



ADVANCING
DISABILITY INCLUSION
& WORKFORCE
INNOVATION

Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

CSAVR National News Brief

June 9, 2024

CSAVR *National News Brief* is a regular series covering legislative activity, media stories, research initiatives, webinars, reports, conferences, and national advocacy activities of interest to member state VR agencies.

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NATIONAL NEWS

The [White House Office of Science and Technology Policy \(OSTP\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) issued a request for information (RFI) seeking [input from the public to help inform the development of the Federal Evidence Agenda on Disability Equity \[click.icptrack.com\]](#). OSTP is asking the public for feedback to understand the full scope of inequities faced by people with disabilities and to identify gaps in current knowledge. This information will steer the development of the Federal agenda, which will ultimately support the government in making data-informed policy decisions to advance equity in all areas—including health, employment, education, and others—for people with disabilities. Comments must be submitted by July 15th. More information about the RFI and how to provide comments may be found in the Federal Register. Visit the OSTP website for events related to this RFI.

Corkery, Andrew. “[As COVID Precautions Vanish, People with Disabilities Struggle with Safety and Isolation \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#).” PBS.

Diament, Michelle. “[Ed Department Sees Jump in Disability Discrimination Complaints in Schools \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#).” Disability Scoop.

Shapiro, Joseph. “[Supplemental Security Income Rules Can Limit the People the Program is Meant to Help \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#).” NPR.

Stein, Shira. “[Members of Congress Are Using Assistive Communication Apps to Do Their Jobs \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#).” Disability Scoop.

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Welcome and congratulations to Samantha Fenderson who has been named as the new Maine (G) Director.

TAC NEWS

VRTAC-QM Manager Minute: From Subminimum to Sustainable - Transforming Employment in the Transportation Industry in Minnesota

Join us in the studio with Tyler Sadek, Go MN! Project Manager, and Amanda Jensen-Stahl, Director of Strategic Initiatives at Minnesota General, as we explore the transformative efforts of Minnesota's DIF Grant Go MN! This episode delves into innovative strategies designed to transition individuals with disabilities from subminimum wage to competitive, integrated employment. [Listen Here \[managerminutevrtac-qw.libsyn.com\]](#)

VRTAC-QE announced their June webinar Customized Training: Developing a Toolkit on 6/20/24. [The registration link is here \[tacqe.com\]](#).

CALL FOR PEER REVIEWERS

As you are aware, the latest DIF opportunity is creating a lot of interest. OSERS/RSA are seeking qualified peer reviewers for the Fiscal Year 2024 Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) - Creating a 21st Century Workforce of Youth and Adults with Disabilities through the Transformation of Education, Career, and Competitive Integrated Employment Model Demonstration Project.

Individuals who have an active account in G5/G6 and have a general background and related experience in the following area(s) of interest are encouraged to apply:

- Youth and/or Adults with Disabilities
- Competitive Integrated Employment
- Advanced Technology and/or Assistive Technology
- Justice-Involved Youth with Disabilities or with the Juvenile Justice System
- Acquired Disabilities
- Disconnected Youth and/or Disconnected Adults with Disabilities
- Special Education
- Vocational Rehabilitation or related discipline

If you know anyone who would qualify, you might want to encourage them to apply.

REPORTS, TRAINING, NEWSLETTERS AND CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Free virtual Blindness and Mental Health Summit on Friday, June 14th from noon to 4:30 pm ET. This is a gathering of organizations and consumers sharing information, resources, and services focusing on mental health in the blindness, low vision, and disability communities. [Click Here to Register! \[t6djmglab.cc.rs6.net\]](https://t6djmglab.cc.rs6.net)

The [Pacific ADA Regional Center \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://click.icptrack.com) will host a webinar, [Private Business Open to the Public \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://click.icptrack.com), June 18th, 3 - 4 pm ET. Presenters will discuss how the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects the civil rights of people with disabilities in privately-owned businesses or organizations that are open to the public. Registration is free and required.

The [Administration for Community Living \(ACL\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://click.icptrack.com) and the [Office for Civil Rights \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://click.icptrack.com) at the Department of Health and Human Services, along with the [Department of Justice \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://click.icptrack.com), will celebrate the [25th anniversary of the landmark Olmstead v L.C. Supreme Court Decision \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://click.icptrack.com), June 20th, 2 - 4 pm ET. The event will feature presenters from the disability community, federal leaders, and national experts discussing the impact of Olmstead, barriers to community living and true inclusion that people with disabilities still face 25 years later, and what is needed to fully realize the promise of this landmark decision.

The [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Improving Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) will host a webinar, [Ask Me Anything About Doing the Right Thing in Mental Health Services: Tackling Long Term Unemployment \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), June 20th, 12 - 1 pm ET. Presenters will discuss ways that mental health service professionals may tackle long-term unemployment among people with mental health conditions. Registration is free and required.

The [Great Lakes ADA Regional Center \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) will host a webinar, [Special Session! New Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) Title II Regulations for Websites and Mobile Apps \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), June 20th, 2 - 3:30 pm ET. Presenters will discuss a final rule from the Department of Justice under Title II of the ADA to ensure the accessibility of web content and mobile apps for people with disabilities. Presenters will provide an overview of the new requirements under the final rule, exceptions, and compliance deadlines. Registration is free and required.

On July 10-11, 2024, [Prevent Blindness \[preventblindness.org\]](#) will host the 13th Annual Focus on Eye Health Summit as a FREE virtual interactive event. This year's theme – “Being Seen and Heard” – emphasizes the importance of a person-centered approach to vision health interventions, research, communications, and care.

[Registration is FREE – Register to attend the virtual event \[preventblindness.org\]](#).

In a recent NARIC report [Research In Focus \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), researchers showed people with disabilities diversity, equity, and inclusions (DEI) statements in fictional job ads, and found that tone and placement can make a difference.

The [Rocky Mountain ADA Regional Center \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) released two new resources on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). [Incarceration and the ADA \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) is an online course covering equal access to programs and facilities, the provision of reasonable modifications/accommodations, and the broader effects of protecting the rights of people with disabilities, including those who are incarcerated. [Reasonable Accommodations for People with Diabetes Under Title I of the ADA \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) is a rapid research report exploring what protections people with diabetes are entitled to under the ADA in the context of employment.

The [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center \(RRTC\) on Employment of Transition-Age Youth with Disabilities \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) released a new online course, [Supported Employment in College \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), to enhance employment opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Abid, Mehdi, Ousama Ben-Salha, Karim Gasmi, and Nasareldeen Hamed Ahmed Alnor. "[Modelling for Disability: How Does Artificial Intelligence Affect Unemployment Among People with Disability? An Empirical Analysis of Linear and Nonlinear Effects \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." Research In Developmental Disabilities, vol. 149, p. 104732, 2024.

Alasmari, Abdulaziz M., Matthew E. Brock, and Abdulrahman S. Alsultan. "[Utilizing Video Prompting with People with Severe Disabilities: A Systematic Literature Review \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." Children and Youth Services Review, vol. 161, p. 107652, 2024.

Alexander, June, Sandra Gendera, Sally Robinson, Karen R. Fisher, and Kellie Howe. "[On-the-Job Training Supports for People with Intellectual Disability Employed in Aged Care \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability, vol. 49, no. 2, 2023, pp. 163–174.

Bellou, Angeliki, Doxa Papakonstantinou, and Konstantinos Papadopoulos. "[Workplace Social Support for People with Physical Disability \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation, 2024.

Butterworth, John, Jean E. Winsor, Esther Kamau, Alberto Migliore, and Danielle Mahoehney. "[The State of Employment for People with IDD: Implications for Practice, Policy, and Equity \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, vol. 62, no. 3, 2024, pp. 225–240.

Clark, Kelly A., Moira Konrad, and David W. Test. "[The Effects of UPGRADE Your Performance on Employment Soft Skills of Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: A Pilot Study of Generalization \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." Journal of Intellectual Disabilities, vol. 28, no. 2, 2024, pp. 478–498.

Hester, Olivia R., Kristine Jolivette, and Nicole C. Swoszowski. "[Supporting Transition-Readiness Skills for Adolescents with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders Using Check-In/Check-Out \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." Beyond Behavior, 2024.

Iwanaga, Kanako, Fong Chan, Jill Bezyak, Jia Rung Wu, Deborah Lee, Phillip Rumrill, Amanda Elizabeth West, et al. "[Fortune 500 Companies and Employment of People with Disabilities: The Intermediary Role of Disability Inclusion Policies and Practices \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation, 2024.

Lanchak, Emily R., Erik W. Carter, Elise D. McMillan, Laura Guest, Julie Lounds Taylor, and Ben Schwartzman. "[Complex Employment Journeys: Case Studies of Four Families of Adults with Intellectual Disability \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation, 2024.

Lansey, Kirsten R., Stephanie Z.C. MacFarland, and Shirin D. Antia. "[Perceptions of Postsecondary Experiences and Supports That Advance the Personal Goals of Students with Extensive Support Needs \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com)." *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*, vol. 49, no. 2, 2024, pp. 71–87.