Since 1970, the Indiana Institute has been a leader in the transfer of knowledge in disability from the university setting to the field in Indiana and nationally.
**A Foundation of Excellence**

Founded in 1970, the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana’s University Center for Excellence in Disabilities, is a leader in the transfer of research and new knowledge in disability from the university setting to communities in Indiana and nationally. To accomplish this, our work is conducted through seven Centers that address issues across the lifespan and major life areas.

**In Early Childhood...**

- Advancing early education practices that bring about successful school readiness for all children is embedded in the work of the Institute’s early intervention focus. The Institutes work links research and practice in advancing the field of early education by providing leadership and assistance to agencies, organizations, and communities serving all young children (birth through five years), including children with disabilities and their families.

**In Employment...**

- Indiana is reaching out to large corporations and smaller businesses, helping them directly tap into the Indiana disability community as a powerful labor (and customer) base. The Indiana Institute and its partners, along with Vocational Rehabilitation Services, are providing resources, training, and other services to Indiana businesses as they discover the benefits of hiring employees with disabilities.

**In Autism Spectrum Disorders...**

- Recognizing that the prevalence rate of autism spectrum disorders is increasing (1 in 68 as of March 2014 - national CDC data), the Institute engages in work that leads to improved quality of life for individuals on the spectrum and their families. Specifically, work is focused on goals in early detection and diagnosis, effective early childhood and school-age programs that utilize evidence-based practices, transition across grade levels and stages of life, post-secondary opportunities, community employment and living options, and family support.

**In Education...**

- Our work in education is interdependent between schools and community. We see a responsibility to collaborate and connect with community partners in an effort to build schools and communities that welcome, include, educate, and support all learners across the lifespan.

- The Institute engages in a collaborative process to advise school districts as they work with stakeholders to design a teacher appraisal system that meets the requirements of the Indiana’s teacher evaluation legislation.

**In Supports for Self-Advocates and Families...**

- The Indiana Institute works to increase the full participation of individuals with disabilities and their family members in their local communities. Our work is designed to ensure that persons with disabilities and families have access to information and choice. This is achieved through training and dissemination activities promoting the use of person-centered planning, self-directed funding, and self-advocacy.

**In Transition...**

- Successful transition planning across the lifespan includes an interdisciplinary and interagency approach. The Institute’s work in transition and related services includes best practices that encompass innovative approaches, with knowledge gained from policy implementation, research findings, and the promotion of networks and relationships.

**In Livable Communities...**

- The vast majority of aging adults in Indiana want to be able to age in place, maintaining their independence, contributing to their community, and enjoying their family and friends. Supporting age- and ability-friendly communities statewide is another focus area of the Indiana Institute.
Our Mission

The Indiana Institute works with communities to welcome, value, and support the meaningful participation of people of all ages and abilities through research, education, and service.

Our Centers

- Early Childhood Center
- Center on Education and Lifelong Learning
- Center on Community Living and Careers
- Center on Aging and Community
- Indiana Resource Center for Autism
- Center for Planning and Policy Studies
- Center for Disability Information and Referral

Resources

The Center for Disability Information and Referral is the library at the Indiana Institute. Staff are here to help you find the information and resources you need, when you need it. The Center is a full service lending library with a wide variety of resources about disabilities across the lifespan available on-line and for checkout.

Subscribe on-line to receive the Indiana Institute’s weekly FYI Newsletter and follow us on Facebook and Twitter as well as other Institute-sponsored newsletters and blogs. For online access to the Indiana Institute and our seven Centers, visit www.iidc.indiana.edu/.

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