NIDILRR-funded Research on Improving Employment Outcomes for People with Disabilities

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Overview

- NIDILRR: Who we are, what we do, and why it matters
- What NIDILRR Funds
- Samples of grants in NIDILRR's employment portfolio, including psychiatric disability, traumatic brain injury, and intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Examples of NIDILRR-funded employment research findings
- Examples of NIDILRR-funded technical assistance resources related to employment of people with disabilities

Who We Are, What We Do, and Why It Matters

– NIDILRR is a center within the Administration for Community Living

– Mission: To <u>generate new knowledge</u> and to <u>promote its effective use</u> to:
  - improve the abilities of individuals with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community;
  - and to expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for its citizens with disabilities.

– Knowledge useful to service providers, policy makers, people with disabilities and other stakeholders

What Kind of Research Does NIDILRR fund?

- NIDILRR funds applied research and development from many disciplines, in <u>three targeted outcome domains</u> that are important in the lives of people with disabilities:
  - Health and function
  - **Employment (also one of ACL's pillars)**
  - Community living and participation
- Many grants are cross-domain, cross-disciplinary

NIDILRR's approach to employment

- Employment outcomes for people with disabilities are a function of characteristics of the individual, as well as the environment, which includes the employer, service providers, and policy

- NIDLRR grantees conduct research in all of these areas

Samples of NIDILRR-funded grants related to employment policy

- Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy and Measurement (University of New Hampshire)
- * The Learning and Working During the Transition to Adulthood Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (University of Massachusetts Medical School)
- VR-ROI Project: Estimating Return on Investment in State Vocational Rehabilitation Programs (University of Richmond)
- *Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Integrated Health Care & Self-Directed Recovery (University of Illinois-Chicago)
- RRTC on VR Practices for Youth and Young Adults (Transcen, Inc.)
- Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (Univ. of New Hampshire)
- Collaborative on Health Reform and Independent Living (Washington State University)

* Grantee receives funds from both NIDILRR and SAMHSA

Samples of NIDILRR-funded grants related to employment for individuals with psychiatric disabilities

- Integrated Program to Improve Competitive Employment in Dually Diagnosed Clients (Howard University)

- Manual and Training Program to Promote Career Development Among Transition Age Youth and Young Adults with Psychiatric Conditions (Rutgers University, University of Massachusetts Medical School)

- Integrated Scaling Approach: A Model for Large Scale Implementation of Effective Interventions for Employment (Boston University)

- TEST - Translating Evidence to Support Transitions: Improving Outcomes of Youth in Transition with Psychiatric Disabilities by Use and Adoption of Best Practice Transition Planning (University of Massachusetts Medical School)

- * Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Improving Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities (Boston University)

- * The Learning and Working During the Transition to Adulthood Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (University of Massachusetts Medical School)

* Grantee receives funds from both NIDILRR and SAMHSA

Samples of NIDILRR-funded grants related to employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

- Evaluating the Effectiveness of CareProfiler Post-Hire System for Staff Supporting People with Disabilities and Age-Related Needs: Cluster Randomized Trial (University of Minnesota)

- Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Advancing Employment for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (ICI, University of Massachusetts-Boston)

- Progressive Employment for Individuals with the Most Significant Disabilities (ICI, University of Massachusetts Boston)

- Effects of Customized Employment on the Employment Outcomes of Transition-Age Youth with Disabilities: A Randomized Clinical Trial (Virginia Commonwealth University)

- Facilitating Employment for Youth with Autism: A Replication Study of an Internship Model to Identify Evidence Based Practices (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Some examples of NIDILRR-funded employment research findings

- <u>Thinking Skills for Work</u>: cognitive remediation intervention to address work-related cognitive issues in people with mental illness (series of grants to Dartmouth University, Boston University)
  - A series of randomized control trials have demonstrated positive outcomes on functioning and employment outcomes.
  - Now considered an evidence-based practice.
  - Combined analysis of all studies to date now in progress
  - Scale-up model now being developed

Some examples of NIDILRR-funded employment research findings (cont'd):

- <u>Internship model for students with ASD</u>: Adaptation of Project Search internship model by adding ASD-specific supports for high school students with autism (multiple grants to Virginia Commonwealth University)

  - Implemented in a hospital network, randomized control trial

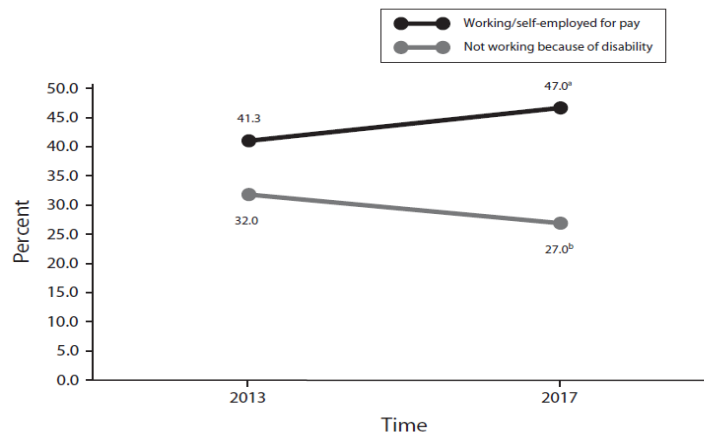 - Results from original site, competitive employment (more results coming):

	Control Group	Internship Group
End of school year	94% UNemployed	87.5% Employed
1 year post-enrollment	94% UNemployed	87.5% Employed

Some examples of NIDILRR-funded employment research findings (cont'd)

- <u>Project Career</u> (Kent State University) – development study still underway
  - Goal: improve postsecondary and career outcomes for students with traumatic brain injury
  - Services include person-technology match assessment, cognitive support technology training, individualized vocational case management
  - Preliminary results: of first 34 graduates, 30 employed full or part time (eight of whom are also pursuing further education), 3 not employed but pursing further education, 1 providing unpaid family elder care.

Some examples of NIDILRR-funded employment research findings (cont'd)

- <u>Effects of Medicaid expansion on employment</u> (Collaborative on Health Reform and Independent Living, Washington State University)

  - Health Reform Monitoring Survey, 2013-2017: Trends in working and not working because of disability in Medicaid expansion states:

  -

NIDILRR grantees provide training and TA to stakeholders (e.g., webinars, informational materials, responses to TA requests) – some examples:

- Center on Knowledge Translation for Employment Research: https://kter.org/

- RRTC: Advancing Employment for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: https://www.thinkwork.org/rrtc/

- DRRP: Facilitating Employment for Youth with Autism: http://www.worksupport.com/school2work/

NIDILRR grantees provide training and TA to stakeholders (cont'd)

- The Learning and Working During the Transition to Adulthood Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (University of Massachusetts Medical School): https://www.umassmed.edu/TransitionsACR/publication/

How to Keep A Job: The Young Adults Guide

Applying for a Job: The Young Adults Guide *

Do I Tell My Boss? Disclosing My Mental Health Condition at Work *

Vocational Rehabilitation: A Young Adults Guide

ADA National Network of Technical Assistance Centers

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Network provides information, guidance, and training on ADA implementation in order to "assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities."

- Since 1991, the ADA network has served all sectors of society, including those with responsibilities under the ADA such as businesses, employers, state and local governments, architects, disability organizations and individuals with disabilities whose rights are protected under the ADA.

- ADA Network Centers in each of the 10 Regions; each of these centers focuses on its region's unique needs, while contributing to national projects and informational resources.

- Network website: https://adata.org/national-network

For Further Information

- ACL's website: https://www.acl.gov/

- For more information about current and past NIDILRR grants, or to sign up for announcements:
  - http://naric.com/

- To learn more about NIDILRR grant mechanisms:
  - https://www.acl.gov/programs/research-and-development/

- To learn about applying for grants: (note that NIDILRR grants are 'competitive grants'):
  - https://www.acl.gov/grants/applying-grants

- Contact me: Leslie Caplan
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Supplementary slides

NIDILRR Grant Mechanisms & Contacts

Note: NIDILRR staff cannot provide feedback or input on the content of applications, but can provide technical assistance for the submission process

Switzer Fellowships

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Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects
Contacts specific to announcements

ACL
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