



Washington Weekly!

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Administration

NIDILRR Plans Stakeholder Listening Sessions on Long-Range Plan

The Administration for Community Living's National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) is developing its *2024-2029 Long-Range Plan* and wants to hear from stakeholders. Mandated by Congress to develop a Long-Range Plan every five years, the agency aims to continue to be responsive to the needs of key stakeholders — especially people living with disabilities. Stakeholders can provide feedback in two ways: Virtual listening sessions in August, September and October or by submitting written feedback by email, due November 2nd. Listening session will be held by stakeholder group via zoom.

Stakeholder groups includes: NIDILRR Grantees (Aug. 18); Disability Groups and Advocacy Organizations (Sept. 13); Individuals with Disabilities and Those Supporting Them (Sept. 28); Direct Service Providers and Non-NIDILRR Grantee Researchers (Oct. 12); General (Oct. 20 and Oct. 27). Stakeholder calls are scheduled from 1:00pm – 4:00pm (ET).

Stakeholders can also provide written feedback via email. Please submit all feedback to NIDILRRfuture@neweditions.net by November 21st. Visit [here](#) for more information.

HUD Awards Mainstream Vouchers to Help People with Disabilities with Housing

On July 27th, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the awarding of more than \$36 million for Mainstream Vouchers and additional administrative fees to 218 public housing agencies (PHAs) in 46 States to assist people with disabilities. Mainstream Vouchers help people secure housing in the community as they transition from institutional settings. Mainstream Vouchers are tenant-based vouchers that serve households that include non-elderly person(s) with disabilities, defined as any family that includes a person with disabilities who is at least 18 years old and not yet 62 years old.

Along with partners at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), HUD launched the **Housing and Services Resource Center (HSRC)**, a one-stop shop for technical assistance, resources, and guidance, to support community-based housing for individuals with disabilities. PHAs and their partners are also encouraged to use the HSRC and to consider how expanded federal support and eligible uses of Medicaid Money Follows the Person Supplemental Services, as outlined in [this Notice](#) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which can also support the utilization of Mainstream Vouchers. A list of PHAs that received funding is available [here](#). HUD's funding award includes:

- **\$23 million** for 2,391 new Mainstream Vouchers that public housing agencies and disability networks and services partners can use to assist people with disabilities to transition from or avoid institutional settings or exit or avoid homelessness.

- **\$13 million** in additional administrative fees that help PHAs and their partners support tenants' housing search and navigation, fund landlord engagement activities, and cover other move-in costs.

Mainstream Vouchers, alongside HUD's Section 811 Project Rental Assistance program, is one of the most important federal programs that provide housing assistance to people with disabilities, including those transitioning to the community from institutional settings. The PHAs who administer Mainstream Vouchers locally coordinate with Centers for Independent Living, state protection and advocacy agencies, Medicaid agencies, homelessness Continuums of Care, and other agencies that assist people with disabilities to receive referrals, provide housing search assistance, and coordinate the provision of supportive services. For more information on the Mainstream Voucher Program, click [here](#).

HHS' *Healthy People 2030* Includes TBI Objective

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' *Healthy People 2030* includes a new objective to increase the percentage of adults who can resume more than half of their preinjury activities (with or without supports) five years after receiving acute inpatient rehabilitation for TBI. The objective points to the critical importance of access to inpatient rehabilitation and to community-based services and supports for people with TBI. The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion's *Healthy People 2030* framework provides 10-year measurable public health objectives and tools to track the nation's progress toward achieving them.

Data from the NIDILRR-funded [Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) Model Systems National Database](#) will serve as the approved data source for the **new core objective of Healthy People 2030**. The TBI Model Systems National Database is the largest TBI longitudinal database in the world, with information on outcomes for individuals up to 30 years post-injury. [Learn more](#) about [how the TBI database has been used to inform research, treatment, and policy to benefit individuals with TBI and their families](#) (PDF) and about [policies and procedures for obtaining the data from the national database](#) (PDF).

HRSA Awards Funding to Improve Healthcare

On August 8, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in separate announcements, announced that funding was awarded to: **[Community health centers to advance health equity through better data collection and reporting](#)** and to grantees to **[expand health care capacity in rural and tribal communities](#)** through health care job development, training, and placement. Nearly \$90 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding was awarded to nearly 1,400 community health centers across the country to support a data modernization effort aimed at better identifying and responding to the specific needs of patients and communities through improved data quality; advancing COVID-19 response, mitigation, and recovery efforts; and helping prepare for future public health emergencies.

Nearly \$46 million in ARP funding will support 31 awardees to provide support for critical health workforce needs in rural areas such as dental hygienists, medical or dental assistants, community-based douglas, and other frontline health care workers. In addition, nearly \$10 million will support 13 organizations through the **[Rural Residency Planning and Development Program](#)** to establish new medical residency programs in rural communities to increase the number of physicians training in rural settings. In addition, nearly \$4 million will support 18 awards to improve patient health outcomes and quality and delivery of care throughout rural counties and improve access to care for rural veterans.

Reports and Resources

MSKTC Publishes Factsheet on Staying Healthy After TBI

The NIDILRR-funded [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center \(MSKTC\)](#) recently published a new resource for people with traumatic brain injury (TBI). [Staying Healthy After TBI](#) is a factsheet that aims to help those with TBI understand the negative changes their injury can have on their physical and mental health and offers tips to deal with these challenges. The

factsheet covers ways to monitor one's health, preventing and managing other health conditions, maintaining physical and positive mental health, and additional resources.

New Study Demonstrates Ability of Biomarkers to Product TBI Recovery

A new study published in *The Lancet Neurology* demonstrates the ability of two blood-based biomarkers to predict how someone will recover from traumatic brain injury (TBI). Testing for these two biomarkers in the immediate aftermath of an injury can help health care providers determine the best way to treat and care for patients. Read the study [here](#).

NIDILRR-Funded Project is Conducting Survey on Health and Disabilities

The NIDILRR-funded project [Using the National Survey on Health and Disability Panel to Document the COVID-19 Pandemic Experiences of Working-Age Americans with Disabilities](#) is conducting the [2022 National Survey on Health and Disability \(NSHD\)](#) to understand how access to health care, insurance, and the COVID-19 pandemic may be affecting the lives of people with disabilities. The survey is open to US adults 18 years old or older, with any disability and any type of health care coverage, including no coverage. Individuals who identify as men or Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC), and those who live in AR, DE, FL, GA, IN, KY, MS, OH, OK, TN, and TX are encouraged to participate. This is a multi-year survey and previous respondents are also encouraged to participate. Participants may also complete the survey by phone. Participants will have a chance to win one of ten \$100 gift cards. The survey closes September 2nd. For more information, call 855/556-6328 (Voice/TTY) or email healthsurvey@ku.edu.

Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

UABTBIMS to Host Live Q&A on Return to Driving After TBI

The NIDILRR-funded [University of Alabama at Birmingham Traumatic Brain Injury Model System Center \(UABTBIMS\)](#) will host a live social media Question & Answer (Q&A) on "Returning to Driving After TBI," August 11th, 2:30 - 3:30pm (ET). UABTBIMS neuropsychologists will field questions posted to its [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) streams. Participation is free and open to people with TBI, their families, and professionals. No registration is required to view the Q&A, but you must be logged into either a Twitter or Facebook account to post questions or comments.

OSEP to Host Smart Beginnings Webinar

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will host its [Smart Beginnings webinars](#) August 9–11. This three-day, virtual event will highlight resources to help those who work closest with infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.

- Tuesday, Aug. 9 — Families, Advocates ([Register](#))
- Wednesday, Aug. 10 — Local Education Agency, Lead Agency Personnel, Other Leaders ([Register](#))
- Thursday, Aug. 11 — Educators, Early Childhood Providers ([Register](#))

TARC and TAL Offer Webinar on Being Involved in the Brain Injury Community

On August 31, 2022, from 2:30-4:30pm (ET), the TBI Technical Resource Center (TARC) and the TBI Advisory and Leadership Group (TAL-Group) are presenting the webinar, "Keeping the Passion Alive: Getting and Staying Involved in the Brain Injury Community." The purpose is to learn more about how survivors can become involved and stay actively engaged in State and national brain injury initiatives. Register [here](#).

NASHIA Seeks Research Posters from Student Researchers for SOS

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) invites research students to submit a poster to feature during the upcoming annual State of the States (SOS) in Head Injury Virtual Conference September 7-9, 2022. Applications for submission **has been extended until August 16, 2022**. Applicants will be notified by August 26, 2022 if selected.

Sponsored by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), this platform will feature students/future leaders in the field of brain injury to highlight their research. Poster sessions are virtual and in the form of video links, pdf, and images. An effective poster presentation highlights, with visual display, the main points or components of your topic. Poster Sessions can cover any research project related to the field of brain injury.

Poster sessions will be displayed and voted on during the conference on Friday September 9 from 1 am-3:30pm (ET), and conference attendees will vote on their favorite submissions. While conference planners would like for you to be available for answering questions about your work during the showcase (from 1:15-3:30pm) if possible, it is not mandatory for submission. To participate, please complete the [application](#) by August 12, 2022. (Feel free to share this invitation with those whom you may believe would be interested.)

The conference will include live sessions, video networking rooms, as well as an exhibit hall for attendees to visit. Registration is \$300 for members and \$350 for guests. You may find more information and may register [here](#).

RR&T Center to Hold Webinar: Community Living Summit

The NIDILRR-funded [Research and Training Center on Promoting Interventions for Community Living \(RTC/PICL\)](#) will host a webinar, [Community Living Summit](#), August 17th, 3 – 4:30 pm ET. Presenters will share information and resources developed by the RTC/PICL, including the National Community Living Resource Center, the Home Usability Program, Out and About, and factsheets on home modifications. The summit is presented in partnership with the National Council on Independent Living. Registration is free and required.

ARCH Conference Early Bird Registration Ends Aug. 15

Early bird registration for the 2022 National Lifespan Respite Conference to be held in Madison, WI, on September 14-15, 2022, ends August 15. The conference is sponsored by the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin, in collaboration with the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center. The theme for the conference, *Reimagine Respite*, is meant to be timely as well as inspirational. The conference schedule, including breakout sessions, is available on the conference website. Register [here](#).

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BREAKING NEW GROUND



33rd Annual State of the States
in Head Injury Virtual Event

September 7 - 9, 2022

NASHIA

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government
in promoting partnerships and building systems
to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.

Support States. Grow Leaders. Connect Partners.



NASHIA

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators | PO Box 1878, Alabaster, AL 35007
