



University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDDs)

Summative Assessment (September 2020-July 2021)
Individual Grantee Profiles

Overview of UCEDDs and Their Roles in Promoting Competitive, Integrated Employment (CIE)

To inform the direction of the TA Center, the project team conducted quantitative and qualitative analysis as part of the landscape assessment that identified current UCEDD initiatives pertaining to CIE and areas of further development. Key highlights include:

Strengths

- Conducting pilots, evaluations, and validations of new models and promising practices
- Analyzing policy analysis and reform, particularly in relation to Employment First initiatives
- Providing professional development and certification opportunities to direct support professionals, community rehabilitation providers, and other front-line professionals to support individuals with disabilities in pursuing and securing CIE
- Possessing expertise in data collection and research activities

Challenges

- Incorporating employment activities into UCEDD initiatives when there is a lack of leadership support
- Ensuring continued access to funding opportunities through state vocational rehabilitation (VR), education, Medicaid, and workforce investment agencies while also advocating for changes in state agency operations to advance CIE

TA Center Offerings Targeted towards UCEDDs

The TA Center's team provided the following offerings targeted towards UCEDDs:

- UCEDD Resource #1: How UCEDDs can Support other AoD Grantees' CIE Systems Change Efforts: Case Study in Rhode Island
- UCEDD Resource #2: Blueprint/Roadmap to Developing a CIE Competency Training Program within Your UCEDD

The TA Center plans to launch another RISE e-learning community, Walking the Walk: Prioritizing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Organizational Culture and Programming to Support People of Color with Disabilities Achieve Maximum CIE, which will be open to UCEDDs.



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UCEDD Participation in TA Center Activities

- **28 individuals affiliated with 17 UCEDDs** have participated in at least one national Community of Practice (CoP) webinar between March and July 2021
- UCEDDs with the **highest attendance at CoP webinars** included:
 - University of Southern Mississippi Institute for Disability Studies (4 webinars)
 - Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (3 webinars)
 - Rhode Island College Sherlock Center (2 webinars)
 - Texas Technology Access Program (2 webinars)
 - University of Minnesota Institute on Community Integration (2 webinars)
 - Utah State University Center for Persons with Disabilities (2 webinars)
- The following UCEDDs participated in the Results & Innovation in Systems Excellence (RISE) Peer Action Learning Community, **Building Back Better: Reinventing Our Approach to CIE**, that was open to all AoD grantees:
 - University of Southern Mississippi Institute for Disability Studies
 - University of Connecticut UCEDD