

RSA starts new competitive integrated employment initiative. Read further for more information in this week's *Washington Weekly*.



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF STATE HEAD INJURY  
ADMINISTRATORS**

## Washington Weekly!

by National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

March 18, 2022

### Administration

#### **RSA Announces Real Pay for Real Jobs Initiative**

The U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA) has released the notice inviting applications for the Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE) demonstration project aimed at increasing access for people with disabilities to jobs that pay good wages. The SWTCIE project is the largest discretionary grant administered by RSA with \$167 million available to State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies and their partners. The new grant program will sponsor innovative approaches that allow people with disabilities to successfully secure jobs working alongside their non-disabled peers while earning the same pay.

The Department's [Rehabilitation Services Administration web page](#) provides additional information about vocational rehabilitation opportunities for people with disabilities. The Notice Inviting Applications is available for [public inspection at the Federal Register](#). The *Federal Register* will publish the official version of the notice on Monday, March 21. The deadline for submissions is June 21, 2022.

#### **CMS is Hosting NEMT Listening Sessions**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is hosting three upcoming listening sessions about non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) to gather input regarding potential practices for improving Medicaid program integrity for NEMT. The topics and dates of the following sessions are below.

- March 31, 2022 from 2:00pm – 3:30pm (ET): Program Integrity, Correct Billing Concerns, Documentation and Data Requirements for NEMT Providers. Register [here](#).
- April 7, 2022 from 2:00pm – 3:30pm (ET): Economic Factors and Cost Containment Challenges in NEMT. Register [here](#).
- April 13, 2022 from 2:00pm – 3:30pm (ET): NEMT Coordination Topics – Brokers, MCO's Community Transportation and Paratransit Services. Register [here](#).

#### **U.S. AbilityOne Commission Drafts Strategic Plan**

The AbilityOne Commission, an independent federal agency that administers the AbilityOne Program, is seeking public comment to its strategic plan published in the [Federal Register: Strategic Plan Notice](#). The purpose of the Commission is to provide employment opportunities for people who are blind or have significant disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the federal government through the National Industries for the Blind and SourceAmerica. These agencies match government contracts with nonprofit agencies

across the country that train and employ people with disabilities. There are three overarching strategic objectives of the plan:

1. Expand competitive integrated employment (CIE) for people who are blind or have other significant disabilities.
2. Ensure effective governance across the AbilityOne Program.
3. Partner with Federal agencies and AbilityOne stakeholders to increase and improve CIE opportunities for people who are blind or have other significant disabilities.

Comments are accepted through April 16. You may submit comments, identified by Docket ID No. CPPBSD-2022-0003, only through the Federal eRulemaking [Portal](#).

### **HHS Announces Two Grant Programs for Opioid Use Disorder and Misuse of Prescription Drugs**

On March 15, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced two grant programs totaling \$25.6 million that will expand access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder and prevent the misuse of prescription drugs. By reducing barriers to accessing the most effective, evidenced-based treatments, this funding reflects the priorities of HHS' [Overdose Prevention Strategy](#), as well as its new initiative to strengthen the nation's mental health and crisis care systems. The two grant programs are:

- The **Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF Rx)** grant program provides funds for State agencies, territories, and tribal entities that have completed a Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant plan or a similar State plan to target prescription drug misuse. The grant program will raise awareness about the dangers of sharing medications, fake or counterfeit pills sold online, and over prescribing. The grant will fund a total of \$3 million over five years for up to six grantees.
- The **Medication-Assisted Treatment – Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction (MAT-PDOA)** grant program provides resources to help expand and enhance access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD). It will help increase the number of individuals with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) receiving MOUD and decrease illicit opioid use and prescription opioid misuse. The grant will fund a total of \$22.6 million over 5 years for up to 30 grantees. No less than \$11 million will be awarded to Native American tribes, tribal organizations, or consortia.

### **ACL to Provide Updates on COVID-19**

On Friday, March 25, at 10:30am (ET) the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and other federal agencies will participate in a Zoom webinar to provide updates from ACL and federal partners, including:

- Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA): updates on how to community health centers and rural health clinics to distribute masks and at-home test kits;
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): COVID-19 updates; and
- Department of Education: updates regarding students with disabilities.

[Register](#) in advance for this Zoom webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information.

### **ACL Seeks Nominations for Two Family Caregiving-related Advisory Councils**

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) announced nominations are open for two advisory councils: The RAISE Act Family Caregiving Advisory Council and the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. For more information go to the [Federal Register for the family caregiving council](#) and [here](#) for the RAISE council.

### **ACL Plans 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

On Tuesday, April 26 from 1:00pm – 2:00pm (EDT), the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will mark the tenth anniversary of the creation of the ACL. Plans are to celebrate the last

decade's achievements and explore the opportunities that lie ahead. Watch for further information.

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## **Federal Funding Opportunities**

### **OVW Solicits Applications for Ending Abuse in Later Life**

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) has announced that the Fiscal Year 2022 Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life (Abuse in Later Life Program) Solicitation is now available. This grant program supports a comprehensive approach to addressing abuse in later life, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, neglect, and exploitation of victims who are 50 years of age or older. Applications for the opportunity are due on Thursday, April 21, 2022. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program.

### **NIDILRR Opens New Funding for TBI Model Systems**

The [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research](#) (NIDILRR) at ACL has opened new funding opportunities under the [Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects \(DRRP\) Program](#), including Traumatic Brain Injury [Model System Centers](#). Other funding opportunities include:

- Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program: [Traumatic Brain Injury Model System Centers Synopsis 1](#)
  - Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program: [Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research Synopsis 1](#)
  - Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program: [Community Living and Participation \(Research\) Synopsis 1](#)
  - Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program: [Community Living and Participation \(Development\) Synopsis 1](#)
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## **Reports and Resources**

### **NASHIA Posts ACL TBI SPP Grant Profiles**

The TBI TARC and the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) has finalized sixteen Administration for Community Living (ACL) TBI State Partnership Program State grantee profiles of which two are new grantees (2021-2026). The remainder reflect the last funding goals and accomplishments, in addition to other State information with regard to service delivery, advisory boards, and data. These State profiles have been sent to ACL and posted on the NASHIA website on the [State contact page](#). States which have completed this task include: Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and West Virginia. Plans are to complete the remaining State grantees soon. States which have not submitted information or have questions may contact Susan Vaughn at [svaughn@nashia.org](mailto:svaughn@nashia.org).

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## **Upcoming Webinars and Conferences**

### **NCAPPS Schedules HCBS through the Lens of Person-Centered Practices Webinar**

On March 31, 2022, the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) will offer the webinar, "Understanding and Addressing Unmet Needs in HCBS; Through the Person-Centered Practices," from 3:00pm – 4:00pm (ET). While studies have found

a connection between unmet HCBS needs and adverse outcomes, including hospitalization, institutionalization, and death; few have examined user-reported perspectives about the quality and sufficiency of HCBS and their relationship to key health and community living outcomes. Researchers at the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy conducted a study to learn how many people who use HCBS need more services than they receive and understand the connection between unmet HCBS needs and health and community living outcomes.

Panelists will discuss what implications the results of the study have in regard to person-centered planning in HCBS, highlight opportunities for improvement, and discuss how to overcome challenges to advancing person-centered practices. Register [here](#).

**ARCH and Respite Care Association to Co-host National Lifespan Respite Conference**

ARCH has announced that we it will be co-hosting the 2022 National Lifespan Respite Conference with the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin in Madison, WI, September 13-15, 2022. The theme is Reimagine Respite! The Lifespan Respite Grantee and Partner Learning Symposium will be held on September 13th, prior to the conference. The deadline for the [Call for Presentations](#) for the national conference to submit a proposal is March 1, 2022. Please visit the [website](#) for more information. Registration coming soon!



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**BREAKING  
NEW GROUND**



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

**September 7-9, 2022**



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF STATE HEAD INJURY  
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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**

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