



ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT FIRST UPDATE 6/13/17

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1. FEATURED RESOURCE: ILLINOIS ADA CELEBRATION-see attached registration form



June 8, 2017

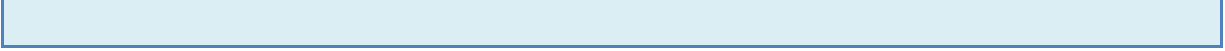
Dear Colleague:

2017 marks the 27th Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Illinois Department of Human Services in cooperation with numerous State Agencies and Councils is proud to celebrate the many accomplishments of people with disabilities.

This year, we will be celebrating this important milestone on July 20, 2017 at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL from 10am – 3pm. There will be free workshops for practitioners and job seekers on the ADA and resource tables that will provide information to the disability community. Through these efforts, we hope to further improve access for people with disabilities.

The workshops will also be held at the James R. Thompson Center between 10am – 3pm. Some workshops will be telecast to a Springfield site (see attached schedule). We ask that you register for workshops by completing the attached flyer and return it to the Bureau of Accessibility and Job Accommodations at 312/793-2406 (FAX) or e-mail: DHS.ADACelebration@illinois.gov no later than Friday, June 30, 2017.

Sincerely,



Martha Younger-White

Martha Younger-White, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Accessibility and Job Accommodation (BAJA)

Registration will be conducted on a first come, first served basis. There is limited space available, so it is important to register early. A letter of confirmation will be sent upon registration. We look forward to your participation. **Concurrent Workshops – Session 1**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Presenters</i>	<i>Location</i>
10am – 12 noon	State of Illinois Employment	<i>Attend this session and hear from experienced staff members about how to obtain a job with State of Illinois agencies. Learn about the process from testing, to how to locate suitable employment and identify appropriate job titles. Find out more about the “Successful Disability Opportunities” Program and whether it’s right for you.</i>	State of Illinois Central Management Services	Chicago Only
10am – 12 noon	Work Incentives: The Impact on Benefits	<i>Are you receiving SSDI and/or SSI? Would you like to work or are you currently working but are worried about losing your cash or medical benefits? Come to this workshop to learn about how to make informed choices about your benefits. This program is for individuals that are considering work, seeking work, self-employed, or currently employed.</i>	City of Chicago Mayors’ Office for People with Disabilities	Chicago Only

Concurrent Workshops – Session 2

<i>Time</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Presenters</i>	<i>Location</i>
1pm – 3pm	ADA Legal Update	<i>This session will review the most significant ADA cases in the last year, and discuss the broader impact these cases have had. It will cover a wide variety of issues under Titles I, II and III.</i>	Equip for Equality and City of Chicago Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities	Chicago and Springfield
1pm – 3pm	State of Illinois Employment	<i>Attend this session and hear from experienced staff members about how to obtain a job with State of Illinois agencies. Learn about the process from testing, to how to locate suitable employment and identify appropriate job titles. Find out more about the “Successful Disability Opportunities” Program and whether it’s right for you.</i>	State of Illinois Central Management Services	Chicago Only

2. WEBINARS

Free Webinar on Grant Proposal Writing on June 7

“So You Want to Write a Grant?”—a free webinar on proposal-writing—will be hosted on June 7 at 1 p.m. ET by Charity Howto, a consulting firm. The 45-minute webinar, intended for beginners, will be presented by Diane Leonard, GPC, who has “raised millions of competitive grant funds for nonprofit

organizations for more than a decade.” Charity HowTo writes: “Join us for this free webinar as we discuss how grants can help your organization and the common pitfalls and challenges encountered for many first-time grant writers. You’ll learn what grant writing can and cannot do for your organization, what you can do to become successful at writing a grant proposal, and more.” To register, [click here](#).

A SAMHSA sponsored webinar developed under contract by the National Council for Behavioral Health, will take place **Monday, June 12th at 12:00-1:30pm ET** called “**Preparing for the Mental Health Needs of Older Adults.**”

Currently about 7.5 million Americans 65 and older are living with a mental illness such as depression, bipolar disorder or schizophrenia. This number is expected to double by 2030 as baby boomers age. Additionally, untreated mental illnesses among this population is associated with poor health outcomes, higher health care utilization, increased morbidity/mortality and increased caregiver stress.

Join the National Council to explore the impact of an aging population on mental health services, geriatric psychiatric clinical syndromes and opportunities for prevention and treatment in geriatric mental health.

Presenters:

- Brent Forester, MD, MSc, Chief, Division of Geriatric Psychiatry, Mclean Hospital and Medical Director – Behavioral Health, Center for Population Health, Partners HealthCare
- Nicole Cadovius, MBA, MSM, CAPS and FAAIDD, Director, Practice Improvement, National Council for Behavioral Health

Register here:

https://nasmhpd.adobeconnect.com/olderadultswebinar_reg/event/event_info.html

- **Integrating Rapid Re-Housing & Employment: Program Recommendations for Enhancing Rapid Re-Housing Design & Implementation**

INTEGRATING EMPLOYMENT INTO RRH

Access to employment, training, and supportive services are all vital to the success of rapid re-housing.

Join Noelle Porter of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Caitlin Schnur of the [Heartland Alliance](#), and rapid re-housing practitioners Tanner Phillips of [Neighborhood House](#) and Connie Martin of [Community Teamwork, Inc.](#) on **June 15 at 2 p.m. ET** for **Integrating Rapid Re-Housing & Employment: Program Recommendations for Enhancing Rapid Re-Housing Design & Implementation**, a webinar focused on enhancing the design and delivery of rapid re-housing with employment supports. This webinar will also briefly touch on policy and systems change solutions.



[Learn more »](#)

- **Webinar: Accessible Tourism - Good Economic Strategy**

The NIDILRR-funded [Mid-Atlantic ADA Regional Center](#) will present a webinar, [Accessible Tourism - Good Economic Strategy](#), June 13th, 12:30-1pm ET. This session will focus on the economic advantage of marketing accessible tourism and recreation opportunities to the growing population of travelers and tourists with disabilities. Registration is free and required.

- **Webinar: The TSA Presents - Traveling with Limb Loss**

The [Administration for Community Living's National Limb Loss Resource Center](#) will host a webinar, [The Transportation Security Administration Presents--Traveling with Limb Loss](#).

June 14th, 1-2pm ET. The webinar will feature representatives from the [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\)](#) discussing issues that individuals with prosthetics or mobility devices may experience when going through airport security; and will present information on airport screening processes, what to expect, and how to best prepare. The webinar will include an opportunity to ask questions via online chat. Registration is free and required.



PARTNERSHIP ON EMPLOYMENT
& ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY

Upcoming Webinars

PEAT Talks: Why Jobseekers Need a Digital Brand

Thursday, June 15, 2pm-3pm ET WEBINAR

Today, eRecruiting dominates all aspects of hiring & recruiting, and a successful job search starts by investing in a digital brand. For students with disabilities in particular, strategically shaping an online persona can open many career doors. In this webinar, [Intuit's Ted Drake](#) will profile how several people with disabilities leveraged social media to start successful careers.

[Register](#)

PEAT Talks: Neurodiversity & Workplace Technology

Thursday, July 20, 2pm-3pm ET WEBINAR

Join **Shea Tanis**, Associate Director of the [Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities](#), for a discussion of why technology and information access is a critical right for everyone, and how technology solutions are changing employment opportunities for people with cognitive disabilities.

[Register](#)

- **WEBINAR: Lessons on Putting Faith to Work-A Conversation about Faith, Disability and Inclusion Resources with Bill Gaventa, M.Div and Joe Timmons.**

DATE: June 20th, 2017

TIME: 1:30 pm ET / 12:30 pm CT / 11:30 am MT / 10:30 am PT

[RSVP HERE](#)

Faith Communities and Job Seekers with Disabilities – Join Us Next Week for A New Webinar!

Faith organizations are the critical infrastructure of many communities across the country. Churches, Mosques and Synagogues have a unique opportunity to drive not only faith inclusion, but economic inclusion as well. The [Putting Faith to Work \(PFTW\)](#) project has deeply studied how faith communities can support job seekers with disabilities as they seek to enter the workforce, improve their skills and find their passion. Bill Gaventa, M.Div. has worked hard across the country on issues at the intersection of faith, disability and inclusion.

Join us on June 20th, 2017 at 1:30pm Eastern Time for a special conversation about putting faith to work. Presenters Bill Gaventa and Joe Timmons will share their ground breaking workforce preparation efforts. They will reflect on the lessons learned from their pilot project, ways to expand personal networks and open opportunities throughout a community.

Featuring: Bill Gaventa, M.Div., Summer Institute on Theology and Disability / National Collaborative on Faith and Disability / Texas Faith Inclusion Network on Disability and Joe Timmons, Research Fellow, Institute on Community Inclusion.

Bill Gaventa is currently the Director of the Summer Institute on Theology and Disability and the Director of the Collaborative on Faith and Disability, along with consulting and writing roles. He served as Director of Community and Congregational Supports at the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, and Associate Professor, Pediatrics, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey until June 30, 2013. He now lives in Waco, Texas. In his role at The Boggs Center, Bill worked on community supports, initiatives in cultural competence, aging/end of life issues, supervision of a program in Clinical Pastoral Education, faith community leadership, and inclusive congregational supports. He has been active in initiatives in workforce development, support of direct care staff, self-directed supports, and staff training.

Joe has worked with adolescents and adults with disabilities in rehabilitation and educational settings for over 28 years. Since 2002, he has worked at the Institute on Community Integration (ICI) at the University of Minnesota where he does research and provides technical assistance to individuals and organizations focusing on academics and assessment, work and careers, mentoring, and the transition from secondary to postsecondary school settings. Joe has a master's degree in rehabilitation teaching and is currently completing coursework for a master's degree in social work.

You can learn more about the Putting Faith to Work (PFTW) project at the Collaborative on Faith and Disabilities website here: <http://faithanddisability.org/projects/putting-faith-to-work/>

You can learn more about the PFTW model here: <http://faithanddisability.org/projects/putting-faith-to-work/the-pftw-model/>

Lastly, read about the experiences of the pilot congregation in Nashville, Tennessee here: <http://faithanddisability.org/projects/putting-faith-to-work/a-congregations-story/>

- **Increasing Providers' Skills for Working with Youth - Exploring the Effectiveness of Online Remote Training**

The NIDILRR-funded [Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures: Building Self-Determination and Community Living and Participation \(Pathways RTC\)](#) will host a webinar, [Increasing Providers' Skills for Working with Youth: Exploring the Effectiveness of Online 'Remote' Training](#), June 20th, 2-3 pm ET. The webinar will focus on the successful use of a cost-effective method for providing high quality training via the Internet, using video-recorded observations. Registration is free and required. This project is also supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

- **Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (IDHS/DASA) and Heartland Alliance is proud to announce upcoming trainings in employment and services for people experiencing homelessness**
- **Why Employment? Research Evidence Supporting Employment Services for People Experiencing Homelessness, and How to Apply a “Housing First” Approach to Employment**

Presented by Chris Warland

June 21, 2017, 9am-11am

2 free CEUs available for CADAC, LSW/LCSW, LCPC/LPC

Heartland Alliance

208 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60604

Saro-Wiwa Conference Room

This session gives an overview of the research showing the benefits of employment for people experiencing homelessness, including homeless families and people with substance and mental health issues. We will discuss the benefits of earned income related to housing, family wellbeing, health, and recovery. We will also discuss the “employment first” approach to employment services, exploring our assumptions about employability, what it means to “meet people where they are” with regard to employment, and how the principle of harm reduction informs the field of employment.

If the link above does not work, please copy and paste this address:

<http://action.heartlandalliance.org/site/Calendar?id=107024&view=Detail>

-
- **Evidence-Based Models and Best Practices in Employment Services for People Experiencing Homelessness: Steps You can Take Now, and Programs You can Design Tomorrow**

Presented by Chris Warland

June 21, 2017, 12pm-2pm

2 free CEUs available for CADAC, LSW/LCSW, LCPC/LPC

Heartland Alliance

208 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60604

Saro-Wiwa Conference Room

This session provides an overview of the evidence-based program models used to successfully connect people experiencing homelessness with employment, including transitional jobs, individualized placement and support, alternative staffing, and customized employment. We will also explore the common program design features shared by successful programs regardless of the model used, based on a year-long national Community of Practice, and wrap up with a discussion of practical next-steps that attendees can apply in their own roles immediately to promote and support employment.

If the link above does not work, please copy and paste this address:

<http://action.heartlandalliance.org/site/Calendar?id=107025&view=Detail>

-
- **Best and Promising Practices in Employment Services for Youth Experiencing Homelessness**

Presented by: Caitlin Schnur

June 22, 2017, 11 am- 12:30pm

1.5 free CEUs available for CADAC, LSW/LCSW, LCPC/LPC

copy and paste this link if you have trouble with the link

above: <http://bit.ly/YouthWebinar>

This webinar will focus on best and promising practices used by employment service providers across the country that serve youth experiencing homelessness. Based on the findings of our Opportunity

Youth Employment Toolkit, we will highlight program design features and components used by successful programs targeting youth experiencing homelessness.

Applying Clinical Approaches in Employment Services for People Experiencing Homelessness

Presented by: Chris Warland

June 26, 2017, 1pm-2:30pm

1.5 free CEUs available for CADC, LSW/LCSW, LCPC/LPC

copy and paste this link if you have trouble with the link above: http://bit.ly/Clinical_Webinar

This webinar will discuss the ways in which employment service providers serving homeless jobseekers have found success in using clinical or therapeutic models. We will give an overview of the basics of the Stages of Change, Motivational Interviewing, Trauma-Informed Care, and Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, and discuss how each can be applied in an employment service context—not in the treatment of a disorder or pathology, but as means to build confidence, mitigate barriers, and address ambivalence related to seeking and keeping employment.

About our presenters:

Chris Warland works to support chronically unemployed people across the country by developing resources, offering trainings, facilitating peer learning, and consulting with employment initiative programs at the local, state, and federal levels. Before getting involved in workforce development, Chris worked for several years as an adult education teacher for detainees at the Cook County Jail. Chris regularly speaks at national conferences, and has provided consultation on national demonstration projects with the US Department of Labor and Department of Health and Human Services, as well as guidance on statewide initiatives for multiple state governments. He has authored or co-authored numerous papers on effective employment programming published by organizations such as the University of California, Berkeley's Institute for Research on Labor and Employment and the US Department of Health and Human Services' National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan and a Master of Arts from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

Caitlin Schnur is the Policy Associate of Heartland Alliance's National Initiatives on Poverty & Economic Opportunity (National Initiatives). A social worker with an eye for systems change, Caitlin believes policies work best when they're informed by the experience of practitioners and impacted populations. In her role, she helps make sure workforce development programs and policies account for the needs of the chronically unemployed.

Caitlin has published on topics including employment, asset-building, homelessness, reentry, and the federal budget with the National Health Care for the Homeless Council; the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness; the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and The Huffington Post. She's presented at numerous national conferences and can frequently be found blogging and tweeting on behalf of National Initiatives. Prior to Heartland Alliance, Caitlin investigated police misconduct for the City of New York and worked in communications at the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Partnership for Women & Families. She received her Bachelor's in English and Gender Studies from Haverford College and her Master's in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago.

Funding provided for the Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals-States award is through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/Center for Substance Abuse Treatment & Center for Mental Health Services (SAMHSA/CSAT & CMHS) to IDHS/DASA: Cooperative

Agreement #TI-025344.

- **WEBINAR: Guided Group Discovery: Paving the Way to Employment**
MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2017 3:00 - 4:30PM ET



LEAD CENTER

Don't miss this webinar on Guided Group Discovery: Paving the Way to Employment, in which we will share materials you can use to implement Guided Group Discovery through cross-system partnerships. You also will hear about the many pilot projects in which Guided Group Discovery has been used, and hear from implementers from the public workforce system and their disability partners.

Guided Group Discovery (GGD) is a set of strategies that can benefit any job seeker who faces barriers to employment. GGD is a universal design approach used within workforce development systems to enable youth and adults with disabilities, and others, to secure and maintain employment. These strategies serve as an alternative assessment tool that identifies the strengths and ideal conditions of employment for job seekers with and without disabilities, resulting in a "blueprint" to guide job development. Additionally, the GGD process assists job seekers in identifying employment that would be a good fit for both them and employers. Discovery is the cornerstone of customized employment, which increasingly is being used as a universal design approach by workforce development professionals.

June 2017

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[REGISTER NOW](#)

Register for this webinar by clicking or copying and pasting the following link:

<https://leadcenter.webex.com/leadcenter/onstage/g.php?MTID=e926c640a22b7aae264b00277395a604e>

Please note: All LEAD Center webinars are captioned and presentation materials are sent to participants in advance of the webinar. For any other reasonable accommodation requests, please contact Aramide Awosika at aawosika@ndi-inc.org.



[FORWARD THIS EMAIL TO A FRIEND](#)

Tiny but Magnified? The Role of Micro-Credentials in Dynamic Labor Markets

Thursday, June 29, 3:00–4:30 p.m. (ET)
Live Forum and Webinar

[Register for the forum.](#)

Micro-credentials offer a potentially attractive pathway for developing marketable skills because

they give employers a clear indication of an individual's specific competencies. In the same way that iTunes has given people the option of buying specific songs instead of an entire album, micro-credentials allow people to gain competencies for a specific career path at a low cost, and to earn those competencies as needed instead of earning them as part of an entire degree program.

Nevertheless, little is known about whether micro-credentials can be effectively integrated into education and training systems to improve people's employment outcomes. On **June 29 from 3:00–4:30 p.m.**, Mathematica's [Center for Improving Research Evidence](#) (CIRE) will convene a panel of experts to discuss the rapid growth of micro-credentials as an alternative or enhancement to traditional college degrees, certificates, and certifications.

This event will be held at Mathematica's Washington, DC, office and via live webinar. A networking reception will take place in Mathematica's lobby immediately following the forum.

Moderator:

- [Ann Person](#), Mathematica

Presenters:

- [Nan Maxwell](#), Mathematica
- Brenda Perea, Colorado Community College
- David Leaser, IBM
- Roy Swift, WorkCred

Discussants:

- Pam Frugoli, U.S. Department of Labor
- Holly Zanville, Lumina

[Register for the forum.](#)

3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- http://illinoistreasurer.gov/Office_of_the_Treasurer/Charitable_Trust/Charitable_Trust_Grant_Eligibility

Grants from the Charitable Trust Stabilization fund. They offer up to \$25,000 for 1 year to help stabilize non-profits. For 2017 the 3 main interest areas include workforce development:

Workforce Development:

- Resume Preparation
 - Interview Training
 - Placement and Retention Services
 - GED Classes
 - Vocational Training
 - Apprenticeship Training
 - Industry Certifications
-
- Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Community Living

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs) Program:
RERC on Technologies to Promote Exercise and Health Among People With Disabilities
Synopsis 1**

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=291418>

4. TIPS FROM THE FIELD



Trilogy, IPS Employment Specialist, Melinda Gibson, Undergrad Psychology, Master's Degree Human Resources:

What unique perspective do you bring to this work?

"I know from the recruiter side what companies look for. Soft skills, personality, work history"
You need to match skills and abilities to jobs. HR wants an A performer, they might take a B. They want individuals who will perform their best and set the bar for other employees. They want people who come to work the vision and mission of the company, people who have the bulk of what they are looking for so they don't have to do a lot of training."

"I am receptive to what clients are looking for. It's a client centered service. I respond to how fast or slow a client wants to go"

Advice to Employment Specialists:

"DON'T GIVE UP! A high level of emotional intelligence comes with this job. You have to remain objective. I use a lot of coping skills, interacting with people, exercise, time with my dog. Utilize your resources and tools, engage in positive self-talk. Speak to your supervisor."

"Remember it's a numbers game because you can get discouraged when you can't place people. When you are looking for work, you might not always get a yes. Don't take it personally when your clients are not getting hired right away. You have to find the right approach for people. Sometimes I'm disappointed or sad. You have to deal with things and move on."

What are your strategies for challenging vocational placement scenarios?

Ask for help. My team leader helped me develop a script for someone who had disorganized speech and thought patterns. I was intimidated but the more I work with him and talk to him, the more confident I feel. She modeled a CBT thought record with me and now I use it with this client" Show you have an interest in your clients-developing rapport is important.

I have gotten family member's to assist. One client's sister helped him practice interview scripts to combat issues with disorganized thought. She also drove him to an interview.

What has work as an Employment Specialist taught you?

"Sometimes I am right and sometimes I am wrong. This work is a learning experience. Some of it is trial and error. What motivates me to stay in this is my clients. Who wouldn't want to see someone get better?"

It's important to come to the table with a plan. I like to bring a lot of leads to meetings. I read a person's mental health assessment and about a person's background.

Understand the work that the job entails. Knowing your industry and work culture is important. Ask your client, "do you see yourself doing this on a continuous basis?"

5. OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

- **Please Help Equip for Equality Identify the Legal Advocacy Needs of People with Disabilities in Illinois**

Equip for Equality is seeking your input on how we can best meet the legal advocacy needs of people with disabilities. **There are 3 ways for you to let us know what you think.**

1

. In Person: We are hosting a Public Meeting in Chicago. This meeting allows people with disabilities, family members, service providers and other interested parties to provide us with input on how to allocate our resources.

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Equip for Equality

20 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60602

***A sign language interpreter and real time captioning will be present
at our Public Meeting.***

To attend or request an accommodation, please RSVP to cecille@equipforequality.org

2. Via the Internet: To participate by webcast, [CLICK HERE](#)

You can give your input by filling out our online survey. [Click here to submit your comments and suggestions using our online survey.](#)

3. By Mail/Fax: You can give your input by mailing or faxing your survey responses to us. [Click here to download a copy of our survey.](#) Then send your completed survey to us at:

Equip for Equality
20 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60602
Or, fax it to us at 312-541-7544.

We are always looking for suggestions on how we can best meet the legal advocacy needs of people with disabilities in Illinois. We have a priorities planning process and we ask the public to offer ideas that will help us implement priorities that are valued most in the disability community. Please share your thoughts with us.

Thank you from Equip for Equality!

- **Self-Employment and Mental Health Survey**

The NIDILRR-funded fellowship on [Workers with Psychiatric Disabilities and Self-Employment in Microenterprise](#) is conducting an [online survey to learn more about self-employment and small business ownership](#) by individuals who identify as having a psychiatric history or disability. The study is open to all US self-employed adults who have experienced mental health problems. The results of this study will expand employment options for those who aspire to work for themselves, and improve sustainability and growth opportunities for existing enterprises. The survey is limited to one entry per respondent and one respondent per week will win a \$25 Visa check card until July 5th.

- **The AUCD (Association of University Centers on Disabilities) Conference on November 5-8 brings peers and thought leaders in the field together to discuss the strategies, innovations, and systems that will continue to move the needle forward to provide supports and services for people with disabilities and their families.**

Over 200 different presentations will be accepted to the conference in several different types of sessions, formatted for maximum visibility and interaction with attendees.

Proposals are encouraged from students, self-advocates, family leaders, clinicians, and researchers in over 25 topics. Don't miss your chance: [submit a proposal for the conference today!](#)



CHICAGO
JUNE 23-25, 2017
RENAISSANCE SCHAUMBURG
CONVENTION CENTER

FRIDAY 11 AM – 5 PM; SATURDAY 11 AM – 5 PM; SUNDAY 11 AM – 4 PM

[Pre-register today](#) and we'll see you June 23-25, 2017 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center!

There is just SO MUCH TO DO and it's ALL FREE! Come for:

The [latest products and services](#) for people with ALL disabilities

- Learn how [assistance dogs and therapy horses](#) can help you and your loved ones
- Don't miss free [CEU-earning, career development seminars](#) for physical therapists, occupational therapists and other disability professionals on June 23
- [Dust off your dancing wheels](#) and get into the groove with fan-favorite *Push Girl* Auti Angel
- Meet [Wendy on Wheels](#) author [Angela Ruzicka](#) at her children's book reading, June 24, 1:00 pm



- Learn how to [cook with a disability](#), how specific nutritional choices promote healing and how to shop for the healthiest food on a budget, June 23 at 2:30 pm
- Stop in the new [Meet Up Zone](#) and engage with attendees and experts, share experiences and find answers. Have fun at the photo booth, too!
- Get in the game with [adaptive sports](#) like boccia, power soccer, quad rugby and wheelchair tennis
- Caregivers need support, too. On June 25, don't miss [special sessions](#) on stress relief, better sleep and financial planning



- Explore how assistive technology can help you or your loved ones bridge the gap between ability and disability at the [AT Showcase](#)
- [Compelling workshops](#) on the issues that make a difference to you like accessible homes, cooking & nutrition, American Sign Language, emergency preparedness, travel, emerging therapies, financial planning and more
- [Face art](#) for kids
- Check out the [artist market](#) and see great works by local talent from the disability community
- [No charge loaner scooters, wheelchair repair and sign language interpretation](#)
- Essentials for kids and seniors
- And more!



Spread the word and [bring family and friends](#) to this one-of-a kind event. Visit www.abilities.com/chicago as often as possible to check out new show features. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and sign up for our [Buzz e-newsletter](#). Abilities Expo Chicago will be here Friday, June 23 through Sunday, June 25 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center. [Click here](#) for directions and parking. We look forward to meeting you there!

• **AUTISTIC SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK**

<http://autisticadvocacy.org/>

Our Mission

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network seeks to advance the principles of the disability rights movement with regard to autism. ASAN believes that the goal of autism advocacy should be a world in which autistic people enjoy equal access, rights, and opportunities. We work to empower autistic people across the world to take control of our own lives and the future of our common community, and seek to organize the autistic community to ensure our voices are heard in the national conversation about us. Nothing About Us, Without Us!

Who We Are

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization run by and for autistic people. ASAN was created to serve as a national grassroots disability rights organization for the autistic community run by and for autistic Americans, advocating for systems change and ensuring that the voices of autistic people are heard in policy debates and the halls of power. Our staff work to educate communities, support self-advocacy in all its forms, and improve public perceptions of autism. ASAN's members and supporters include autistic adults and youth, cross-disability advocates, and non-autistic family members, professionals, educators, and friends.

6. ADULT IDD WAIVER COMMENT PERIOD OPEN -includes new supported employment definitions, please take the time to comment

Adult Waiver Submission and Time Frames

On May 31, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services filed a public notice, extending the time for public comment on the HCBS Waiver for Adults with Developmental Disabilities through June 30, 2017. The purpose of this extension is to ensure that individuals who lack access to the previously posted electronic versions would have an opportunity to comment. Similar public notices were filed for the HCBS Waiver for Children who are Medically Fragile, Technology Dependent; HCBS Waiver for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury and the Supportive Living Program Proposed Waiver Renewal.

Interested stakeholders may view the public notice

at: <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/53117HCBSWaiverPublicNoticeAdultDD.pdf>

As stated in the notice, a non-electronic public notice may be viewed at the IDHS local offices (except in Cook County). In Cook County, the notice may be reviewed at the Office of the Director, Illinois

Department of Healthcare and Family Services, 401 South Clinton Street, 1st Floor, Chicago, Illinois.

A hard copy of the proposed waiver renewal may be downloaded and printed from the HFS website at <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalClients/HCBS/Pages/default.aspx> or may be requested by calling 217-557-0779. Copies are also available at the following locations:

Healthcare and Family Services
201 South Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62763

Healthcare and Family Services
401 South Clinton
Chicago, IL 60607

7. CONFERENCES, TRAINING AND MEETINGS

- **REIMAGINE JUSTICE FOR EMERGING ADULTS**



Event to be held at the following time, date, and location:

Friday, June 16, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (CDT)

Lawndale Christian Conference Center
3750 W Ogden Ave, 4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60623

[View Map](#)

Attend Event

The Juvenile Justice Initiative invites you to Reimagine Justice for Emerging Adults. Emerging adulthood is increasingly recognized as a distinct period of life, much like adolescence, with profound implications for adulthood. The justice system can help by treating conflict with the law through diversion, community alternatives and restorative justice - or can hurt by the stigmatization of an adult criminal record that is a barrier to employment and education. This summit will examine Illinois' history of addressing emerging adult issues and best practices for the emerging adult population.

JJI designed this event as a partner to Connecticut Gov. Malloy's "Reimagining Justice" conference, at which Cook County States Attorney Kim Foxx is scheduled to speak. Please join the Juvenile Justice Initiative as we view a video of Kim Foxx's speech, hear comments from our own guest speakers, and discover opportunities for partnership and improvements in the justice system. Lunch will be served!

- **Illinois Department of Human Rights Training July 2017**

The Illinois Department of Human Rights' Institute for Training and

Development offers free training to the public. Attendance during State of Illinois employee hours is subject to supervisor approval. Upcoming classes that are open to the public include:

[The Social Workplace: An Employee's Guide for Navigating Social Media at Work](#)

6/15/2017 - Chicago, IL 60601, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

[Basic Fair Housing Training For Landlords & Property Managers](#)

7/18/2017 - Chicago, IL 60601, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[The Toxic Workplace: Effective Strategies to Eliminate Bullying in the Workplace](#)

7/20/2017 - Chicago, IL 60601, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

[Let's Talk it Out: Resolving Conflict at Work](#)

7/20/2017 - Chicago, IL 60601, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

- **Insights from a Therapeutic Day Program On Mental Health and Change**

July 13, 2017

10:30 a.m. – noon

3003 W Touhy Ave in Chicago

Presented By Na'ama Wasserman, Psy.D.; Shimon Zeisel LCSW; Linda Gross LCSW.

Mental Illness is a complex issue with many different diagnosis and treatment options. The ARK's Intensive Day Program team will discuss how people with serious mental health challenges can be motivated to engage in treatment and work towards meeting their goals.

The following topics will be discussed: how do people make difficult life changes? How do you help someone to take step forward? How do you motivate someone who has experienced a setback to move forward?

To register or to request special accommodations, please contact Mariana Sanchez, Linkages Coordinator, at 773.508.1106 or linkages@cje.net

- **College Changes Everything Conference**

Registration is now open for the Illinois Student Assistance Commissions' seventh annual College Changes Everything conference, [Equity in College and Career Readiness Initiatives: Ensuring That All Students Are Equipped for Success](#). The one-day conference focuses on effective practices and showcases resources available to increase college access and college completion. Thursday, July 20, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

8. STATE OF ILLINOIS OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRAMS

State of Illinois Employment Opportunities:

[State of Illinois Jobs \(General Job Search\)](#)

[Illinois Attorney General – Job Postings](#)
[Illinois Capital Development Board – Job Postings](#)
[Illinois Commerce Commission – Job Postings](#)
[Illinois Comptroller - Job Postings](#)
[Illinois Environmental Protection Agency – Job Postings](#)
[Illinois State Treasurer – Job Postings](#)
[Illinois Tollway – Job Postings](#)

State of Illinois Internship Opportunities:

[Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum \(Deadline: 07/15/17\)](#)
[Illinois Tollway Communications Intern \(Deadline: 06/19/17\)](#)
[Illinois DCFS Academic Internship Program \(Deadline: varies\)](#)
[Illinois Department of Natural Resources \(Deadline: varies\)](#)
[Illinois Governor's Office \(Deadline: varies\)](#)
[Illinois State Police Internship Program \(Deadline: varies\)](#)
[Office of the Lieutenant Governor \(Deadline: varies\)](#)

State of Illinois Employment Programs and Services:

[State of Illinois Central Management Services - Disabled Workers Program](#)
[State of Illinois Central Management Services - Diversity and Enrichment Program](#)
[State of Illinois Veterans Outreach Program](#)
[State of Illinois Upward Mobility Program](#)
[Illinois Worknet Center - Disability Employment Initiative](#)

9. RESOURCES

New Guidebook for Peer Respite Self-Evaluation Is Available for Free Download

A new tool to document peer respite program operations and outcomes, and to build evidence for the efficacy of peer respites, is available for free download from Live & Learn, which created the *Guidebook for Peer Respite Self-Evaluation: Practical Steps and Tools* in partnership with Human Services Research Institute. “We created this guide in response to frequent requests for practical, low-cost or no-cost tools that can be used by programs to evaluate themselves,” writes Live & Learn founder and CEO Dr. Laysha Ostrow. The guidebook—an updated version of a 2014 edition—“is focused on establishing a shared framework for self-evaluation that can be used by peer respite staff on an ongoing basis without extensive hands-on involvement of researchers.” For the new *Guidebook*, [click here](#). For the 2014 guidebook and other peer respite manuals, [click here](#).

● Virtual “Psychosis Summit” Is Launched

A virtual “Psychosis Summit,” available for free, consists of interviews and talks aimed toward “raising awareness on treatment methodologies, and support approaches, for helping peers dealing with psychosis, and their families.” The first six interviews (to be supplemented every few months) include “A Close Look at the Conventional Approaches on Psychosis,” by Dr. Nev Jones; “Food, Nutrition, and Psychosis,” by Drew Ramsey; “Wounded Healer,” by Oryx Cohen; “A Psychologist’s Perspective on Psychosis and Trauma: A Personal Story,” by Noel Hunter; “Open Dialogue and Psychosis: How Does It Differ from Standard Practice?” by Sandra Steingard; and “Culture and How It Shapes and Protects Against Stigma: Insights from Chinese Immigrants with Experiences of Psychosis,” by Dr. Lawrence Yang. To read the interviews, [click here](#).

Free Report on Transformative Role of Formerly Incarcerated Leaders in Reducing Mass Incarceration

Just Leadership USA, a national organization of individuals with criminal justice histories, has issued *Leading with Conviction: The Transformative Role of Formerly Incarcerated Leaders in Reducing Mass Incarceration*. The free report, published in collaboration with the Center for Institutional and Social Change at Columbia Law School, “documents the roles of formerly incarcerated leaders engaged in work related to reducing incarceration and rebuilding communities, drawing on in-depth interviews with 48 of these leaders conducted over a period of 14 months. These ‘leaders with conviction’ have developed a set of capabilities that enable them to advance transformative change, both in the lives of individuals affected by mass incarceration and in the criminal legal systems that have devastated so many lives and communities.” For the free 90-page report, [click here](#).

- **[Campaign for Disability Employment](#)**

Earlier this month, EARN was pleased to join and attend a meeting of the Campaign for Disability Employment (CDE), a multi-organization initiative that aims to educate employers and others on the value and talent people with disabilities bring to America’s workplaces and economy. EARN’s involvement will provide additional employer perspective to the CDE’s next phase of messaging and products, currently under development. Like EARN, the CDE is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy. [Learn more about the CDE](#).

- **[Accommodation Metrics](#)**

Effective processes for requesting and implementing workplace accommodations are essential components of a disability-inclusive workplace. Measuring the effectiveness of such policies is not always easy, however. To help, the Job Accommodation Network’s “Workplace Accommodation Toolkit” provides best practices for documentation and metrics. This comprehensive resource also offers centralized access to a range of accommodation topics, including sample policies, templates and checklists, as well as descriptions of different approaches in action. [Learn about accommodation metrics](#) or [access the main toolkit](#).

- **County Mental Health Administrators' Toolkit for Promoting Community Inclusion**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Community Living and Participation for Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities \(TU Collaborative\)](#) has published a [County Mental Health Administrators' Toolkit for Promoting Community Inclusion](#). The toolkit outlines the key functions of county mental health executives and ways in which each of these functions can be used to broaden the understanding, implementation, evaluation, and funding of community inclusion initiatives in local settings. The toolkit draws on the experiences of county mental health decision makers from across the country and includes an appendix with additional resources, checklists, and references.

- Last week the Economic Opportunities Program hosted our latest Working in America event, ["What Does Tax Reform Mean for Low- and Moderate-Income Workers?"](#) at the Aspen Institute offices in Washington, DC. We're happy to let you know that the full video is now available online.



Panelists at ["What Does Tax Reform Mean for Low- and Moderate-Income Workers?"](#) addressed challenging questions about how tax policy shapes the economic opportunities available to low- and moderate-income workers. From the Earned Income Tax Credit to corporate tax reform, panelists explored how tax policy affects wages, assets, human capital investment, revenues, and more. And participants, in person and via social media, asked panelists their questions as well.

You can [watch the full video](#) now. Related resources are also available on the event page. If you find the video and materials valuable to your work, we encourage you to share them (and don't forget to tag [@AspenWorkforce](#) on Twitter).

[Watch now](#)