



National Association of
State Head Injury
Administrators



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Washington Weekly!

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Administration

SSA Announces Largest COLA

The Social Security Administration (SSA) announced its largest cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to Social Security in four decades to help people living on the program with more income to deal with inflation. The latest COLA is 8.7 percent for Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. Social Security benefits will increase by 8.7 percent beginning with the December 2022 benefits, which are payable in January 2023. Federal SSI payment levels will also increase by 8.7 percent effective for payments made for January 2023. Because the normal SSI payment date is the first of the month and January 1 is a holiday, the SSI payments for January are always made at the end of the previous December.

SSI is a federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues that is designed to help aged, blind, and people with disabilities who have little or no income; and provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

NIDILRR Awards TBIMS and ARRT Grants

The Administration for Community Living's National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) has announced sixteen grant awards for Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS) and four 2022 Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) grantees cohort. The TBIMS projects are from Sept. 1 2022 – Aug. 31, 2027, with an estimated funding amount of \$490,000 per year for each grantee. TBIMS grant recipients are:

- Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, Philadelphia, PA
- Baylor Research Institute, Dallas, TX
- Craig Hospital, Englewood, CO
- Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
- Kessler Foundation, East Hanover, NJ
- Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- Memorial Hermann Health System, Houston, TX
- New York University Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY
- The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- Shepherd Center, Inc., Atlanta, GA
- Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital Corporation, Charlestown, MA
- Trustees of Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL
- University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

[View more details about these projects.](#) Contact **[Cate Miller](#)** at NIDILRR if you have questions about the TBIMS Program.

The planned project period for the four 2022 ARRT grantees cohort grants is June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2027, with an estimated funding amount of up to \$200,000 per year for each grantee. The ARRT grants are intended to increase the number of high-quality disability and rehabilitation researchers. Grants are made to institutions of higher education to provide research training to individuals with doctorates or similar advanced degrees. This new cadre of disability and rehabilitation researchers will improve the community living and participation, employment, and health and function outcomes for people with disabilities.

ARRT grantees are:

- **ARRT on Health and Function:** Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY. The goal of this project is to provide advanced training to the next generation of researchers dedicated to improving health and function following brain injury.
- **ARRT on Community Living and Participation:** Northwestern University, Chicago, Ill. This project will provide training to post-doctoral fellows who will develop new skills to compete successfully for scientific career opportunities in research that advances understanding of community living and participation for individuals with disabilities.
- **ARRT on Employment:** Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. This project will train advanced postdoctoral researchers to develop their capacity to improve the delivery and quality of vocational rehabilitation services and improve employment outcomes of people with disabilities.
- **ARRT for Minority-Serving Institutions:** Langston University, Langston, Okla. The goal of this project is to improve capacity to develop and support disability and rehabilitation training pipeline infrastructure to facilitate the development of the talent and produce well-trained equity investigators of color, including those with disabilities, who can lead and participate in research and development aimed at improving the employment status of multiply marginalized individuals with disabilities.

[View more details about these projects.](#)

HHS Approves Arizona's Medicaid Interventions to Target Health-Related Social Needs

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), approved Medicaid section 1115 demonstration initiatives in Arizona that will help the State take aim at health-related social needs. Like **[recently approved demonstrations in Oregon and Massachusetts](#)**, Arizona's demonstration will test innovative interventions that target critical drivers of health outcomes, including housing insecurity. CMS has authorized Arizona to advance solutions to a key health-related social need: housing insecurity. Through the "Housing and Health Opportunities" program, Arizona will provide:

- Services to help more people become and remain stably housed;
- Support for community and transitional housing for those with unique clinical needs or transitioning out of institutional care; and
- Rent and temporary housing for up to six months for individuals transitioning out of places such as congregate settings, homeless shelters, the child welfare system, and a range of other options to transition more people out of homelessness.

The Arizona Medicaid program will also offer case management, outreach, and education to advance those services. CMS is approving health-related social infrastructure funding to support the state's efforts. CMS will require the state to monitor the demonstration systematically and conduct a rigorous independent evaluation to determine outcomes and impacts. For additional information about the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System section 1115 demonstration, please visit [Medicaid.gov](https://www.medicaid.gov).

Federal Rules and RIF

CMS Reopens Public Comment Period for FFCRA Medicaid Continuous Coverage Requirements

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has reopened the **public comment period** on an **Interim Final Rule (IFR)** pushed through in the last days of the Trump administration. The Trump IFR creates exceptions to the Medicaid continuous coverage requirements in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Specifically, the Trump IFR allows States to reduce benefits and terminate eligibility in certain categories during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), directly contrary to beneficiary protections Congress put in place.

As required by the Trump IFR, States have been terminating coverage for some Medicaid enrollees and shifting some enrollees from full-scope Medicaid to less comprehensive coverage under Medicare Savings Programs. Some States have also reduced or eliminated optional Medicaid benefits such as Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), dental services, and non-emergency medical transportation. These coverage losses prompted a putative class action, **Carr v. Becerra**, brought on behalf of five plaintiffs and thousands of enrollees throughout the U.S. who are losing access to critical health care during the PHE.

CMS has since become aware that the IFR's implementation of section 6008(b)(3) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), enacted March 18, 2020, has negatively affected some Medicaid beneficiaries. Additionally, CMS understands that the fiscal situations of many States may have changed since the IFR was issued in November 2020. CMS is now considering a different approach in its final rule. Read more [here](#).

Reports and Resources

OSEP Highlights Resources During NDEAM

In celebrating October National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has provided the following resources intended to assist transition age youth to move toward their postsecondary goals, including the area of employment:

- [Transition Resources: National Technical Assistance Center on Transition](#)
- [Pre-employment Transition Services](#)
- [Webinar: NTACT Evidence-Based Practices, Tools, and Resources to Support Academic Engagement for Secondary Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Webinar: WIOA, Pre-employment Transition Services \(NTACT website\): Innovative PreETS Implementation in Schools: State Examples](#)
- [Policy Guidance: A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities \(August 2020\)](#)

The resources can be found [here](#).

NARIC Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Independent Living Movement

As this month marks the 50th anniversary of the independent living movement, the National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC) is featuring a series of events called **#CIL50: Reflection, Reunion, Renewal**. The Center for Independent Living was founded in Berkeley, CA in 1972 as a community hub run by and for people with disabilities to promote independent living, and provide advocacy opportunities and community support for people with disabilities. In the following decades, more than 400 similar centers have opened across the US, and the independent living movement has spread to more than 20 countries. NIDILRR-funded research and development in independent living has followed along with this growth. NARIC explores **some of the history of NIDILRR-funded independent living research and development**, starting with the 1980 Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas, up to the latest projects in our Spotlight blog.

Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

NCLER Offers Webcast on Guardianship Systems and Practices: Part Two

On October 20, at 3:00pm (ET), ACL's National Center for Law and Elder Rights (NCLER) will offer the second webcast of their training series to learn about the role of attorneys and strategies for legal advocacy for proposed protected persons and protected persons. Improvements to State court adult guardianship systems can include the promotion of less restrictive options, strengthening rights, and ensuring accountability. Making significant changes in practice and systems requires the commitment of many interested parties, including courts and the legal, aging, and disability communities. Part 2 of this training series is to learn about the role of attorneys and strategies for legal advocacy for proposed protected persons and protected persons. Register for the webcast **here**. **Watch the first webcast of the series** if you missed it.

NCAPPS Offers Webinar on Person-Centered Conversations on Employment

The National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices (NCAPPS) is offering the webinar, "Opening the Door: Importance of Great Person-Centered Conversations on Employment," on October 19, at 3:00pm (ET). Facilitating guided, person-centered conversations around employment can help people who use Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) make their own informed decisions about work. Such conversations help people and their circles of support discover employment possibilities and understand the options that exist. In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), this webinar co-hosted by NCAPPS and the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) will highlight successful person-centered approaches and tools for discussing employment. Register **here**.

Applied Self-Direction Offers Webinar November 10

On November 10, the webinar, "Disabling Ableism: Tips for Partnering with Disabled People," will be led by Erica Andres, a Training Consultant at Applied Self-Direction who has over 20 years of experience working in the Health and Human Services field and personal expertise living a self-directed life. While this session is primarily geared towards support brokers and other professionals working with self-direction programs, the key takeaways will be applicable to anyone who is nondisabled and working with people with disabilities. Self-direction is a model of long-term care that allows people to receive support in their homes and communities, the way they want it. Watch this video to learn more. This webinar will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm (ET). **Click here** to register.

University of Toronto Offers Webinar on DSM-5TR and Neurocognitive Disorders

As part of the University of Toronto Traumatic Brain Injury: Addressing Inequities Speaker Series, the University will be hosting the webinar, "Updates to DSM-5-TR: A focus on neurocognitive disorders," on October 27 from 2:00 – 1:00 pm (EST). Dr. Diana Clarke from the American Psychiatric Association will be discussing updates to the Diagnostic & Statistical

Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th edition, text revision (DSM-5-TR) focusing on neurocognitive disorders. The series is supported by the Canada Research Chair in TBI in Underserved Populations. Register [here](#) for the Oct. 27 webinar.

National Disability Forum to Hold Webinar on Homelessness and SSA Benefits

The National Disability Forum is hosting the webinar, “Homelessness: Working with Stakeholders to Improve Access to SSA Benefits and Services,” Part II, Wednesday, October 19 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm (ET). The NDF is an open forum of Social Security that gives all interested stakeholders an opportunity to share their unique insights on topics of particular interest to SSA early in the process and directly with policy makers. For more information, go to the [NDR website](#).



This update was prepared by:

Susan L. Vaughn, Director of Public Policy
publicpolicy@nashia.org

Jennifer Braun, Chair, NASHIA Public Policy Committee
jennifer.braun@health.mo.gov

Rebecca Wolfkiel, Executive Director
execdirector@nashia.org

Zaida Ricker, Governmental Relations Consultant
zricker@ridgepolicygroup.com

[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.

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