



# Washington Weekly!

September 16, 2022

## Administration

### ACL Awards No Wrong Door Grants to Ten States

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Community Living (ACL) has announced new grants to ten States to establish and strengthen a **No Wrong Door** (NWD) governance structure within the State. The award recipients include Alaska, California, Indiana, Missouri, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. Total grant awards amount to \$3.9 million over two years. The new NWD governance grantees will focus on strengthening the NWD governing body in their State, assessing individual caregiver access, and mapping this access from the State and individual family caregiver perspective. Each State will seek to:

- Establish and strengthen a NWD governing body and governance structure, comprised of representation from multiple State agencies and key stakeholders, responsible for coordinating the on-going development, implementation, financing, evaluation and continual improvement of the State's NWD system;
- Assess and conduct analysis on individual and family caregiver access to long-term services and supports (LTSS) by identifying key referral sources and gaps in services; and
- Develop a plan to address identified challenges in access to LTSS within the NWD system.

### HHS Secretary Swears in New Director for OCR

On Wednesday, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra formally swore in Melanie Fontes Rainer as Director of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Director Fontes Rainer previously served as the Acting Director and was officially appointed to the role last month. OCR is responsible for enforcing federal civil rights; conscience protections; the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules; and the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act and Patient Safety Rule – which together protect individuals' fundamental civil rights and medical privacy.

Before joining the Biden-Harris Administration, Fontes Rainer served as the Special Assistant to the Attorney General and Chief Health Advisor at the California Department of Justice, where she helped protect the Affordable Care Act—taking the fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. During this time, Melanie facilitated the creation of a new, first-of-its-kind office that focused on health care rights and access in California.

### ACL Awards ATAP Grant to Provide TA for AT Programs

Today, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) announced a new grant award to the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) for the **AT3 Center. Accessibility Training. Technical Assistance. AT Programs - AT3 Center**. This award, which is authorized

by the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 (AT Act), will fund activities to support public awareness and access to AT devices and services; State and national training and technical assistance; the development and maintenance of a national AT public internet site; and to enhance the effectiveness of State and territory AT Act programs.

Reach out to the National Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance and Training (AT3) Center, ([Contact us - AT3 Center](#)), for more information about the new AT National Activities grant award. You can contact your State or territory AT Program directly at [State/Territory AT Programs - AT3 Center](#) for information and assistance to increase your awareness and access to AT devices and services where you live.

### **CDC Releases Reorganization Summary**

In August, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a summary of a proposed reorganization, titled [CDC Moving Forward](#). Acknowledging the need to change, in April 2022, the CDC Director launched a review of the agency. There are two components to the review:

1. **Scientific and Programmatic Review:** To identify ways to improve and institutionalize how CDC develops and deploys its science, both in pandemic and non-emergency times.
2. **Structural Review:** To gather feedback on the agency's current process, systems, and structure and solicit suggestions for strategic change, with a strong focus on the agency's core capabilities – a diverse public health workforce, data modernization, laboratory capacity, rapid response to disease outbreaks, and preparedness within the US and around the world.

Among its findings, the report stated that “CDC's silos have impeded critical, cross-cutting support functions. CDC must improve its internal coordination and work with external partners.” Following the release of *Moving Forward* on August 17, the Director brought in Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, to lead next steps, and committed to providing regular updates to the CDC community. As part of this process, CDC leadership will track progress and develop an evaluation framework to measure the success of the changes over time, and allow for adjustments to the original goals, as needed.

### **HHS Approves First Medicaid Mobile Crisis Intervention Services in Oregon**

On Monday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced approval of the Oregon Health Authority's proposal to cover community-based mobile crisis intervention services in Medicaid. The new first-in-the-nation Medicaid State plan amendment will allow Oregon to provide community-based stabilization services to individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use crises throughout the State by connecting them to a behavioral health specialist 24 hours per day, every day of the year.

The Medicaid option was made available by the American Rescue Plan funding for States, which became available to States in March 2022. The new Medicaid option gives States an opportunity to support community-based mobile crisis intervention services for individuals with Medicaid, including those who have both a mental health and substance use condition, such as opioid use. Mobile crisis intervention services aim to provide individuals who are experiencing mental health and/or substance use crises with screening and assessment; community-based stabilization and de-escalation; and coordination with and referrals to health, social and other services (e.g., life skills training, education about the effects of medication), as needed, by a trained behavioral health professional or paraprofessional.

### **President Announces Appointment for Director of New ARPA-H**

This week, President Biden announced his intention to appoint Dr. Renee Wegrzyn to be director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). She is a scientist with professional experience working for two of the institutions that inspired the creation of ARPA-H – the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) – and will be responsible for driving the agency's nascent

research portfolio and associated budget. The budget is expected to support a broad range of programs in order to develop capabilities to prevent, detect and treat some of the most intractable diseases including cancer. President Biden created ARPA-H in March 2022 to push the limits of U.S. biomedical and health research and innovation. ARPA-H is to drive health innovation and launch bold and ambitious research programs to tackle some of the most pressing health challenges of our time.

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## Funding Opportunities

### NIH Common Fund Solicits Applications from Community Organizations

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Common Fund is soliciting applications from community organizations in support of the goals of the **Community Partnerships to Advance Science for Society (ComPASS) Program's** Community-Led, Health Equity Structural Intervention Initiative. The new **research opportunity** (OTA-22-007) will support the development, implementation, assessment, and dissemination of community-led, health equity **structural interventions**, co-created in partnership with research organizations, that intervene upon structural factors that produce and perpetuate health disparities. Applicants are required to submit a letter of intent by November 18, 2022, 11:59pm (ET). For more details, read the full **Research Opportunity Announcement** (ROA).

Applicants must be community organizations defined as a non-federal, non-academic or non-research organization that provides goods, services, support, resources, or advocacy to members of a defined community. NIH staff will hold technical assistance webinars for the required letter of intent (LOI) on October 4<sup>th</sup> and October 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm-3:00 pm (ET). **Registration** is required. To help prepare a LOI for this ROA, applicants are encouraged to watch a **pre-recorded technical assistance presentation** and view **slides**. Additionally, answers to Frequently Asked Questions about OTA-22-007 are available on the **ComPASS website**.

The overall goals for ComPASS are to 1) develop, share, and evaluate community-led health equity structural interventions that leverage partnerships across multiple sectors to reduce health disparities and 2) to develop a new health equity research model for community-led, multisectoral structural intervention research across NIH and other federal agencies. The program will enable communities and researchers to work collaboratively as equal partners in all phases of the research process to enhance the quality of interventions and advance health disparities research.

### ACL Seeks Applications for Community Care Hub Learning Community

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is soliciting applications to develop a Community Care Hub National Learning Community (NLC). A Community Care Hub is a community-focused entity that organizes and supports a network of community-based organizations providing services to address health-related social needs. It centralizes administrative functions and operational infrastructure including, but not limited to, contracting with health care organizations, payment operations, management of referrals, service delivery fidelity and compliance, technology, information security, data collection, and reporting.

ACL, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), invites CBOs from across the country to apply for the Community Care Hub National Learning Community. Application deadline is Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 11:59pm (ET). For inquiries, please email: [CommunityCareHubs@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:CommunityCareHubs@acl.hhs.gov).

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## Reports and Resources

**HUD and CDC Provide Resources on Monkeypox**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers the following information on Monkeypox:

- [Commonly Asked Questions About Monkeypox](#)
- [Monkeypox Info You Should Know Flyer](#)
- [Working with Local Partners to Prevent and Respond to Monkeypox Transmission](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides information on Monkeypox symptoms on its [website](#) and also offers the following handout:

- [What To Do If You Suspect Monkeypox \[PDF – 2 MB\]](#)

#### **MSKTC and Data & Statistical Center Publish Profile of People with TBI within TBIMS**

The NIDILRR-funded [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center \(MSKTC\)](#) and the [Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) National Data and Statistical Center](#) published a factsheet, [National Database: 2021 Profile of People Within the Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems \(TBIMS\)](#). The factsheet is a quick reference on demographics and the use of services by people with TBI, considering factors like gender, race/ethnicity, marital status, and cause of injury.

#### **CDC Releases 2021 BRFSS Public Data Set**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced that the 2021 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) [data set](#) is now publicly available. The BRFSS provides flexible, timely, and ongoing data collection that allows for State-to-State and State-to-nation comparisons, as well as the basis for small area estimates such as PLACES. State-specific data—including racial- and ethnic-specific data from the BRFSS—provide a sound basis for developing and maintaining public health programs, including programs designed to reduce racial and ethnic disparities and to address health risks and social determinants of health.

In the 2021 calendar year, BRFSS was active in 50 States (with 49 States reporting), plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the US Virgin Islands. Reaching participants on both landline and cellular telephones, the survey collected information on health risk behaviors, clinical preventive health practices, and health care access (primarily related to chronic disease and injury) from a representative sample of noninstitutionalized adults aged 18 years or older in each State. Learn more about the [2021 BRFSS data](#).

#### **HUD Produces Guide for Addressing Homeless in Rural Communities**

Recently, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) produced the resource, “Addressing Homeless in Rural Communities Guidebook: A Technical Assistance Guide designed to give community partners, Continuums of Care (CoCs), service providers, and other housing stakeholders a look at housing and services resources to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness in rural areas. A summary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and HUD programs are reviewed to include an array of allocations, grants, and loans that serve to offer rental assistance and the development of affordable rental housing for vulnerable tenants, including those experiencing homelessness. Access the guide [here](#).

#### **NARIC Adds Study on Mobile Access Equity to Its Collection**

New to the NARIC Information Center is the NIDILRR-funded study that presents a comparative analysis of mobile phone accessibility features by disability type, phone type, and data collection period (different years) to illustrate the current state of mobile phone accessibility for people with disabilities. Based on phone model data from providers’ web pages, findings showed that the accessibility of mobile phones is improving. However, accessibility features are not uniformly available in all phone models, and gaps in the accessibility experience persist. Enabling individuals with disabilities to select from the full range of commercially available devices would ensure continued progress toward a more universally inclusive mobile phone market. [Access the full abstract and ordering information in REHABDATA](#). Assistive Technology. NARIC Accession Number: J89256.

## Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

### NCAPPS Promotes Two Upcoming Webinars

The National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices (NCAPPS) has announced two upcoming webinars. On September 22, 2022, from 3:30-5:00pm (ET), NCAPPS is offering the webinar, “Promoting Meaningful Person-Centered Practices in Home and Community-Based Service Delivery.” In this webinar, panelists who receive or have received HCBS, will share their experiences with person-centered supports and services. The discussion will include topics related to rights, choice, and control and how these critical elements can be improved and fully integrated into service delivery practices. Members from the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on HCBS Person-Centered Outcomes and Measurements at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab will also present early findings from their research of best practices for person-centered HCBS delivery from interviews with people who use and deliver HCBS. [Register for the webinar.](#)

The second webinar, “Exploring Core Competencies for Information and Assistance (I&A) Professionals in Self-Direction,” is scheduled for October 4, 2022, from 3:00 – 4:30 pm (ET). NCAPPS and Applied Self-Direction (ASD) will highlight a new resource on core standards for I&A professionals in self-direction. The panel will feature people with lived experience of self-directing who will share their experiences with quality I&A professionals and how they have affected their self-direction journeys. [Register for the webinar](#)

### Great Lakes ADA Regional Center Offers Two Webinars Next Week

The NIDILRR-funded [Great Lakes ADA Regional Center](#) will host two webinars next week. The webinar, [ADA Enforcement and Steps You Can Take Before You File an ADA Complaint](#), will be held September 20th, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (ET). Presenters will share the steps that a person can take before filing an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint to resolve a disability discrimination issue and the process for filing an ADA complaint with the various federal agencies that enforce the law. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions after the presentation. [Registration](#) is free and required. Continuing education credits are available upon request.

Then, on September 21st, the Great Lakes ADA Regional Center will host the webinar, [The Supreme Court's Olmstead Decision and Its Far-Reaching Impact on People with Disabilities](#), from 2:00 – 3:30 pm (ET). Presenters will review the Olmstead decision along with the subsequent court decisions, settlement agreements, and Department of Justice Guidance. Presenters will discuss the tremendous impact the Olmstead decision has had on the lives of people with disabilities. [Registration is free and required.](#) Continuing education credits are available upon request.

### Mid-Atlantic ADA Regional Center to Host Webinar on Architectural Barrier Removal

The NIDILRR-funded [Mid-Atlantic ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, [Make It Count! Stretching Dollars in Barrier Removal](#), September 21st, 2 – 3 pm ET. Presenters will discuss the low-cost, high-impact actions that business and organizations can take to make facilities more accessible and welcoming to people with disabilities. Presenters will offer ideas for readily achievable barrier removal. [Registration](#) is free and required. Continuing education credits are available upon request.

### 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,” on Wednesday, September 21 (Part I) and Wednesday, October 19 (Part II), 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](#).

### Coelho Center for Disability Law to Host Webinar on the Future of Disability Rights

On Wednesday, September 28, the Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation, Loyola Law School at Loyola Marymount University, is sponsoring the webinar, “The Americans

with Disabilities Act, The U.S. Department of Justice, and The Future of Disability Rights,” from 9:00am – 11:00am (PST)/ 12:00 – 2:00pm (EST). Join for a two-hour discussion on the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act, The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Future of Disability Rights with a Keynote Address by Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Kristen Clarke. Following the Honorable Clarke’s address, Michael Waterstone, Dean of Loyola Law School, will discuss the future of disability rights and the role of the DOJ with Deputy Assistant Attorney General (DAAG) Jennifer Mathis. Topics will include web and application accessibility, Olmstead issues and enforcement, voting rights, the new 988 mental health hotline and more.

Representatives from five leading disability rights organizations will join the panel to react to the AAG and DAAG's comments as well as discuss their organizations priorities for the rest of the Biden Administration and beyond. Read the bio of Kristen Clarke [here](#). Register [here](#).

### **National Academy to Host Webinar on National Family Caregiving Strategy**

On October 3, 2022, from 2:00-3:00pm (ET), the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) will host the webinar, “National Family Caregiving Strategy: A State Roadmap for Supporting Family Caregivers.” NASHP is hosting this webinar to discuss the opportunities within the newly released National Family Caregiving Strategy and how it can provide a roadmap for States that are interested in developing and expanding supports for family caregivers. A federal official, State administrator, and philanthropic expert will give an overview of the first-of-its-kind National Family Caregiving Strategy and will highlight how the State of Delaware is listening to family caregivers to better support their needs. NASHP’s RAISE Act Family Caregiver Resource and Dissemination Center is holding this webinar, with generous support from The John A. Hartford Foundation and RRF Foundation for Aging. [Register here](#).

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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.

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