



ADVANCING  
DISABILITY INCLUSION  
& WORKFORCE  
INNOVATION

Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

## CSAVR National News Brief

February 25, 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.

**ANNOUNCEMENT: SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND HOTEL RESERVATION LINKS [CAN BE FOUND HERE \[csavr.org\]](#).**

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### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

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### **NATIONAL NEWS**

February is [Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Month \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), hosted by the Association for Career and Technical Education, which recognizes the accomplishments of CTE programs and the importance of CTE to students of all ages and abilities. CTE refers to courses and programs which prepare students for careers in current or emerging professions. Students who complete CTE programs can earn certificates, licensure, and postsecondary degrees in their field, and find jobs in areas of high need like health sciences and audio-visual technology.

CTE can offer students with disabilities in high school and beyond an opportunity to personalize their education based on their career interests and unique learning needs.

These students can face challenges in accessing CTE programs, such as inaccessible facilities, teachers who are not familiar with working with students with disabilities and integrating CTE into individualized education plans.

Some of you are reviewing financial need policies that you have in place. This is certainly a good time to be doing this review. Much financial needs testing has been directed at college tuition. Here is something to keep in mind. Per *The Wall Street Journal* less than half the usual number of high school student have applied for college financial aid so far this year after a glitch-filled rollout of the government's revamped FAFSA. About 7,000 seniors have completed applications, down from 1.5 million applicants the same time last year. As you look at potentially lifting or diminishing any financial need policy, please do your homework in terms of the projected fiscal impact. Will it get you where you want to be or not.

### **CSAVR WORK**

Thanks to all who have submitted proposals in response to our Call for Proposals for the upcoming spring conference. We hope to have all reviewed by the end of the coming week. If you have not registered for the conference, please do so. It is going to be a great agenda! **SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND HOTEL RESERVATION LINKS CAN BE FOUND HERE [\[csavr.org\]](https://csavr.org).**

### **RSA UPDATE**

The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor (the Departments) issued a [final rule \[federalregister.gov\]](#) in the Federal Register (89 FR 13814) that defines the sixth performance indicator - effectiveness in serving employer - as *Retention with the Same Employer* and requires it be reported by one WIOA core program on behalf of all six WIOA core programs within each state. The [final rule \[federalregister.gov\]](#) is effective March 25, 2024.

RSA published the [SAM for Program Years 2024 and 2025 \[rsa.ed.gov\]](#). The [SAM \[rsa.ed.gov\]](#) provides the first set of *Estimated Levels of Performance*, including the coefficients and State-specific values for each variable, for each of the five performance indicators. It is important to note that this estimate is but one of the factors RSA must consider in establishing *Negotiated Levels of Performance*. For information related to the other factors (e.g., continuous improvement), please see pages 9-10 of [TAC-20-02 \[rsa.ed.gov\]](#). In early April, RSA will contact the director(s) of each State VR program to propose *Negotiated Levels of Performance*. By mid-April, they will ask that State VR programs either accept their proposals or request further negotiation. If State VR programs request further negotiation, [RSA State Teams \[rsa.ed.gov\]](#) will schedule meetings soon thereafter.

The RSA funded NCRTM released Issue 85 of its newsletter. In this issue, discover a new Lunch and Learn Video featuring recruitment and retention strategies, self-employment success stories, and a new (free) online business financials course for VR professionals.

## **NENA NEWS**

The National Employment Network Association is seeking speakers and presenters for their 14th Annual National Training Conference in Kansas, MO this September, 2024. This is your opportunity to partner with NENA to make the next training conference great! If interested, please submit your RFP Via the NENA website.

## **REPORTS, TRAINING, NEWSLETTERS AND CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES**

The [Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services \(OSERS\)](#) [\[click.icptrack.com\]](#) at the Department of Education will host a webinar, [Beyond the IDEA and WIOA Requirements: Knowing What to Expect When It Matters](#) [\[click.icptrack.com\]](#), February 28th 1 - 2 pm ET, part of the 2023-2024 OSERS Symposia Series: Expect, Engage, Empower. Presenters will look beyond the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to maximize the experiences and opportunities for students with disabilities and their families. This series focuses on the important considerations children, youth, and young adults with disabilities and their families need to be aware of, and prepared for, to maximize their potential as they enter and move through the K-12 school system. Registration is free and required.

The [Administration for Community Living \(ACL\)](#) [\[click.icptrack.com\]](#) will host [Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) Partners Day 2024](#) [\[click.icptrack.com\]](#), February 29th, 12 - 4 pm ET. The virtual event will include sessions on brain injury in the criminal legal system, aging with brain injury, and bridging coexisting intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and brain injury with mental health systems. ASL interpretation and live captions will be available in English and Spanish. Registration is free and required.

The [North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System Center](#) [\[click.icptrack.com\]](#) will host a conference, [Adapting to a New Hope After Brain Injury](#) [\[click.icptrack.com\]](#) (PDF), March 2nd, 10 am - 3 pm ET. The conference will cover a variety of topics related to life after a traumatic brain injury (TBI), including music therapy, resources, managing multiple injuries, repurposing life, and coping with a bad day. The conference will include a roundtable discussion. The conference will be available to [view by free live stream](#) [\[click.icptrack.com\]](#), no registration required. Registration for in-person attendance is closed.

The [Temple University Rehabilitation Research and Training Center \(RRTC\) on Community Living and Participation of People with Serious Mental Illnesses \(TU Collaborative\)](#) [[click.icptrack.com](#)] will host a webinar, [An Introduction to Centers for Independent Living: Fostering Collaborations Between Mental Health Advocates and Centers for Independent Living \(CILs\)](#) [[click.icptrack.com](#)], March 5th, 2 - 3 pm ET. Presenters will delve into the dynamic landscape of CILs and their crucial role in supporting individuals with mental illnesses. Presenters will explore the history and core services of CILs, and how mental health agencies can identify CILs in their area and build collaborations. Registration is free and required

The [National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#) [[click.icptrack.com](#)] at the National Institutes of Health will host a symposium, [Amplifying Voices and Building Bridges: Toward a More Inclusive Future](#) [[click.icptrack.com](#)], March 18th, 8:30 am - 5 pm ET. The symposium will focus on NIMH's role in society and feature presentations from health equity, sociology, psychiatry, and public health experts. It will bring together people living with mental illness, practitioners, and communities to reflect on past and present challenges in mental health research and chart a more inclusive path forward. Registration is free and required to attend virtually or in person and in-person registration is limited.

The [Research and Education to Support the Science of Independent Living for Inclusion and Engagement: National Center of Excellence RRTC \(RESILIENCE RRTC\)](#) [[click.icptrack.com](#)] is accepting applications for the [Building for Scale Scholars program](#) [[click.icptrack.com](#)]. The six-month online program is intended for researchers in the early stages of designing an innovation or developing an intervention that promotes the health and wellbeing of individuals with disabilities and their families. The scholar will participate in learning experiences focused on designing or adapting testable and scalable innovations. Additional information and application requirements are available in the [program brochure](#) [[click.icptrack.com](#)] (PDF). Applications must be submitted by April 15th.

***“Patiently waiting”:*** *How do non-driving disabled adults get around in rural America?* *Transport Policy, Volume 145, Pgs. 55-64.* NARIC Accession Number: J93428.

This study investigated how non-drivers with disabilities in rural areas get around, where they go, and what they do. Policy implications include improved public transit funding and strategies to promote universal auto access. [Access the full abstract and ordering information in REHABDATA](#) [[click.icptrack.com](#)]

## **COVID NEWS**

[Supporting Workers & Families in Low-Income Households During Economic Downturns](#) [[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com](#)]. This video shares the stories of participants involved in employment programs during the economic downturn brought

on by the COVID-19 pandemic, and what it was like for them to participate in the programs during such an unpredictable time.

Niasse, Amina. “[Disabled Employment Surged in COVID; 2024 Less Certain \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com).” Reuters.

## **RECENT ARTICLES**

Chernikoff, Sara. “[Census Bureau Backpedals on Changes to Disabilities Questions Amid Backlash \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com).” *USA Today*.

Diament, Michelle. “[Congress Weighs Strengthening Health Care Protections for People with Disabilities \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com).” Disability Scoop.

Hirano, Kara A., Katherine W. Bromley, and Lauren E. Lindstrom. “[Still Stuck: An Examination of the Early Paid Employment Experiences of Young Women with Disabilities \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com).” *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, vol. 47, no. 1, 2024, pp. 19–31.

Kamana, Bertilde U., Claudia L. Dozier, Nicole A. Kanaman, Florence DiGennaro Reed, Stephanie M. Glaze, Ali M. Markowitz, et al. “[Large-Scale Evaluation of Staff Training in Programs for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com).” *Behavioral Interventions*, vol. 39, no. 1, 2024.

Kwiatek, Stephen M., Valerie L. Mazzotti, and Charles L. Wood. “[Pivotal Legislation Supporting College and Career Readiness for Students with Disabilities \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com).” *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, 2024.

McLean, Kiley J., Luke Muentner, and Lauren Bishop. “[The Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Receipt of Needed Medical Care and At-Home Support Among U.S. Households Receiving Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance on the Basis of Disability \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com).” *Health & Social Work*, vol. 49, no. 1, 2024, pp. 35–43.

Savin, Katie, Zachary A. Morris, Marion S. Wise, and Rebecca Marinoff. “[Every Day You Are Working You Have to Prove It’: Navigating the Costs of Work and Ableism with Visual Impairment \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com).” *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 2024.

Shogren, Karrie A., Valerie L. Mazzotti, Tyler A. Hicks, Sheida K. Raley, Daria Gerasimova, Jesse R. Pace, Stephen M. Kwiatek, et al. “[The Goal Setting Challenge App: Impact on Transition Goal Attainment Outcomes of Students with Disabilities \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com).” *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, vol. 47, no. 1, 2024, pp. 4–18.

Taconet, Ashley V., Allison R. Lombardi, Joseph W. Madaus, Tracy E. Sinclair, Graham G. Rifenbark, Mary E. Morningstar, and Shannon N. Langdon. "**Interventions Focused on Independent Living Skills for Youth with Intellectual Disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder** [[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com)]." *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, vol. 47, no. 1, 2024, pp. 32–45.