

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROJECTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (PNS)

Initiatives that creatively address crucial needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)

PNS are short-term grants with long-term impact. Awarded projects:



UNITE

stakeholders around an issue of great importance to people with I/DD.



DESIGN

and test innovative approaches and interventions that can be replicated.



FORGE

new paths to support independent and community living.



DEVELOP

leaders and infrastructure that turn ideas into practice.

PROJECTS ADDRESS CRITICAL ISSUES SUCH AS:

- Direct care workforce crisis
- Needs of people with both mental health conditions and I/DD
- Using telehealth during COVID-19
- Cultural competency of services
- Alternatives to guardianship
- Discrimination in health care
- Increasing competitive integrated employment



COLLABORATION IS ESSENTIAL TO PNS

Implementing and sustaining innovative models is a community effort. To make long-lasting impacts a reality, PNS grantees partner with individuals and groups, including:

- People with I/DD and their families
- State councils on developmental disabilities
- University centers for excellence in developmental disabilities
- State protection and advocacy systems
- Centers for independent living and state independent living councils
- State and federal agencies
- National and local organizations

UNIQUE DATA PROJECTS TO INFORM DECISION- MAKING

In addition to short-term grants, PNS includes three decades-long longitudinal studies that collect and analyze data not available anywhere else — data about the services provided to people with I/DD to inform policies, legal actions, care decisions, and more.

National Residential Information Systems Project (RISP)

The University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration gathers annual statistics and analyzes trends in Medicaid, state, and locally funded residential and in-home supports.

StateData from ThinkWork!

UMass Boston's Institute for Community Inclusion assesses the employment and economic status of people with disabilities and the effectiveness of state and vocational rehabilitation agencies.

State of the States in I/DD

The University of Kansas studies trends at the state and national levels, identifying data about the demand for community services and supports, public and private institutions, and fiscal expenditures in states.

WISCONSIN PNS GETS TO WORK

Securing meaningful community employment is essential for youth and young adults with I/DD transitioning from high school to adult life. Through a PNS grant, the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (Wisconsin's ACL-funded DD Council) created *Let's Get to Work* to address this need by removing barriers to employment and creating pathways to success.

The project used a multifaceted approach involving dozens of key stakeholders to identify policy issues, a policy team to develop ways to implement changes, nine school pilot sites to implement evidence-based practices and identify barriers to employment, and coaches to provide intense technical assistance at the school sites. *Let's Get to Work* engaged diverse stakeholders, including teachers, school staff, businesses, and families. It also

partnered with various partners from state agencies and community-based organizations.

Project Outcomes:

- The number of youths in paid jobs tripled
- Students reported feeling more independent and confident
- Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Student On-the-Job Training initiative is available across the state
- Pay for Performance bill passed to incentivize schools for good transition outcomes
- Let's Get to Work activities integrated into a statewide Transition Improvement Grant
- Coaching model adopted by the Department of Education