



# Washington Weekly!

November 18, 2022

## Administration

### HRSA Celebrates National Rural Health Day

Yesterday, November 17, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) celebrated National Rural Health Day, which HRSA's theme was "Advancing Behavioral Health Equity in Rural Communities." HRSA highlighted innovative ways rural communities address behavioral health challenges and expand access to behavioral health care services for those who need them the most. Learn more about HRSA's rural health investments [here](#).

Designated by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, the theme for National Rural Health Day was "Celebrate the Power of Rural" to honor the selfless, community-minded, and determined spirit of rural America. Research has shown that people with disabilities in rural communities have higher rates of disability and age into disability faster than people in urban areas. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), 1 in 3 adults living in rural communities have at least one disability, and 1 in 12 report having 3 or more disabilities. Research and development in the NIDILRR community and elsewhere seek to identify and address barriers to health care, employment, and community living, so individuals with disabilities can fully participate in their rural communities. Visit NARIC's Spotlight blog to explore [some of the history of research in this area and current projects empowering people with disabilities and providers in rural communities](#).

### NIDILRR Requests Feedback on its Long-Range Plan

Comments are due by November 21, 2022, with regard to the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) 2024-2028 Long-Range Plan. Input will help inform future funding priorities and strategic direction. During fall 2022, NIDILRR hosted a series of six virtual stakeholder listening sessions to provide an overview of the planning process and gather feedback from stakeholders. NIDILRR invites stakeholders who have not yet provided feedback to submit written feedback for NIDILRR's consideration to: [NIDILRRFuture@neweditions.net](mailto:NIDILRRFuture@neweditions.net).

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## Federal Funding Opportunities

### NIDILRR Announces New Funding Opportunities

The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) has announced new funding opportunities for the [Field Initiated Projects \(FIP\) Program](#) and the [Small Business Innovation Research Program \(SBIR\) Phase I](#).

The purpose of the Field Initiated Projects (FIP) program is to generate new knowledge through research or to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies -- to maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family/caregiver support, and economic and self-sufficiency of people with disabilities, especially people with the

greatest support needs. Please visit the links below for more details about the grant opportunities and application process. These grant opportunities close on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

- [Field Initiated Projects \(Research\)](#)
- [Field Initiated Projects \(Development\)](#)

The purpose of the SBIR program is to stimulate technological innovation in the private sector, strengthen the role of small business in meeting federal research or research and development needs, and improve the return on investment from federally-funded research for economic and social benefits to the nation. All SBIR NIDILRR-funded projects must address the needs of individuals with disabilities and promote their health and function, community living, or employment outcomes. The objective of Phase I is to determine the scientific or technical merit and feasibility of proposed research or research & development efforts that appear to have commercial potential. This feasibility is a prerequisite for further support in Phase II. Phase I awards are for periods up to six months.

[View more details and application instructions.](#) This grant opportunity closes on December 16, 2022.

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## Reports and Resources

### **New America Issues Report on Health, Work in Rural Communities**

New America has issued the report, "[Health, Work, and Care in Rural America: Distances to Hospital-Based and Skilled Nursing Care Make Paid Leave Critical for Rural Communities,](#)" that New America's Better Life Lab released this week. The idea for this report was borne years ago listening to rural Missouri voters in focus groups talk about the challenges they faced in jobs that offered no paid leave, in a community that was very far from hospital-based health services.

Overall, their original data analysis, conducted with researchers from the Sheps Center at UNC, finds that rural communities are an average of three to four times further from important types of hospital-based health care and skilled nursing facilities than those in urban communities and that rural workers have less access to paid family and medical leave and paid sick time. These dynamics are exacerbated by broader demographic, economic, health and labor force trends in rural communities. Rural communities with high levels of persistent poverty and communities with high concentrations of Latine residents are doubly harmed.

### **ADvancing States Releases Brief on NWD Systems and Community Organizations**

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, ADvancing States, with support of the National Council on Aging (NCOA), released an issue brief, "No Wrong Door (NWD) Systems: A Guide to Fundamentals and Engagement for Community Organizations." The NWD System was created to assist older adults and people with disabilities in accessing long-term services and supports (LTSS) needed to maintain quality of life, independence, and continued living in the community. NWD Systems build on the ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) initiative and other programs. The design grew out of State need for a coordinated system of information and resources and is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). View the issue brief [here](#).

### **RSA Provides Slide Decks on Presentations at the CSAVR's Fall Conference**

The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) shares their presentations delivered during the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation's (CSAVR) [Fall 2022 Conference](#), "Future is Now." During the conference, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) Acting Assistant Secretary Katy Neas delivered a keynote and RSA leaders presented fiscal and performance data along with other information related to the programs RSA administers. Below are slide decks of the presentations:

- 7th General Session: [Customer Engagement](#).
- 10th General Session: [The Data Reality: Setting the Stage for Change and Success](#).
- [Accessible Excel file](#) including performance data.

These presentations can also be found [here](#).

### **NARIC Adds NIDILRR-funded Study on Life Events Contribute to Mobility Disability Rates**

New to the NARIC collection, this NIDILRR-funded study investigated how life events such as injuries, health insurance coverage, geography, and occupation contribute to mobility disability rates over time. Using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth from 1979 to 2016, researchers found that rural respondents reported significantly higher rates of mobility impairment at age 40 and 50 relative to people living in urban areas, and were more likely to report injury, work in high exertion occupations, and experience several pain-related health conditions.

In addition, people had higher odds of experiencing mobility impairment at age 40 if they reported a broken bone in the last 10 years, reported ever being knocked unconscious, had any workplace injury from 1988 to 2000, or lived in a rural area. People had lower odds of mobility impairment if they reported having more consistent health insurance coverage over time. A better understanding of environmental factors associated with disability, such as access to insurance, risk exposures, resources, and other place-based behaviors can inform additional strategies for reducing the severity and duration of mobility disability. [Access the full abstract and ordering information in REHABDATA.](#)

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## **Upcoming Webinars and Conferences**

### **NCIPC Celebrates National Injury Prevention Day Today**

Celebrate [National Injury Prevention Day](#) today, Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00am (EST) by participating in a one-hour virtual event, featuring US Public Health Service Captain Christopher Jones, PharmD, DrPH, MPH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Acting Director for the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC). Dr. Jones will join the country's top Injury and Violence Prevention (IVP) organizations to sound the alarm about the need for and promise of prevention. Register [here](#).

### **Save the Date: Virtual Rural Disability Research and Practice Summit**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Place-Based Solutions for Rural Community Participation, Health, and Employment](#) will host a virtual [Rural Disability Research and Practice Summit](#), January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 3:00 – 4:30pm (ET) each day. The summit will explore timely issues affecting rural people with disabilities. Each session will feature presentations and panel discussions on personal assistance services and rural digital access. Subscribe to the [#RuralDisability eNews](#) for registration and agenda updates.

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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.**

