



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

INDIANA INSTITUTE ON
DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY

Organizational Profile:

Capacity Building through Strategic Planning, Research, Engagement

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.



FULFILLING *the* **PROMISE**



A Foundation of Excellence

Founded in 1970, the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana's federally designated 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. The Indiana Institute works to put good ideas into everyday practice in schools and community settings to improve choices and quality of life for people with disabilities and their families.

As the Indiana Institute continues with investment in developmental disability issues, we constantly look for new ways to diversify and expand partnerships and relationships to include more of the generic community and university not traditionally associated with disabilities. Collaborative efforts with these traditional and non-traditional partners assist us to identify needs and opportunities to "scale up" our organizational investment. Our work is conducted through six centers that address issues across the lifespan and major life issues.



leading the transfer of research and new knowledge into the community



in training and technical assistance held annually



touched by Indiana Institute outreach yearly



in the most comprehensive library collection of disability information in Indiana

The outreach activities of our centers touch thousands of Hoosiers annually. Last year, over 8,000 hours of training and technical assistance was provided Institute-wide. Additionally, over 675 training and technical assistance events were conducted reaching a total of 57,298 persons with disabilities, family members, and professionals. Since 2011, the Institute has provided 51,557 hours of outreach impacting 320,614 participants across 4,987 events.

The Indiana Institute on Disability and Community is a part of the Office of the Vice Provost for Research at Indiana University, Bloomington.



However, Indiana, like states nationally, is faced with continued uncertainty and economics shifts. Schools and communities are being called upon, even required, to do better – with diminished financial resources. The Indiana Institute is meeting these challenges through our research to practice initiatives. In 2016, the Indiana Institute has thirty-three major research and evaluation projects. Primary funders include:

Federal

- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

State

- Indiana Department of Education
- Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA)
- Indiana Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities
- Indiana State Board of Education
- Indiana State Board of Health

Other

- Answers for Autism
- Central Indiana Community Foundation
- Early Learning Indiana
- Indiana Youth Institute (IYI)
- Indiana University, Office of the Vice Provost for Research
- Joyce Foundation
- National Coordinating Center, University of Massachusetts
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of North Carolina
- Westat

Core Areas of Concentration

Supporting Advances in Early Disability Identification and Intervention. Advancing early education practices that welcome, include, and bring about successful school readiness for all children is embedded in the work of the Institute’s early intervention focus. We place an emphasis on early detection and diagnosis of disability, specifically around autism spectrum disorders, in order to ensure positive student programming, supports, and family engagement. Our work links research and practice in advancing the field of early education through leadership and assistance to agencies, organizations, and communities serving all young children (birth through five years), including children with disabilities, and their families.

Improving State and Local Education Practices and Transition Outcomes for All Children. Our work in education is interdependent between schools and community. We see a responsibility to collaborate, build capacity, and connect with school partners to create schools and communities that welcome, include, and educate all learners across the lifespan. To facilitate school to work, to community success, our transition focus includes innovative ideas and approaches that demonstrate knowledge gained from policy implementation and research findings across early education, schools, employment, post-secondary education, health care, adult services, and families.

Generating Opportunities for Employment and Economic Self-Sufficiency. The Institute and its partners, along with Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services, provides resources and training to Indiana businesses as they discover the benefits of hiring employees with disabilities. Businesses often find that their overall productivity increases and that workers with disabilities can be loyal, valuable team members who bring a unique perspective and can help expand company outreach capabilities.

Supporting Health and Wellness to Improve Life Outcomes for All. Chronic health issues and disability is the focus of the Institute's collaborative work with the State Department of Health and other health coalitions across Indiana. The Indiana Task Force on Disability and Health addresses health disparities faced by people with disabilities and works to address barriers and obstacles in health promotion, prevention, nutrition, and physical activities.

Creating Livable and Accessible Communities. The vast majority of aging adults in Indiana and nationally 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.

Being a Navigation Resource for People with Disabilities and their Families. The Institute facilitates opportunities to increase the full participation of individuals with disabilities and their family members in their local communities. This is accomplished through access to information and choice through training opportunities that promote the use of person-centered planning, self-directed funding, and self-advocacy.

For More Information, Contact:

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