



## Final Summative Assessment: September 2020-July 2021

---

### *AoD Disability Employment TA Center*

September 2021

### Executive Summary

#### *Project Overview and Evaluation Overview*

In September 2020, the Administration on Disabilities (AoD) within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), awarded The Lewin Group and TASH (Lewin/TASH) a five-year contract to support the establishment of the Disability Employment Technical Assistance Center (referred to as the “TA Center”). The TA Center provides evidence-based technical assistance (TA) related to promoting systems change to improve the employment outcomes and economic advancement of individuals with disabilities.

The TA Center provides support to the following AoD grantees: Federally-funded Centers for Independent Living (CIL), State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (Council), University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities in Education, Research, and Services (UCEDD), State Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&A), and Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Programs (TBI Grantee).

To ensure continuous improvement and measure the impact of TA on AoD grantees, the TA Center’s team conducts an ongoing evaluation of activities. Part of the evaluation plan is a summative assessment that reports on the TA activities conducted and associated grantee impact for each funding period.

This summative assessment documents activities conducted between September 2020 to July 2021.

#### *Foundation of the Technical Assistance (TA) Center from September 2020 to February 2021*

At the start of the contract, the TA Center’s team developed the infrastructure of the TA Center, including establishing working relationships with 70 subject matter experts (SMEs), collaborating with other AoD-funded TA Centers, convening a 15-member Grantee Representative Work Group (Work Group), and launching the [TA Center’s website](#). These foundational inputs for the TA Center support the provision of TA to AoD grantees that began in March 2021.



## **TA Activities, Outputs, and Outcomes from March to July 2021**

Between March 2021 (start of TA) and July 2021, the TA Center's team conducted many types of TA activities, including:

- **National Community of Practice (CoP) Webinars:** The TA Center's team hosted five monthly webinars between March and July 2021 focused on various topics related to competitive, integrated employment (CIE). Presenters included AoD grantees as well as their collaborating entities.
- **Results & Innovation in Systems Excellence (RISE) Peer Action e-Learning Communities:** Between March and July 2021, the TA Center's team launched two RISE e-learning communities. One focused on integrating and pursuing initiatives related to CIE within Councils' five-year strategic plans. The other RISE e-learning community targeted all AoD grantee types and focused on strengthening CIE supports in the context of the post-COVID-19 public health emergency. The TA Center's team prepared for one additional RISE e-learning community to be launched during the late summer which focuses on building equity (in-house and programmatically) to increase employment for people with disabilities.
- **On-Demand TA:** The TA Center's team provided on-demand TA to AoD grantees upon request. Between March and July 2021, the TA Center's team received three TA requests in total.
- **Resource Development:** The TA Center's team collaborated with SMEs to initiate development of a total of 20 written technical resources. Upon finalization, these written resources will be published onto the TA Center's website.
- **Website and Resource Clearinghouse:** The [TA Center's website](#) includes information about the TA Center and the five AoD grantee types, video archives of past webinars, descriptions of upcoming events and TA opportunities, and a Resource Clearinghouse with materials relevant to disability employment. The TA Center is currently developing the LMS portal that will serve as a virtual space for staff of AoD grantees to connect as well as access LMS courses to strengthen their knowledge on CIE. The TA Center's team collects data on website traffic.

Key data points related to the CoP webinars and website are located in **Exhibits ES-1** and **ES-2**.

### **Exhibit ES-1. Key Evaluation Data Points for CoP Webinars Held from March to July 2021**

136 AoD grantees sent at least one representative of their organization to at least one of the webinars. The breakdown by grantee type includes:

- 62 CILs (18%)
- 12 TBI programs (44%)
- 18 Councils (32%)
- 17 UCEDDs (25%)
- 27 P&As (47%)

\*Note, percentages are based on the following totals: 352 CILs, 56 Councils, 57 P&As, 27 TBI grantees, and 67 UCEDDs as included in the Statement of Work (SOW)



## Exhibit ES-2: Key Evaluation Data Points for TA Center Website from March to July 2021

**6,944** total users, of which there were **6,604** unique users, accessed the website **7,234** times and viewed **12,399** pages in total

The most popular resources included:

1. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Launches Hotline to Improve Access to COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Disabilities (141 visits)
2. Reflecting on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Advancements in Technological Support Solutions on the Job in a COVID World (43 visits)
3. The ADA And The End To Sheltered Workshops (26 visits)

Overall the TA Center’s team observed an increase in the engagement of AoD grantees with TA Center activities. Preliminary data from post-event surveys and other feedback received from grantees indicate that TA activities are positively impacting grantees’ knowledge of CIE and supporting their work related to CIE.

The TA Center’s team will continue to collect and analyze data related to activities, outcomes, and outputs in future reporting, such as future summative assessments.

