



Washington Weekly!

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Administration

CMS Issues First Ever HCBS Quality Measure Set

Yesterday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the first-ever home and community-based Services (HCBS) quality measure set to promote consistent quality measurement within and across State Medicaid HCBS programs. The measure set is intended to provide insight into the quality of HCBS programs and enable States to measure and improve health outcomes for people relying on long-term services and support (LTSS) in Medicaid. The release of this voluntary measure set is also a critical step to promoting health equity among the millions of older adults and people with disabilities who need LTSS because of disabling conditions and chronic illnesses.

The HCBS quality measure set is included in a State Medicaid Director Letter (SMDL) that also describes the purpose of the measure set, the measure selection criteria, and considerations for implementation. CMS strongly encourages States to use this information to assess and improve quality and outcomes in their HCBS programs. CMS expects to update the measure set in the future, including adding newly developed measures that address measure gaps, as the field of HCBS measure development advances. Review the SMDL on the HCBS quality measure set [here](#).

HHS Awards Grants to Increase Health Care Coverage for Children and Families

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced Tuesday that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has awarded \$49 million to organizations on the frontlines of reducing uninsured rates and connecting more children, parents, and families to health care coverage. Grantees will provide enrollment and renewal assistance to children and their families, and — for the first time ever — to expectant parents to promote improved maternal and infant health outcomes. CMS issued 36 cooperative agreements in 20 States through Medicaid's Connecting Kids to Coverage program. Grantees — including State and local governments, tribal organizations, federal health safety net organizations, non-profits, and schools — will each receive up to \$1.5 million over three years to advance Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollment and retention. See the list of the grantees and more information on their work [here](#).

DOT Releases Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights

This month, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a [Bill of Rights](#) for airline passengers with disabilities, outlining the rights of air travelers with disabilities under the Air Carrier Access Act. This living documents applies to all flights of U.S. airlines, and flights to and from the U.S. from foreign airlines.

NICHHD Invites Comments on Future of Rehabilitation Research

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMR) is inviting public comments to guide the future of rehabilitation research infrastructure support by the National

Institutes of Health (NIH). Since 2000, the NCMRR at NICHD, along with co-funding from several other NIH Institutes and Centers, has supported rehabilitation research infrastructure in the extramural community. The current support period ends in 2025. More information about the current infrastructure program can be found [here](#).

Specifically, NIH requests feedback on the following:

- The community's perception of the value of research infrastructure support.
- Priority goals for infrastructure support (e.g., didactic or educational support to researchers, creation of original research products, aggregation of existing data, conduct of large-scale clinical trials, etc.).
- Areas of research need to consider for future infrastructure support.
- Priority elements to contain in future infrastructure.
- Aspects of current infrastructure centers that should be retained and continued.
- Current barriers to accessing current infrastructure centers

The feedback garnered from this request for information will be reported at the December 2022 meeting of the NABMRR. Responses are requested by July 31, 2022

Federal Rules

AbilityOne Publishes Final Rule on Minimum Wage for Workers with Disabilities

The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, operating as the U.S. AbilityOne Commission ("Commission"), published a final rule in the [Federal Register](#) implementing a new requirement that a nonprofit agency (NPA) seeking both initial and continuing qualification under the Javits Wagner O'Day Act (JWOD Act) to participate in the AbilityOne Program must certify that it will not use certificates authorized under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 ("14(c) certificates") to pay employees on its AbilityOne contracts. Pursuant to the rule, individuals with significant disabilities and those who are blind employed by participating NPAs, and working on AbilityOne contracts, will earn at least the Federal minimum wage, the applicable local or State minimum wage if higher than the Federal minimum wage, or the applicable prevailing wage for contracts subject to the McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act, whichever is highest. This final rule is effective October 19, 2022.

Funding Opportunities

CDC Accepting Applications for Control Research Center Program

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) is accepting applications for [Injury Control Research Center \(ICRC\) grants](#). The ICRCs support as effective translation of scientific discoveries into practice for the prevention and control of injuries and violence. The deadline is January 6, 2023. NCIPC intends to commit approximately \$8.5 million in fiscal year 2024 to support up to ten ICRC grants with a 5-year performance period.

NIDILRR Announces Funding Opportunities

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) has announced 15 new grant forecasts for fiscal year 2023, which can be viewed in grants.gov: [Search Grants | GRANTS.GOV](#). These grant opportunities include:

- Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) Program - [Community Living and Participation Forecast 1](#)
- Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) Program - [Employment Forecast](#)

- [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) Program, Phase I Forecast 1](#)
- Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program: [Traumatic Brain Injury Model System \(TBIMS\) Centers Collaborative Research Project Forecast 1](#)
- Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on [Disability in Rural Communities Forecast 1](#)
- [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center \(RRTC\) on Disability Statistics and Demographics Forecast 1](#)
- Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) Program - [Health and Function Forecast 1](#)

Reports and Resources

OSERS Releases New Guidance on Students with Disabilities and Use of Discipline

The U.S. Department of Education [announced the release of new guidance](#) from its Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) to help public elementary and secondary schools fulfill their responsibilities to meet the needs of students with disabilities and avoid the discriminatory use of student discipline. These newly released resources are the most comprehensive guidance on the civil rights of students with disabilities concerning student discipline and build on the Department's continued efforts to support students and schools through pandemic recovery.

The guidance makes clear that schools do not need to choose between complying with Section 504 and IDEA and keeping their school community—including students and staff—safe. All these documents can be found on the Department's [School Climate and Student Discipline Resources](#) website.

- [Letter from Secretary Cardona to Our Nation's Educators, School Leaders, Parents, and Students About the Importance of Supporting the Needs of Students with Disabilities.](#)
- [OSEP Dear Colleague Letter on Implementation of IDEA Discipline Provisions.](#)
- [Questions and Answers Addressing the Needs of Children with Disabilities and IDEA's Discipline Provisions.](#)
- [Positive, Proactive Approaches to Supporting the Needs of Children with Disabilities: A Guide for Stakeholders](#)
- [Supporting Students with Disabilities and Avoiding the Discriminatory Use of Student Discipline under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 \(Section 504\)](#)
 - [Accompanying Fact Sheet.](#)

NASHIA Team Contributes Blogs to DETAC

Two new blogs on employment have been added to the Disability Employment TA Center website, funded by the Administration for Community Living. Both have been written by the NASHIA (National Association of State Head Injury Administrators) team:

- [Assessing Brain Injury Needs — While Keeping the Job Seeker Engaged.](#) Jill Ferrington, MS, CRC, CBIS

- [**Job Retention After Brain Injury: Why It Makes Sense**](#), Maria Crowley, MA, CRC
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Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

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 will be accepted until August 12, 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](#).

LTQA Offers Webinar on Direct Care Workforce Solutions

The Long-Term Quality Alliance (LTQA) is offering a webinar, "A Fresh Look at Caregiving: Direct Care Workforce Solutions," July 26, 2022, from 2:00pm – 3:00pm (ET). A crisis in the supply of direct care workers, worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, accompanied by increased need and demand for home care services, is fueling a long-term care workforce shortage. This impacts those who need to access services, and organizations who deliver needed care and support. This webinar will explore how we can think differently about the compensation, skills development, mobility and value placed on this workforce which provides critical services to a diverse and complex population. This interactive panel discussion will focus on potential solutions to direct care workforce shortages, including promising practices and areas for stakeholder collaboration. Speakers Carol Raphael (Manatt Health), Carrie Amero (AARP), Robyn Stone (LeadingAge), and Joe MacBeth (National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals) will discuss best practices and collaboration among stakeholders. Register [here](#).

BIA of KS and Greater KC Schedule 14th Annual Conference

On August 4-5, 2022, at the KU Edwards Campus, the Brain Injury Association of Kansas & Greater Kansas City will present the 14th annual conference, "Beyond Rehab: Succeeding at Life Conference on Brain Injury." The 2-day event will provide up to 13 CEUs. Keynote speakers include Dr. Al Condeluci, a leader in community building, human services and inclusive advocacy work; and Dr. Gordon Horn, a neuropsychologist specializing in neurologic rehabilitation treatment and programming, Florida State University College of Medicine. Also speaking will be Thomas Whittaker, M.D. & J.D., one of the few Neuro-Ophthalmologist in Kansas and Missouri. Register [here](#).

ARCH Publishes Respite Conference Agenda

ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center has published the full [Respite Reimagine](#) conference schedule, including breakout sessions, and is now available on the conference [website](#). The conference is hosted by the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin

and co-hosted by the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center. The conference will be held September 13-15, 2022, at the Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison Wisconsin. Register [here](#).

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[Visit our website](#)



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.





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