



# Washington Weekly!

September 23, 2022

## Administration

### HHS Awards Funding for Addiction and Overdose

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced that it is awarding more than \$1.6 billion in investments for communities throughout the country addressing the addiction and overdose crises through SAMHSA's State Opioid Response (SOR) and Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) grant programs and HRSA's Rural Communities Opioid Response Programs. Learn more [here](#).

### RSA Awards New Grants to Increase Competitive Integrated Employment

On Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) announced new five-year grant awards for the Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment ([SWTCIE](#)) demonstration project to 14 State vocational rehabilitation agencies. The purpose of these grants is to decrease the use of subminimum wages and increase access to competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities. View the grant awards [here](#).

### NIH Announces New BRAIN Initiative Grants

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced two transformative projects supported by the *Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies*® (BRAIN) Initiative: [The BRAIN Initiative® Cell Atlas Network \(BICAN\)](#) and the [Armamentarium for Precision Brain Cell Access](#). These [BRAIN 2.0 projects](#) aim to transform our understanding of brain cell types and the precise tools needed to access them, bringing us one step closer to unraveling the complex workings of the human brain. Building on [findings](#) from the [BRAIN Initiative Cell Census Network](#), [BICAN](#) takes the next step in mapping brain cells and circuits across multiple species, with an emphasis on humans. BICAN will support 11 grants projected to total \$100 million annually over 5 years. The aim of these awards is to generate a complete reference atlas of cell types in the human brain across the lifespan, which can be shared and used throughout the research community.

In parallel, the [Armamentarium for Precision Brain Cell Access](#) will support seven grants projected to total \$36 million over 3 years in the first project phase. This project will leverage new brain cell census data and advanced technology to build an expanded "armamentarium," or toolkit that scientists can use to access specific brain cells and neural circuits in model systems that include both laboratory animals and human tissue specimens. Together with the forthcoming [BRAIN Initiative Connectivity Across Scales \(BRAIN CONNECTS\) Network](#), these large-scale projects promise to transform neuroscience research, illuminating foundational principles governing the circuit basis of behavior and informing new approaches to the treatment of human brain disorders. For more information about the individual awards, visit [NIMH](#).

### HHS Releases National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers

On Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through its Administration for Community Living (ACL), released the [2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers](#). It highlights nearly 350 actions the federal government will take to support family caregivers in the coming year and more than 150 actions that can be adopted at other levels of government and across the private sector to build a system to support family caregivers. Family caregivers provide the overwhelming majority of long-term care in the United States, yet currently lack resources to maintain their health, wellbeing, and financial security while providing crucial support for others.

The strategy was developed jointly by the advisory councils established by the [Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage \(RAISE\) Family Caregivers Act](#) and the [Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren \(SGRG\) Act](#), with extensive input from family caregivers, the people they support, and other stakeholders. ACL leads implementation of the RAISE and SGRG Acts and facilitates the work of the two advisory councils. The strategy represents the first time a broad cross-section of the federal government has collaborated with the private sector on a response to the longstanding national need for a comprehensive system of family caregiver support. It is the product of comprehensive analysis and input from 15 federal agencies and more than 150 organizations representing a range of stakeholders from across the nation. It builds upon the initial reports delivered to Congress in 2021 by the [RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council](#) and the [SGRG Advisory Council](#)

The 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers was delivered to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor, and to the state agencies responsible for carrying out family caregiver programs. The strategy will be updated every two years, as required by the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-119).

#### **DOL and Conference of Mayors Announce Mental Health and Employment Working Group**

The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the U.S. Department of Labor's Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy Taryn Williams recently announced the launch of the Mental Health and Employment Working Group as it seeks to identify policies, plans and practices to address and support workers' mental health needs in the nation's cities. The working group reflects the collaboration between the department's State Exchange on Employment and Disability and the Mayors' conference that led to the working group's development. The department's ODEP and mayors across the nation are aligned in efforts to effect policy changes to ensure workers have access to workplace. [Learn more about the State Exchange on Employment and Disability initiative.](#)

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### **Federal Request for Information**

#### **AHRQ Publishes RFI on Person-Centered Care Planning for People with Multiple Chronic Conditions**

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) published a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) in the *Federal Register* seeking public comment about comprehensive, longitudinal, person-centered care planning for people at risk for or living with Multiple Chronic Conditions (MCC). Comments can be submitted until November 15, 2022.

Specifically, the RFI seeks comment on the current state of comprehensive, longitudinal, person-centered care planning for people at risk for or living with MCC across settings of care (e.g., health systems, primary care, home, and other ambulatory practices), including:

- Existing models of person-centered care planning, their current scale, and barriers and facilitators to implementation.
- Innovative models of care, approaches, promising strategies, and solutions in order for clinicians and practices to routinely engage in person-centered care planning.

- Evidence for effectiveness of strategies for implementation and delivery of person-centered care planning, their impact on improving health outcomes, as well as evidence on how to adapt, scale, and spread the intervention.

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## Funding Opportunities

### **NACCHO is Accepting Applications for Mentors for Health Equity & Overdose Prevention**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is accepting applications for mentors to participate in the Health Equity and Overdose Prevention Mentorship Program. This will be the second iteration the mentorship program and will include opportunities for local health departments (LHDs) to learn from peers, share experiences and exchange strategies for integrating health equity into drug overdose prevention and response work. The deadline to apply is October 7, 2022. Learn more [here](#).

### **CDC Solicits Applications for ICRCs**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) is accepting applications for Injury Control Research Centers (ICRCs) to support NCIPC's priorities and mission through high-quality research, training, and outreach, as well as effective translation of scientific discoveries into practice for the prevention and control of injuries and violence. Applications are due January 6, 2023. NCIPC funds ICRCs to study ways to prevent injuries and violence and to work with community partners to put research findings into action. The ICRC Program forms a national network of academic research centers that focus on three core functions—research, training, and outreach. You may go to [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) to learn more, although the system is down for maintenance today.

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## Reports and Resources

### **Foundation Recognizes National Rehabilitation Awareness Week**

This week is [National Rehabilitation Awareness Week](#), organized by the National Rehabilitation Awareness Foundation, recognizing rehabilitation in all its forms, educating people about its benefits and impact on independence, and increasing opportunities for access to rehab. People may think of physical therapy or speech therapy for someone who has had a brain injury when thinking about rehabilitation. They might also think about vocational rehabilitation, which can help people with disabilities join or return to the workforce. But rehabilitation can include many other interventions, services, and supports, such as relearning how to drive (driver rehabilitation), dancing (dance therapy), playing games (play or recreation therapy), making art (art therapy), and learning how to use apps and telerehabilitation programs (mRehab), among other examples. Visit the National Rehabilitation Information Center's (NARIC) spotlight blog to [learn about the diverse world of rehab](#), with research and resources from the NIDILRR community and elsewhere.

### **NARIC Makes Available the NIDILRR-funded Study on Driving After TBI**

New to the NARIC collection is the NIDILRR-funded study examined driving patterns following moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injury (TBI). In a survey of adults with TBI who received inpatient acute care for TBI and had resumed driving, most respondents reported driving daily, although 41 percent reported driving less than before their injury. Driving patterns were not associated with injury severity. Confidence in driving was high for most participants and was associated with a perception that the TBI had not diminished driving ability. Altered driving patterns was associated with lower confidence and perceived loss of ability. The relationship between low confidence/perceived loss of ability and driving patterns/restrictions suggests that people with TBI are exhibiting some degree of caution consistent with those perceptions. Careful assessment of driving skills and monitoring during early stages of return to driving is warranted, particularly for younger, male, and/or single drivers who express higher levels of confidence.

**[Access the full abstract and ordering information in REHABDATA.](#)** The study, Driving patterns, confidence, and perception of abilities following moderate to severe traumatic brain injury: A TBI Model System study. *Brain Injury*, Volume 35(8), Pgs. 863-870. NARIC Accession Number: J89344.

#### **ODEP Debuts Web Resource on Critical Role of DSPs in the Workforce**

The [Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\)](#) at the Department of Labor (DOL) debuted **[Direct Support Professionals \(DSPs\)](#)**, a web resource bringing awareness to the vital role of DSPs who provide necessary supports and services to people with disabilities of all ages. The website highlights the importance of DSPs, the roles they serve as caregivers, and training and career pathways for DSPs. The new website was unveiled as part of DSP Recognition Week.

#### **Census Bureau Reports Decreases in Poverty**

On September 13, the U.S. Census Bureau released **[Income in the United States: 2021](#)** and **[Poverty in the United States: 2021](#)**. The reports present income and poverty estimates based on the 2021 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC), which includes household level data on employment, income, and health insurance collected from residents of all 50 States and the District of Columbia. There were no statistically significant changes in either median household income or the official poverty rate from 2020 to 2021, though the poverty rate did decline significantly as indicated by the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). The 2021 SPM poverty rate of 7.8%, down 1.4 percentage points from 2020, represented the lowest SPM poverty rate since the SPM was first introduced. This historically low SPM poverty rate likely reflects the impacts of the “American Rescue Plan Act” (ARPA) and other temporary COVID-19 relief programs. Read more [here](#).

#### **Trauma Center Association Sponsors a Media Contest on Preventing Injuries**

The Trauma Center Association of America’s Injury Prevention Committee is sponsoring a media contest to spread the word about preventing injuries in our communities. Submit original work depicting “What Safety Looks Like in Your Community” for a chance to win. Deadline to enter is November 1, 2022. Learn more [here](#).

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## **Upcoming Webinars and Conferences**

#### **Organizations Invite Advocates to Join Webinar on Homelessness and Housing**

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) invite advocates nationwide to register for “How to Address Unsheltered Homelessness,” the final webinar in their four-part series on homelessness and Housing First. Decades of learning, experience, and research have proven that **[Housing First](#)** is the most effective approach for ending homelessness. Housing First recognizes that affordable and accessible homes are the foundation on which people thrive, and by combining housing with access to supportive services, Housing First can help people exit homelessness and live stably in their communities. The webinar will be held on Wednesday, September 28, at 2:30pm (ET). Register [here](#).

#### **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 on webinars.

#### **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](#).

#### **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. Representatives from five leading disability rights organizations will join the panel to react to presenters’ 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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### **Other**

#### **NDRN Announces New Executive Director**

J.J. Rico, President of the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) Board of Directors, has announced that Marlene Sallo will be the next executive director of the NDRN. Marlene was formerly the executive director of the Massachusetts P&A and an attorney with Disability Rights Florida, both member agencies of NDRN. She also held positions at the Department of Justice during the Obama Administration. She replaces Curt Decker who retired as the executive director after serving in that position for 37 years. Marlene will begin her position on October 16.

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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.**



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