-funded [Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures: Building Self-Determination and Community Living and Participation \(Pathways RTC\)](#) will present a webinar, [Mental Health Needs and Service Use Among Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness](#), September 19th, 1-2pm ET. This webinar presents data from the Homeless Youth Risk and Resilience Survey, a new national survey of homeless young adults (age 18-26) gathered through drop-in centers and shelters in seven cities across the country. The webinar will include data from the study and the voices of youth who participated to provide more information about the intersection of homelessness and mental health problems. Presenters will also describe the implications for programs providing mental health services for adolescents and young adults. Registration is free and required. This project is also supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

- **Arthritis State of the Science Update**  
The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Enhancing Activity and Participation Among Persons with Arthritis \(ENACT\)](#) will host a [State of the Science Update](#), September 21st, 11:30am-1pm ET. The presentation will be offered as a webinar and an in-person presentation at Boston University. Presenters will share results of two ENACT clinical trials: the Work It employment study and the BOOST exercise study. The Work It study examined the impact of a novel arthritis work retention intervention. The BOOST exercise study tested the effect of a telephone-based intervention to promote adherence to exercise in a sample of adults with osteoarthritis. Registration is free and required.

- **Calling all Executive Directors! Core Leadership Skills: Pursuing New Financing Opportunities: Executive Directors' Roundtable for Peer, Youth and Family Run Organizations in Behavioral Health**

Wednesday, September 27, 2017  
2 pm ET

Co-facilitators: Maria Bell-Servick, Executive Director, Louisiana Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Johanna Bergan, Executive Director, Youth Move National, Decorah, IA and Chacku Mathai, STAR Center Director

Guest Discussant: Sue Bergeson, Lake, MI

There are a number of different financing opportunities and strategies used in today's behavioral healthcare environment that youth-, peer- and family-run organizations need to plan for. Changes in the way federal, state and local funds for behavioral health services and supports are managed, including through managed care, can affect organizational infrastructure, contracting systems and linkage agreements with other organizations. What does this mean for youth-, peer- and family-run organizations and how are executive directors for these organizations navigating this environment?

[Register Now!](#)

- **PEAT Talks: How and Why to Make VPATs a Priority**

Thursday, September 21, 2pm-3pm ET **WEBINAR**

Over the years, [Elsevier](#) has responded to hundreds of customer requests for Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (VPATs). In this webinar, accessibility experts **Ted Gies** and **Jay Nemchik** will discuss the business significance of VPATs, and their best practices for handling requests.

[Register Now](#)

- **Can We Still Call it Evidence-Based Practice if We Deviate From the Evidence?**

In this live webcast, Dr. Marcel Dijkers will lead a discussion on the limits of evidence-based practice (EBP) as it is based on evidence gathered using a PICO question (P: patient, problem or population; I: intervention; C: comparison, control or comparator; O: outcome(s)). In the typical report of a primary study, and of a secondary study, do you get enough information to implement an intervention for which evidence is offered?

What are some of the issues related to the usefulness of systematic reviews for a clinician, if he or she does not have the same patients, setting, or resources? Can an intervention still be considered evidence-based, if a clinician is unable to implement it exactly as described? *This webcast is an activity of the Community of Practice on Evidence in Disability and Rehabilitation Research (CoP-EDR).*

**Date:** September 27, 2017

**Time:** 3-4 p.m. Eastern / 2-3 p.m. Central

**More Information:** <http://ktdrr.org/training/webcasts/webcast40/index.html>

**Register:** [www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3838493/Registration-EBP](http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3838493/Registration-EBP)

- **REMINDER: Disability Policy Webinar**  
**Thursday, September 28, 1:00–2:30 p.m. (ET)**  
Innovating Services, Improving Outcomes: A VR Model for Serving SSDI Clients

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**[Register for the webinar.](#)**

As the main source of job services for people with disabilities, state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies have the potential to help people receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) become more independent and economically successful. But recent research suggests that VR services for these individuals could be improved. Although SSDI beneficiaries who receive VR services see their earnings increase, only a small share earn enough to leave the disability rolls.

To this end, the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts-Boston and Mathematica Policy Research received a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration to develop the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) Project Demonstration. This demonstration focused on improving employment outcomes for state VR clients who receive SSDI.

On **Thursday, September 28, 1:00–2:30 p.m., ET**, Mathematica’s [Center for Studying Disability Policy](#) will host a webinar featuring a panel of experts. The panel will discuss the experiences of VR agencies in Kentucky and Minnesota that implemented the SGA Project innovations, which were designed to help beneficiaries prepare for and find jobs with earnings high enough to leave the disability rolls.

[Register for the webinar.](#)

- **Coping with Mental Health Issues That Interfere with Work? “Ask Me Anything” May Help**

On September 28, 2017, at 2 p.m. ET, Boston University’s National Resource Center on Employment will host a one-hour interactive question-and-answer webinar on job development. “If you are a person living with a mental health condition, an employer, a family member, an administrator of a service, a provider, a researcher, or friend—you can use the time to ask anything.” **The expert is Deborah Becker, MEd, CRC**, who “has more than 33 years of experience developing, researching, training and consulting on IPS (Individual Placement and Support), the evidence-based practice of supported employment.” To register, [click here](#).

If you are a person living with a mental health condition, an employer, a family member, an administrator of a service, a provider, a researcher, or friend — you can use the time to ask anything.

For example, you could ask about:

- how individuals are placed and supported in their IPS Employment Program
- the types of job development activities they provide
- the research on success rates for placing people into jobs and for individuals keeping their jobs

- **Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFLSMP), Theme: Increasing Employer Engagement**

**October 11, 2017, 3-4:00 ET**

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

Topic: Meeting the Needs to Business from Single Point of Contact to Restructuring Job Duties

During this month’s CoP webinar, participants will learn about the unique path Iowa has taken to increase employer engagement. David Mitchell and Michelle Krefft will explain how Iowa’s VR staff were trained to talk to employers effectively. Webinar participants will learn about concrete steps your state can take to increase employer engagement and the labor force participation rate of people with disabilities.

#### **Webinar Objectives**

- Learn how we trained staff to effectively approach and build partnerships with employers
- Understand how to utilize a job analysis to restructure the workplace and provide opportunities.

- Learn how the Employer Disability Resource Network works to connect with business and industry
- Learn how the Reverse Job Fair can improve outcomes

### Action Required: Seeking Input in Advance

We want to ensure that our speakers address your concerns so here's your opportunity to submit input in advance. Submit your questions or comments [here](#) no later than September 30, 2017.

### 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.

- **Thursday, October 12, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET [Webinar: Strategies for Retaining Talent after Injury or Illness](#)**

Taking proactive steps to retain qualified employees is simply smart business. This includes employees who experience injury or illness or acquire disabilities as they age. Hosted by EARN in collaboration with the National Industry Liaison Group (NILG), this webinar will explore effective strategies that many leading employers, including federal contractors, are using to ensure valued employees can stay at work or return to work following injury or illness, thereby enhancing both corporate continuity and workforce inclusion. [Register for the October 12 webinar.](#)

- **State of the Science: Advances at the Intersection of Aging and Disability**  
The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Promoting Healthy Aging for Individuals with Long-Term Physical Disabilities \(Healthy Aging RRTC\)](#) will host a webinar series, [State of the Science: Advances at the Intersection of Aging and Long-Term Disability](#), on **October 16th, 18th, and 20th, 12-2pm, ET**, along with the National Council on Aging. The webinar series will highlight recent advances in research, support, and long-term services for people aging with disabilities. Registration for each session is free and required.

- **[Introduction to Inclusive Talent Acquisition](#)**

### Open enrollment September 20-December 12, 2017

Perkins School for the Blind and Harvard Extension School have partnered to provide a [free online course](#) for hiring managers and recruiters. The curriculum includes PEAT's own [TalentWorks](#) tool, which provides key resources to help employers make their eRecruiting technologies accessible. This self-paced course distills valuable lessons from leaders in inclusion, human resources professionals, and people with disabilities into four quick and engaging sessions.

[Register Now](#)

- **[PEAT Talks: Strategies to Drive Awareness and Engagement at a Large Enterprise](#)**

Thursday, October 19, 2pm ET



Senior Manager of Accessibility **Mark Penicook** will discuss [Capital One's](#) efforts to integrate accessibility awareness across their internal brand, and to establish enterprise-wide accessibility standards and best practices.

[Register Now](#)

- **Upcoming Webinar on Assessing Youth/Young Adult Voice in Agency-Level Decision Making**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 10am – 11am PT / 1pm – 2pm ET

Increasingly, agencies and organizations that serve youth and young adults are seeking to partner with young people as they work to make their services more engaging and responsive. However, agencies often lack information about best practices for involving young people in these efforts. This webinar will describe the development and validation of the Youth/Young Adult Voice at the Agency Level (Y-VAL) assessment. The Y-VAL is intended to serve both as a guide to best practices and as a measure of the extent to which an agency is meaningfully supporting young people's involvement in advising and decision making.

[Register for the webinar »](#)

- **Youth Leaders LC: Working with LGBTQI2S Youth**

**Date/Time:** Thursday, Oct. 26, 12:30pm – 2pm PT, 3:30 – 5pm ET

"Direct Connect" is a virtual forum led by Youth M.O.V.E. National for youth and young adults to develop professional skill sets via virtual training opportunities, connect as a community to share and gather new resources, and unite with other youth advocates and professional peers from across the country. October's Direct Connect offering will be presented by Peter Gamache, PhD, and cover the topic of working with youth and young adults in the LGBTQI2S community.

[Register for the virtual forum »](#)

### 3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. [VNA Foundation Grant](#) - **Grants to Chicago Area, Illinois Nonprofits for Health Services to the Underserved** (*Letter of Interest due 9/21/17, Application due 10/26/2017*). The VNA Foundation is offering funding ranging from \$15,000 to \$85,000 to registered non-profits, particularly in the Cook, Lake, McHenry, DuPage, Kane and Will Counties, for healthcare and health service programs for the medically underserved.
2. [Discretionary Grantmaking Program](#) – **Grants to Illinois Nonprofits in Eligible Areas for Arts, Health, Humanities, and Social Services** (*Letter of Interest due 9/30/2017, Application due by 11/01/2017*) The Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley is offering grants from \$1,000 to \$20,000 to Illinois non-profits in the Greater Aurora Area, the TriCities, and Kendall County for programs in the categories of the arts and humanities, education, healthcare, and social services.

### 4. TRAINING AND EVENTS

- **IATP's Statewide disAbility Expo 2017 October 23 & 24 I**

Convention Center – Springfield, IL

Free & Open To The Public

Monday 10AM - 6 PM ♦ Tuesday 8AM - Noon

Featuring Zot Arts Art Experience

for all Ages & Abilities

zotartz.com

- Explore New Products
- Essentials for Educators & Seniors
- Mini AAC Conference (contact IATP to register)
- Network with Colleagues
- Low Tech Make & Take (for a small fee)
- Win Door Prizes

For more info contact: Illinois Assistive Technology Program 800-852-5110 (V/TRS IL only) or email [iatp@iltech.org](mailto:iatp@iltech.org)

Sponsorship & vendor opportunities still available.

- **IDHS On-Line Training in Grant Writing**

### **Overview**

This three part series is being delivered as on-line training by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Grants Administration.

This training shows you how to effectively, find, write and submit proposals for federal, state, local, non-governmental, and private sector grants. If you want to learn the essentials of writing and acquiring grants, this three part series will help your agency.

### **Who Should Attend?**

For no cost, the Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Grants Administration continues to provide grant writing training to not for profit agencies, all government agency staff, staff of agencies under contract with any state agency in Illinois, and interested individuals.

### **Registration**

Registration is now open. This is the season when funders are releasing funding announcements.

Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to register immediately as this training is on a first come first serve basis.

### **How to Register**

**Register NOW for the 2017 classes**, There are only two classes remaining for this year. Enroll now to insure that you are enrolled in one of the two. The registration will remain open until classes are filled. You will be notified by email as to the dates and times of your training.

### **Training Dates and Times**

Once registration is closed, all enrollees will be notified of their training dates and time. There are three parts to each class. Each part is for one hour and thirty minutes. Instructions on how to enter the virtual classroom are sent to each enrollee prior to each class along with the training materials. If technical assistance is required, enrollees are given instructions on whom to contact. No costs are incurred by the provider because the student can participate at the work site by simply logging onto a computer and entering the virtual classroom.

### **Technical Requirements**

You will need a PC with the following minimum technical requirements:

- Operating System: Windows 7
- Software: Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher
- Internet Connection

### **Objectives**

Upon completion of the entire 3 part series, staff will:

- know how to research and find available grants;

- have tools that will help them with the planning and organizing required prior to the actual writing of a grant application;
- understand the fundamental elements of a grant proposal; and,
- learn how to prepare the narrative portion of the grant application including: 1) problem statement, 2) goals and objectives, 3) program design/methodology, 4) logic model, 5) staffing and management plan, 6) organizational capacity, 7) evaluation plan, 8) budget, 9) sustainability plan, 10) abstract, and 11) supplemental documents.

### Special Accommodations

The registration form addresses special accommodations. If they are required, every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate the needs. It is imperative to immediately notify

[Denise.Eligan@illinois.gov](mailto:Denise.Eligan@illinois.gov) if special accommodations are needed.

### Questions

Please contact Denise Eligan, Bureau Chief, IDHS Office of Grants Administration at (312) 793-3599 or email at [Denise.Eligan@illinois.gov](mailto:Denise.Eligan@illinois.gov).

### • Web Course Oct 11-24 Providing Quality Training

A 2-week course on strategies to provide effective training for youth and adults with learning challenges. This course is on-demand 24 hours a day during the Oct. course access period. 18-hour certificate awarded for successful completion.

Without good instruction, people with disabilities can find community living and employment challenging.

Independence, productivity, and integration are all based upon people having the skills necessary to be competent in specific situations, such as shopping for groceries, interacting with co-workers, and cleaning one's home.



[View course outline](#)

**REGISTER**

[REGISTER](#)

This training focuses on a five-step strategy for building skills:

1. Prioritizing training goals through analyzing life quality impact
2. Strategizing within learning environments and using effective tools and support

3. Applying instructional plans through task analysis, prompting, chaining, and other means
4. Using reinforcement and error correction effectively
5. Fading assistance, generalization, and promoting self-managed learning

Users proceed at any time during the course period by interacting with activities, readings and video. Downloadable forms provided. Registration is \$159 US. Group rates available.

Credit cards and POs accepted, but payment must be received to participate.

[https://disabilitywebtraining.com/?mailpoet\\_router&endpoint=view\\_in\\_browser&action=view&data=WzgsMCwxMzk2NSwiYzAyYjQ4liw1LDBd](https://disabilitywebtraining.com/?mailpoet_router&endpoint=view_in_browser&action=view&data=WzgsMCwxMzk2NSwiYzAyYjQ4liw1LDBd)

## 5. RESOURCES

*The National Academies of*

- SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

### **New Interactive Guide to Selected Assistive Products and Technologies**

Assistive products and technologies hold promise for enabling people with disabilities to enter or return to the workforce. Being aware of the available options—as well as ways to fund their purchase and necessary workplace conditions—is an important step in accessing the products and technologies that will best suit a person’s needs.

A [new interactive guide](#) gives a broad overview of selected assistive products and available funding sources. Based on [a report](#) from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the interactive guide allows the user to compare the benefits, limitations, and physical requirements of products in four major categories.

[View the Guide »](#)

- **Research Brief: Link Checkers and Basic Accessibility Checkers for Websites**

The NIDILRR-funded [Information and Communication Technology Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Community Living, Health, and Function \(LiveWell RERC\)](#) has published a research brief, [Link Checkers and Basic Accessibility Testers for Websites](#) (PDF). The brief reviews some online resources to check the efficiency and ease-of-use of websites, including checking for broken links and missing alternative text for visual media. The brief includes

broad information on services offered and how these tools can also be used as a basic website accessibility test.

- **The Internet and Social Media May Offer Valuable Support and Information for People with TBI**

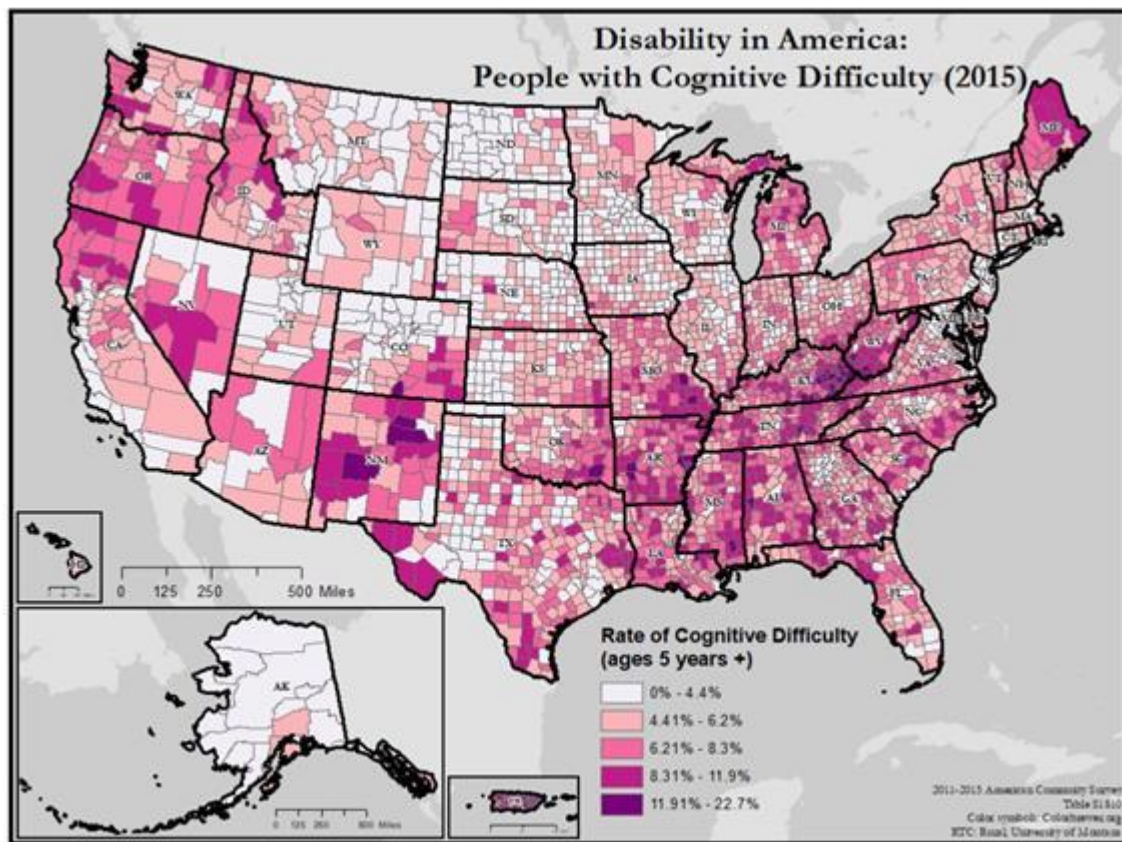
This week's [Research In Focus](#) looks at how people with traumatic brain injury (TBI) use the Internet and social media to find information and support, and some of the challenges they may face in getting online.

- **Living with Low Vision**

The [National Eye Institute at the National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) has posted [Living with Low Vision](#), a five-part video series featuring people with low vision and vision professionals. Videos cover how low vision is diagnosed, technologies and modifications people can make to support independence, and reaching out to the community and to family for support. Each video is less than two minutes long. The series is available in English and Spanish.

- **RTC: Rural Highlights the Geography of Disability with #MapMonday**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities \(RTC: Rural\)](#) has launched a social media campaign highlighting findings from the [Geography of Disability Project](#) as part of #MapMonday. The hashtag [#MapMonday](#) is used by cartographers, geographers, and other map scholars and enthusiasts to share their work or items of interest on social media. Every Monday, the RTC: Rural shares products from its Geography of Disability Project on its [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feeds, bringing attention to data on disability in the US.



- **New Resource: SAMHSA Knowledge Network**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has launched a new Knowledge Network website, which “provides a single, searchable portal to SAMHSA’s publicly available online training and technical assistance content with the goal of improving the design and delivery of prevention, treatment, and recovery services. This website will help health care practitioners to find specific tools and resources more easily (such as webinars, white papers, fact sheets, trainings, and videos) that span SAMHSA’s broad portfolio across many disciplines and online locations.” For a link to the website, [click here](#).

- **CAP Video on Non-Obvious Disabilities**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly half of people in the U.S. have some form of chronic medical condition. Often, these conditions are not readily apparent, and lack of awareness can lead to misunderstandings in the workplace. Now, a new training video available from the federal Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP) provides guidance on interacting with individuals who have non-obvious disabilities. Although produced with the federal employer in mind, the video can benefit any employer, private or public, and is the seventh in a series of disability etiquette videos produced by CAP. Access the [new CAP video](#) or [entire series](#).

- **"It Makes Me Feel Like I Mean Something" - Success Stories in Community Integration**

Permanent supportive housing enables many people with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in their families and communities. The Section 811 Project Rental Assistance program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) helps communities forge partnerships and leverage resources to help people move out of unnecessarily restrictive environments and into their own apartments - and to help them thrive once there. In these [videos and vignettes](#) produced by the HUD Office of Multifamily Housing with TAC's assistance, you'll see how community integration through supportive housing looks for Tanesha, Destiny, Avia, and Mr. Poole, four individuals with diverse needs and histories who live in different parts of the country. You will also hear from service providers and property managers about what makes the 811 PRA program work.

- [StartYourRecovery.org](#) is a free, confidential tool that helps individuals take steps toward a healthy relationship with drugs and alcohol. It was developed with the input of leading clinicians, experts from leading organizations like SAMHSA, and people in recovery themselves. Here, individuals can [hear stories](#) from people with similar life experiences, discover the answers they need for recognizing and dealing with substance use issues, and [locate support](#). Family and friends can [learn about addiction](#) and how to [encourage treatment](#) and [support sober living](#) on the website.
- **Saving Money for a Better Life While on SSI**  
The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Learning and Working During the Transition to Adulthood \(Transitions RTC\)](#) has published a new factsheet, [Saving Money for a Better Life While on SSI: What Can the ABLE Act Do for Me?](#) (PDF). The four-page factsheet introduces the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, which gives people with disabilities a way to save money for qualifying expenses such as a car, college or career training, healthcare, prevention and wellness, and other expenses without being taxed or impacting eligibility for benefit programs. Sections cover eligibility, how to open an account, and myths and common questions about ABLE Accounts. This project is also supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

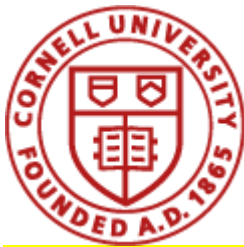
## **6. EMPLOYER CORNER**

### **LEADERS IN THE FIELD**



### [NOD Leading Disability Employer Seal Winners](#)

Last week, the National Organization on Disability (NOD) announced that 45 companies have been selected to receive its 2017 Leading Disability Employer Seal. Awarded annually, this designation recognizes leaders in disability-inclusive hiring policies and practices and is granted based on data furnished by companies in response to NOD's Disability Employment Tracker, a free, confidential online assessment and benchmarking tool. Awardees were announced at NOD's annual disability employment forum, "Inclusion by Design," which was sponsored by PwC and hosted by Boeing. [Learn more about the NOD Leading Disability Employer Seal winners.](#)



### BE A PART OF IDENTIFYING What Works in Implementing Section 503

Please complete this important survey!

#### **What Works? Implementing Section 503**

[www.YTI.cornell.edu/survey/YTI](http://www.YTI.cornell.edu/survey/YTI)

**WHO should complete this survey?** Representatives of organizations that are federal contractors, specifically human resources, compliance, or legal professionals who know about their organization's efforts to implement the recent regulations for Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act.

**WHAT is asked in this survey?** Participants will be asked to anonymously provide some information about their organization.

- Affirmative action goals/targets related to employing individuals with disabilities
- Use of the Voluntary Self-Identification Form to collect disability status information
- Practices that are working and challenges that remain to implementing Section 503
- Characteristics of you and your organization

This Information will be compiled into an aggregated report, and organization names or individual information will NOT be shared.

**WHEN does this survey take place?** The survey will be open from **September 7 to 29, 2017**. It should take approximately 15 minutes or less complete the survey.

**WHY should I participate?** The results will inform the design of tools, resources, and other assistance to support contractors in complying with Section 503. **PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS:**

1. **FINAL REPORT** on study findings.
2. **ACCESS TO BENCHMARKABILITY**, Cornell's online benchmarking tool on workplace disability inclusion.



3. **FREE ONLINE COURSES ELIGIBLE FOR SIX HRCI CREDITS!** A set of six one-hour online courses on workplace disability inclusion, designed by Cornell University, will be available for a limited time.

**TO LEARN MORE**, visit [www.YTI.cornell.edu/survey/YTI](http://www.YTI.cornell.edu/survey/YTI)

- **[Introduction to Inclusive Talent Acquisition](#)**

**Open enrollment September 20-December 12, 2017**

Perkins School for the Blind and Harvard Extension School have partnered to provide a [free online course](#) for hiring managers and recruiters. The curriculum includes PEAT's own [TalentWorks](#) tool, which provides key resources to help employers make their eRecruiting technologies accessible. This self-paced course distills valuable lessons from leaders in inclusion, human resources professionals, and people with disabilities into four quick and engaging sessions.

[Register Now](#)

- **[PEAT Talks: Strategies to Drive Awareness and Engagement at a Large Enterprise](#)**

**Thursday, October 19, 2pm ET**

Senior Manager of Accessibility **Mark Penicook** will discuss [Capital One's](#) efforts to integrate accessibility awareness across their internal brand, and to establish enterprise-wide accessibility standards and best practices.

[Register Now](#)

## **7. NOMINATE A DISABILITY CHAMPION**

- **[Nominate a Disability Employment Champion](#)**

The Viscardi Center is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Henry Viscardi Achievement Awards. Bestowed annually, these awards honor leaders who have helped improve quality of life for people with disabilities in all areas of community life, including employment. They are named in honor of the Center's founder and one of the world's foremost advocates for people with disabilities, Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. The selection committee is co-chaired by former U.S. Senator Robert Dole and Sherwood "Woody" Goldberg, Esq., retired U.S. Army Colonel and current Senior Advisor for Asian Affairs at the Center for Naval Analysis. Nominations are due by October 20. [Learn more about the awards.](#)