



ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT FIRST UPDATE 5/26/17

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1. FEATURED RESOURCES:

From the Illinois Department of Commerce Office of Employment and Training

- [disabilityworks Video Series Now Available](#)

The disabilityworks video series is now available at www.disabilityworks.org!

This informational series of short videos covers a broad range of topics for jobseekers with disabilities and employers, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, how to seek services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Vocational Rehabilitation, and much more! [Check them out today!](#)

You can also check out each of the playlists on [YouTube](#):

- [Workers and Job Seekers with Disabilities](#)
- [Info for Employers \(Disability Related\)](#)
- [State Services for Individuals with Disabilities](#)

Coming soon we will have ASL videos covering State Services for Individuals!

- **The Promise of AT to Enhance Activity and Work Participation**
The [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#) have published a report, [The](#)

[Promise of Assistive Technology \(AT\) to Enhance Activity and Work Participation](#), the result of a committee of experts which included members of the NIDILRR grantee community. The committee analyzed the use of assistive products and technologies in four categories: wheeled and seated mobility devices, upper-extremity prostheses, hearing devices, and communication and speech technologies. The report describes the range of these technologies and how they support and enable people with disabilities to enter or return to the workforce.

2. WEBINARS:

- **Webcast: Translating the Evidence on IPS into Practice - Applications with SCI**

The NIDILRR-funded [Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research \(KTDRR\)](#) will host a webcast, [Translating the Evidence on Individual Placement and Support \(IPS\) into Practice: Applications with Spinal Cord Injury \(SCI\)](#), May 31st, 3-4pm ET. A panel of researchers and practitioners will review research on the use of IPS with individuals with SCI, evaluate the unique aspects of applying the IPS model in a SCI healthcare setting, and discuss guidelines for successful implementations of IPS in SCI settings. Registration is free and required.

- **Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Webinar: Community Perspectives**, *Wednesday, June 7, 2017*

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EST

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6619019699743619330>

This update and community sharing session on the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility is organized by the National Center for Mobility Management, a technical assistance center funded by the Federal Transit Administration and collaboratively run by three national organizations: Easter Seals, Inc., the American Public Transportation Association, and the Community Transportation Association of America.

Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Webinar: Community Perspectives (June 7, 2017, 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET). The mission of the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM) is to issue policy recommendations and implement activities that improve the availability, accessibility, and efficiency of transportation for targeted populations. Three CCAM work groups kicked off in March 2017 to identify and prioritize strategies to meet the requirements of the FAST Act.

For this community perspectives webinar, you are invited to join the CCAM work group members to hear from three communities about regulatory barriers, funding and finances, and administrative barriers they face related to coordination and vehicle sharing at the state and local level. A brief update on the CCAM will be given by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), with Q&A following the community presentations.

We look forward to your participation.

The National Center for Mobility Management and the Federal Transit Administration are committed to providing equal access to this update and community sharing session for all participants. If you need assistance, alternative formats or services, please contact Zach Smith of the National Center for Mobility

Management: Phone: (202) 496-4807 Email: zsmith@apta.com

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

- **Strategies for Success in Addressing Oral Health and Behavioral Health**



Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 3:00 PM ET/12:00 PM PT Register for free at: <https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1148308>

Oral health is all too often overlooked when integrating primary care and behavioral health. In addition to impacting a person's ability to speak, smile, smell, taste, and show feelings and emotions, oral health contributes to general health and wellness, self-esteem and quality of life. Join this webinar to hear from dental experts about the importance of addressing oral health in integrated health setting and identify simple strategies that can be implemented to make oral health part of the conversation in behavioral health and primary care settings. Learn how a behavioral health organization established an innovative partnership with a local university to provide an onsite dental clinic and how an initiative in Utah meets the oral health needs of people with substance use disorders. Presenters will share tools that can help providers looking to expand their efforts to address oral health.

[Register Here →](#)

- **Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFLSMP)**
Topic: Inspiring Parental Participation: It is all in how you ask.

Community of Practice (CoP) Monthly Webinar

June 14, 2017 3-4:00 ET

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

The EFLSMP Community of Practice Webinar Series is structured to augment the technical assistance areas of primary focus in Employment First systems change (Capacity Building, Provider Transformation, School-to-Work Transition, Employer Engagement, and Policy/Funding Alignment). CoP participants will benefit from national subject matter experts (SMEs) presenting information and resources to support Employment First efforts.

Topic: Inspiring Parental Participation: It is all in how you ask.

As professionals, you may feel overwhelmed by your non-ending to-do-list. Parents of children with disabilities share that same experience. Sending a notice to a parent to come to a meeting is just another item on the list unless you make that invitation inviting. In this session, we learn how to create a safety zone for families to gather their energies, overcome their fears and become partners with service providers.

Webinar Objectives

1. **Learn quick and easy methods to connect with parents and families in minutes.**
 - Learn how to connect using the ENUF model which takes less than 10 minutes to connect and even settle an awkward conversation.
 - Discover how active listening helps you navigate the often chronic grief parents and individuals with disabilities often experience.
 - Learn how to discover "family genius and strengths" and learn to build upon them.
2. **Attendees will discover how to empower families to become effective financial managers of their family member's assets including a basic roadmap to the Medicaid waiver system.**
 - Lack of understanding of the Medicaid waiver system leads to many individuals and families who experience disability unprepared for the opportunities education and the service system can offer.
 - Parent support means financial education. Developing a basic road map for families is a good start.
 - Families can use Able Accounts, IDA's and other financial tools to develop launch funds to help accelerate meaningful life outcomes.
3. **Learn about the 10 things never to say to a parent.**
 - Common professional practices often build barriers, not bridges.
 - Learn how to build relationship, not break them.
4. **Learn strategies for building sustainable and vibrant communities of support assisting with supported living and employment opportunities.**
 - Parents and families have social capital. Learn how to leverage their relationships to build stronger circles of support and communities.
 - A meaningful life is the goal of many individuals with disabilities. Community celebrations are powerful in building long-term supports which continue as life changes, which it often does.

Guest Speaker: Katherine Carol, National Subject Matter Expert



Thought leader, innovator, and provocateur are just a few words which capture Katherine Carol's passionate persistence to improving the lives of people with disabilities. Katherine and her daughter, Mikelle have been advocating technology as a necessity for people with disabilities to experience full and prosperous inclusion in the 21st Century community. Katherine and Mikelle have been informing and mentoring families on successful transition practices on their www.TheShiningBeautifulSeries.com. They are founding members of Families at the Forefront of Technology, an organization started and run by families dedicated to working with technology innovators such as Apple and Google to shape 21st Century Rehabilitation strategies and solutions.

Katherine Carol leverages decades of personal and professional experience to create innovative rehabilitation solutions for people with special needs, families, policymakers and service providers.

Together with her daughter Mikelle, they have focused on using technology to enhance Mikelle's ability to work, to own her condo and manage her home and support team.

Among many of Katherine's various roles, she currently services as a board member for the Washington Initiative for Supported Employment, is a council member for the Colorado Rehabilitation Council and is co-chairing Colorado's Employment First efforts.

Meeting Materials will be distributed closer to the event.

Unable to Attend

EFSLMP Webinars are recorded and the link will be distributed to the list serve within two business days following the webinar. **Share this announcement with your colleagues! If they are not a current subscriber to ODEP's EFSLMP mailing list, they can register [here](#).**

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.

Reviewing the Evidence: What Works in Disability Employment Services Thursday, June 22, 12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m. (ET)

Register: **WEBINAR**

The growing evidence base on disability employment services has given policymakers and administrators an opportunity to either scale up and replicate services that work or to stop supporting those that do not. On **June 22, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time**, Mathematica's [Center for Studying Disability Policy](#) (CSDP) will host a live webinar featuring a panel of experts from Mathematica who will discuss the emerging evidence on promising employment interventions. Our speakers will present findings from recent studies of the following:

- Support from state vocational rehabilitation agencies for the postsecondary education of transition-age youth with mental health conditions
- The Job Corps program's potential to (1) improve employment outcomes for adults with disabilities who participated in the program when they were young and (2) reduce their reliance on disability benefits
- Early impacts of a state vocational agency intervention on Social Security Disability

Insurance beneficiaries

Presenters will include:

- Craig Thornton, Moderator
- Pryanka Anand
- Heinrich Hock
- Gina Livermore
- David Stapleton, Discussant

Register: **WEBINAR**

For more information, please contact events@mathematica-mpr.com.

MATHEMATICA
— CENTER FOR —
STUDYING DISABILITY POLICY

3. TIPS FROM THE FIELD



**Nanette Cohen, Director, Individualized Employment Development, Jewish Vocational Service
Perspective: Supported Employment Program Management**

What are the essential elements of a successful Supported Employment program?

“Serving the needs of the individual is the center of it all. It’s about quality of services and client satisfaction as well as the satisfaction of their stakeholders—parents, guardians, and referral sources. Serving needs and talking to everyone involved is essential to success. We observe people in different environments and ask questions in different ways while exposing people to different things before

pursuing a vocational direction. It's important to talk to clients and have them connect the dots to make sure it's the right path they are going down".

What are some of the challenges of employment service provision?

"The most challenging part is getting everyone on the same page. Sometimes clients say something different in a group situation than they do in a one on one session with an employment specialist. Sometimes the individual job seeker is not the only one that needs attention in helping to meet goals. "

What do you do when you see a different vision from stakeholders during the discovery or job development process?

"We let the individual job seeker run as much of the meeting as possible. We need to hear their voice in some way. We also bring in outside individuals-an employer who has provided a job shadow or mock interview. An outside expert reduces us -vs- them situations"

How do you help staff build industry knowledge?

"Lots of training and community meetings. Our style is not for managers to find answers but to encourage and support employees to solve their own challenges. We provide background information, examples of what has worked before and act as mentors

We also utilize staff from different programs to guide and support employees. We have an opportunity for formal mentorship from a variety of different departments. People can identify a match and do a formal interview before committing".

Can you offer advice to a new program manager?

"Look outside into your community and reach out and talk to people at different organizations. Share documents and information."

How do you recommend using data collection for improvement?

"Look at what data you are gathering on a monthly basis-how do you analyze it to see what you can do better? Spot trends before they become an obstacle. We use data at every level. Direct service staff has access to everything managers do. We collect: demographic info, service timeframes, and amount of each service, date of intake to placement, retention information for 1 year and where referrals come from. Employer data includes where we get leads, who is providing mock interviews, how long job seekers are staying at employment sites and industries outreach and outlook. Data informs job development and relationship building".

Explore ways to use the data across all levels of your organization. This broad data collection and usage has "cut down on administrative time and created more time to spend with clients. JVS Supervisors use data during every supervision session-it helps document and track progress". This strategic streamlining has increased efficiency. " For billing purposes, staff submit spreadsheets to managers, they verify and then submit to finance. Monthly reports are also generated from this system-the half day it usually took to do billing has been greatly reduced.

4. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Free employment law clinic for nonprofits**

The Law Project of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights is offering a **free employment law clinic for nonprofits** on Thursday, July 13, 2017, 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 444 West Lake Street, Suite 900, Chicago. Nonprofits will meet with a team of attorneys who will draft or revise the organization's vacation and sick/medical leave policies based on recent Cook County law changes, and will also draft a template separation agreement, providing electronic documents for the organization at the end of the clinic. Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status that operate in Cook County (including Chicago), and that have employees, are encouraged to **complete the intake form** (<https://adobe.ly/2pCMIji>) **by June 23**. Feel free to contact Erica Spangler Raz at espanglerraz@thelawproject.org with questions.

RISP Report: In-Home and Residential Long-Term Supports and Services for Persons with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Community Living for People with Intellectual Disabilities \(RTC/CL\)](#) has released a report, [In-Home and Residential Long-Term Supports and Services for Persons with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities: Status and Trends Through 2014](#) (PDF). The report, based on RTC/CL's National Residential Information Systems Project (RISP), presents national and state-level data on publicly-funded residential service setting types, setting sizes, funding authorities, and expenditures for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the United States. In addition to the national report, [data are available in brief state profiles](#) that highlight specific findings. Infographics are contained in the executive summary of the report that present summary data from FY2014.

What's New at NARIC?

Continuing the May observances, it's [Older Americans Month encouraging everyone to Age Out Loud!](#) With innovations in treatment and technology, people with disabilities are living longer and the population of older Americans aging with disabilities is growing. These older Americans are experiencing the same age-related conditions as those without disabilities: arthritis, stroke and cardiac conditions, metabolic changes, cognitive changes, and vision and hearing loss. Factors such as [resilience](#), [community support](#), and [access to wellness programs](#) mean people with disabilities can Age Out Loud with the rest of the crowd! Check out our blog posts on [staying fit](#), [taking charge of your health](#), and [aging well with a disability](#), featuring research and resources from the NIDILRR community and elsewhere available online and from the NARIC collection.

News from the NIDILRR Community

My Care, My Call Highlighted in RehabCast

Bethlyn Houlihan and Sarah Everhart-Skeels, team members from the NIDILRR-funded [Spaulding Hospital-New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center \(SNERSCIC\)](#), were interviewed on the [most recent RehabCast podcast](#) from the [Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation](#) discussing [My Care, My Call](#), a peer health coaching intervention designed to keep people living with SCI engaged in their own care. Ms. Houlihan and Ms. Everhart-Skeels discussed how the intervention was developed and tested, the role of peer counselors, and how the program supports people with chronic SCI to manage their health in the long term.

5. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities has a funding opportunity available for review, *New Approaches to Break Down Barriers*.** The Call for Investment may be read at

www.ddsuite.org.

We are seeking multiple projects which will address or solve identified barriers in one or more of these areas: early intervention, education, child care, employment. The Council recognizes that this is a time of change. This Call for Investment is intended to allow schools, providers, or other entities the opportunity to act on something they have identified as a need to ultimately improve life outcomes for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Project proposals are submitted electronically through DD Suite. For detail on setting up an account or joining an organization that already has an account, click help and look under Accounts and Organizations.

Proposals are due July 19, 2017. An informational workshop will be held on June 16, 2017 at 10 a.m. See the Call for Investment for how to RSVP.

- **Improving HIV Health Outcomes through the Coordination of Supportive Employment and Housing Services (HRSA-17-113 and HRSA-17-114)**

The Office of HIV/AIDS Housing (OHH) would like to share the Health Resource and Service Administration's (HRSA) Notice of Funding Opportunity for ***Improving HIV Health Outcomes through the Coordination of Supportive Employment and Housing Services*** ([HRSA-17-113](#) and [HRSA-17-114](#)).

HRSA/HAB, through funding support from the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund and the Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS), is accepting applications for a new three-year initiative entitled ***Improving HIV Health Outcomes through the Coordination of Supportive Employment and Housing Services***. The purpose of these initiatives is to support the design, implementation, and evaluation of innovative interventions that coordinate HIV primary care, housing services, and employment services in communities to improve HIV health outcomes for people living with HIV.

- **HRSA-17-113:** HRSA will award up to ten (10) *Demonstration Site* grants of up to \$300,000 each per year to support the design, implementation, and evaluation of innovative interventions that coordinate HIV care and treatment, housing, and employment services to improve HIV health outcomes for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured people living with HIV (PLWH) in racial and ethnic minority communities. **Deadline:** July 24, 2017.
- **HRSA-17-114:** HRSA will award one (1) *Evaluation and Technical Assistance Provider* cooperative agreement to a single organization for up to \$700,000 per year for three (3) years to conduct a multi-site evaluation and provide technical assistance (TA) to up to 10 demonstration sites. **Deadline:** July 24, 2017.

The HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) will conduct two pre-application TA webinars to support the release of these two Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs). Participation in a pre-application TA webinar is optional. Letters of intent to apply are also encouraged, but are not required. This initiative is in

partnership with U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Office of HIV/AIDS Housing.

- Improving HIV Health Outcomes through the Coordination of Supportive Employment and Housing Services—Demonstration Sites (**HRSA-17-113**) Pre-Application TA Webinar Information:

Day and Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Time: 2 PM – 4 PM ET

Dial-in Phone Number: 1-800-593-8981

Participant Code: 4762885

Weblink: [Register for the HRSA-17-113 webinar](#)

- Improving HIV Health Outcomes through the Coordination of Supportive Employment and Housing Services—Evaluation and Technical Assistance Provider (**HRSA-17-114**) Pre-Application TA Webinar Information:

Day and Date: Monday, June 12, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

Dial-in Phone Number: 1-877-784-3238

Participant Code: 6135920

Weblink: [Register for the HRSA-17-114 webinar](#)

Letters of Intent for both NOFOs are due **June 16, 2017**.

Applications for both NOFOs are due **July 24, 2017**.

[Access the link to the HRSA-17-113 NOFO and more information.](#)

[Access the link to the HRSA-17-114 NOFO and more information.](#)

6. TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Parent Advocacy Leadership (PAL) Training**

Saturday June 3, 2017 at Family Resource on Disabilities, 11 E. Adams St. Suite 1002, Chicago, IL 60603

Register at www.frcd.org/news/pal

- **Using Accessible Public Transportation, June 8, 2017, 10:30 a.m. – noon**

3003 W Touhy Ave in Chicago

Presented By Beth Daly, RTA Mobility Outreach Coordinator

The presentation will cover the following topics: the benefits of using accessible travel on CTA, PACE and Metra; an overview of Ventra Services; information on how to apply for a reduced fare or a ride free permit. Printed materials will be provided.

To register or to request special accommodations, please contact Mariana Sanchez, Linkages Coordinator, at 773.508.1106 or

7. FINANCIAL LITERACY

Title: [What the FICA?](#)

Social Security is the foundation of economic security for millions of Americans — retirees, disabled persons, and families of retired, disabled or deceased workers. The Social Security Administration has prepared materials incorporated into education efforts that can reach youth and dispel the perception that Social Security will not be there for people, especially youth and the Millennials.

Title: [Financial Literacy Education](#)

Financial literacy education is one of the 14 program elements for the WIOA youth program. Financial literacy education refers to activities that provide youth with the knowledge and skills that they need to achieve long-term financial stability.

Title: [Youth Resource Connections Newsletter](#)

The Youth Resource Connections Newsletter is a monthly bulletin from the Employment and Training Administration that provides information, resources, and tools to workforce professionals who work every day to impact the lives of youth and young adults. Each newsletter provides access to the latest research on innovative youth service strategies as well as guidance, funding opportunities, upcoming events and a featured success story from a local youth program.

Thank You!

Sincerely,
The WorkforceGPS Team
Helping You Navigate to Success Today

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Ride to Better Health: How Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Can Improve Population Health

How did a stop on Denver's light-rail go from the "station to nowhere" to the "station to somewhere"?

Our newest Crosswalk essay, [A Ride to Better Health](#), examines how equitable

transit-oriented development is helping cities, including Denver, Phoenix, Minneapolis and others, improve the health of their communities and reconnect residents to their neighborhoods.



[Read it here!](#)



Crosswalk is the Build Healthy Places Network's online magazine for stories illustrating community investment - creating neighborhoods that promote health and wellbeing for all.