DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT TA CENTER

DETAC Monthly* Newsletter
Issue 8 | January 2022

*Effective January 2022, the newsletter will now be issued on a quarterly basis.

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DETAC Welcomes New Senior Adviser:

Annette Shea
Senior Adviser

In January, the DETAC welcomed [Annette Shea](#), as Senior Adviser. Formerly with the Administration for Community Living, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and Massachusetts Medicaid, Annette brings more than 25 years of experience in Medicaid and systems which support employment and successful community living for people with disabilities. Most notably, Annette is a subject matter expert on Medicaid Buy-In for workers with disabilities.

DETAC Announces New Results in Systems Excellence (RISE) Peer e-Learning Community: Assistive Technology & Employment

As AoD grantees (directly or indirectly) support individuals with disabilities to obtain and retain competitive, integrated employment (CIE), they are faced with unprecedented challenges in supporting people with disabilities to access the vital assistive technology that is needed for daily living or CIE. Some individuals who desperately need the supports in the form of assistive technology cannot obtain what is needed due to funding limitations, lack of resources or their provider's inability to fund such supports. Grantees are presented with the dilemma in the lack of resources, funding, and partnerships that support individuals with disabilities to utilize the emergent technology needed to excel in activities of everyday life.

If your grantee organization is experiencing some challenges with the lack of resources, knowledge, or partnerships to support the advancement of assistive technology for people with disabilities in your state, then this RISE Peer e-Learning Community in Assistive Technology and Employment is for you!

The spirit of the ADA and the Assistive Technology Act is equity, fair and impartial access for people with disabilities. Assistive Technology (AT) can impact a person's well-being by improving their ability to connect with others, access their community, work, and live more independently. AT includes any piece of equipment, or product, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

Join us as we review both traditional and new tools / resources, gain a broader perspective, brainstorm strategies to leverage collaborative partners, integrate smart screen technology on a larger scale, and plan for successful implementation of AT structures within your organization to advance competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities.

SPACE IS LIMITED, SO APPLY NOW at
https://forms.gle/YA8e3UoUGPK5b6p88

APPLICATIONS DUE February 11th, 2022
LAUNCH MEETING: February 24, 2022 3:00-4:30/EST

Session Structure

Virtual Classes: 10 sessions
Dates: February 24th thru May 5th, 2022 (no session March 24th)
Time: Thursdays 3:00-4:30 ET / 12-3:30 PT
Co-Facilitators: Jennifer White/Able Opportunities & AT3 Center
Session Links: Zoom Meeting links will be provided once grantees have been accepted into the e-Learning Community (accommodations provided based upon request). The links will be sent from the DETACs Gmail Account, AoDEmploymentTA@Gmail.com.

Topics include:

- Assistive Technology Overview, From Traditional Devices to Home Systems, Smart Screens & Apps
- Developing Your Program's AT Needs, Capabilities and Growth
- Understanding Your AT Program, Strengthening External Partnerships, and Internal Experts

- Structures to Identify Needs, Services, and Plans for Individuals
- Technology Furthering Employment Outcomes for People with a Range of Disabilities
- Building Resource/Training Libraries, External Resources & Practical Internal Builds
- Projects & Plans with Collaborative Partners
- Tools for the Virtual World

Taking Advantage of AoD TA-on-Demand

Need advice from a DETAC Subject Matter Expert? Do you and your stakeholders have a need to further advance your work to excel competitive, integrated employment outcomes for people with disabilities? We encourage you to reach out to us for help so we can schedule a planning call. Send your requests directly to the AoD Disability Employment TA center at AoDEmploymentTA@gmail.com or fill out the form here.

DETAC's National Monthly Webinars & "Office Hours with the Experts"

The Center hosts monthly national webinars on the second Tuesday of every month from 3:00-4:30 p.m. ET. "Office Hours with Experts" are held on the 2nd Friday of every month from 12:00 noon-1:30 p.m. ET. The Office Hours provide an opportunity for AoD grantees to further engage directly with expert speakers who participated in the last monthly national webinar to seek advice on specific projects, troubleshoot challenges that have arisen with employment systems-change work, and brainstorm or get feedback on new ideas that are being proposed. We encourage the AoD grantee network and DETAC's national Community of Practice to take advantage of

our monthly webinars and the subsequent office hours to help inform your ongoing work to improve CIE outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

Monthly CoP Webinars: Coming up in February:

Advancing Competitive Integrated Employment Through Managed Long-Term Services & Supports

Webinar: Date: February 8, 2022 | **Time**: 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm EST
Office Hours: Date: February 11, 2022 | **Time**: 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm EST

Join the next DETAC webinar focused on the use and benefits of value, performance, and outcome-based payment methodologies to help further advance competitive integrated employment (CIE) within managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) programs. In this webinar, you will learn about effective practices being implemented from both emerging and long-standing state MLTSS programs. From these examples, you will see how the proactive partnerships formed helped create effective payment methodologies to advance CIE opportunities and outcomes for people with disabilities receiving MLTSS. AoD grantees play a key role for the creation of sustainable partnerships to design and implement value, performance, and outcome-based payment methodologies to advance CIE for individuals with disabilities. Webinar presenters will include a representative from Inclusa Inc., Moving to a Different Drum LLC, and Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council. And, a self-advocate will share his experience with MLTSS to achieve meaningful employment.

Registration at: https://bit.ly/DETAC-CoP-Feb-8-2022

Employment First 2.0: Developing a Foundation for Excelling Systems Change Efforts through Legislative Action

Here is the link to the recording: https://youtu.be/KVKcHG-Yguw

Webinar: Date: January 11, 2022 | **Time**: 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm EST
Office Hours: Date: January 14, 2022 | **Time**: 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm EST

Participants learned how a Center for Independent Living, Able-South Carolina has worked with stakeholders to advance legislation supporting the phase-out of 14(c) sheltered work options for individuals with disabilities. Additionally, participants heard from a self-advocate that was formerly in a sheltered workshop for over ten years and how competitive, integrated employment has provided meaning and purpose to her life. The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities also shared their experience with proposing and passing legislation to fully abolish the use of 14(c) sheltered work in California, in addition to sharing how they worked with another AoD grantee, Disability Rights California to advance the legislative efforts to end sheltered work and increase competitive, integrated employment.

Making Work Incentives Work for People with Disabilities: Developing Quality Employment and Benefits Counseling Programs
December 14, 2021

Here is the link to the recording: https://youtu.be/inKhpitW2IU

Webinar: **Date:** December 14, 2021 | **Time**: 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm EST
Office Hours: **Date:** December 17, 2021 | **Time**: 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm EST

On the heels of last month's content-rich webinar on how AoD grantees can promote the Financial Wellness of individuals with disabilities, we heard from many of you asking for us to take a deeper dive into tackling the complexities around work

incentives and benefits planning. So, ask and you shall receive! Participants heard how AoD grantees are building their internal competencies and partnering with other entities to assure that jobseekers and workers with disabilities are accessing accurate information and taking full advantage of work incentives available to them via Social Security. Participants heard from grantees who have become Employment Networks (ENs) to support individuals through the Ticket to Work program, grantees who are offering various levels of benefits planning as a service to individuals with disabilities, and others who are pushing for improved systems, policies, and funding to assure greater access of people with disabilities to high-quality benefits planning.

Leap into a World of Financial Capability by Supporting Individuals with Disabilities to Obtain Financial Literacy Skills
November 9, 2021

Here is the link to the recording: https://youtu.be/seqvOio9ACo

More than 1150 people registered, and closer to 600 participated in this webinar, Leap into a World of Financial Capability by Supporting Individuals with Disabilities to Obtain Financial Literacy Skills. As individuals with disabilities are considering competitive, integrated employment (CIE) options, grantees have identified the significant barriers and grave concerns that people with disabilities and their families have about the financial ramifications of obtaining CIE. This webinar showcased promising practices in supporting individuals with disabilities conduct strong benefits planning, take advantage of financial literacy tools and resources, build assets, and achieve optimal economic advancement, thus making the dream of CIE become a reality.

Celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month by Reflecting Upon the Importance of Including and Supporting Individuals with Disabilities in America's Workforce
October 12, 2021

Here is the link to the recording: https://youtu.be/7PQq1FJATis

Close to 500 participants joined the DETAC as we celebrated the importance of including individuals with disabilities in the Nation's workforce. This webinar highlighted the contributions of individuals with disabilities through demonstrating how Centers for Independent Living have supported individuals with disabilities to

obtain and maintain competitive, integrated employment through the application of evidence-based practices and other innovative strategies.

Coming Soon: DETAC Learning Management System

The AoD Disability TA Center's Learning Management System (LMS) is in the final phases of being completed! The interactive platform will serve as a hub where AoD grantees can complete courses on a variety of topics, receive professional development, participate in peer-learning communities, topical discussions, and download AoD-grantee-specific curriculum and trainings. There will be five courses completed on a rolling basis in 2022 focusing on the following topics: Building a First Class CIL Employment Program, Assistive Technology and Employment, Councils and Employment, Financial Capability, and Employer Engagement. Once courses are developed, we will begin sending grantees links and options to create accounts.

The Disability Employment TA Center invites you to participate in our National Community of Practice, which will provide access to educational webinars, virtual communications, specific TA events and activities, and informational resources that will be useful across various stakeholders. The goal of hosting a national Community of Practice is to create collaborative learning opportunities for all AoD grantees and other stakeholders who work with AoD grantees to improve competitive, integrated employment outcomes and economic advancement of individuals with disabilities.

Sign Up for the DETAC Community of Practice

Follow the Disability Employment Technical Assistance Center on social media:

The Disability Employment TA Center (DETAC) is funded by the Administration on Disabilities, Administration for Community Living. DETAC provides evidence-based training and technical assistance (TA) to the Administration on Disabilities (AoD) grantees aimed at improving competitive, integrated employment (CIE) and economic outcomes for individuals with disabilities across the nation. AoD grantees receiving TA from the Center include Centers for Independent Living (CIL); State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (Councils); University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD); State Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&A); and Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Programs (TBI).