IACC and Autism Community Updates
October 2023

Funding Opportunities

Promoting Language and Communication in Minimally Verbal/Non-Speaking Individuals with Autism

This National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) **encourages research applications to promote language and communication in autistic individuals who are minimally verbal/non-speaking.**

Focus: evaluate and tailor **existing interventions**, develop **novel interventions**, develop and apply **new research designs and methods** to develop interventions, and **identify meaningful outcome measures**.

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-DC-23-009.html

Funding Opportunities

Research on Autism Spectrum Disorders

These National Institutes of Health Funding (NIH) Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) encourages research grant applications to support research designed to elucidate the **etiology**, **epidemiology**, **diagnosis**, and optimal means of **service delivery** in relation to autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-21-201.html

Understanding and Mitigating Health Disparities Experienced by People with Disabilities Caused by Ableism

This National Institutes of Health (NIH) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) encourages research to understand the **impact of ableism on health outcomes**. Research on the **underlying mechanisms** by which ableism adversely influences the health of persons with disabilities, as well as developing and/or testing **interventions at a community or health systems level** to mitigate adverse health effects of ableism are high priority.

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-24-007.html

Funding Opportunities

Health and Health Care Disparities Among Persons Living with Disabilities

The purpose of this National Institutes of Health (NIH) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to support novel and innovative research that **examines and/or intervenes on the underlying and multilevel causes, pathways, and factors adversely impacting the health and well-being of persons with disabilities at the intersections of race and ethnicity and socioeconomic status.**

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-23-309.html

Social Security Administration (SSA) Disability Research Funding Opportunities

SSA provides funding for **undergraduate** and **graduate** students, **doctoral** and **post-doctoral** fellows, and **recent PhD recipients** to conduct research on **disability** and retirement. All eligible persons are welcome to apply. SSA strongly encourage applications from **women**, **minorities**, **people with disabilities**, and **veterans.**

https://www.ssa.gov/policy/about/research-funding.html

Administration for Community Living (ACL) Disability Research Funding Opportunities

ACL awards grants to states and organizations that **provide services and supports** for older adults and **people with disabilities**, **conduct research**, and develop innovative approaches in doing both. ACL has multiple open funding opportunities relevant to people with autism and other disabilities.

https://acl.gov/grants/open-opportunities

Funding Opportunities

Build UP Trust Challenge

The National Institutes of Health (NIH)'s Build UP Trust Challenge will award as many as **10 finalists up to $45,000 each** and an opportunity to win one of **four $200,000 awards** for promising strategies that **increase research participation** and the adoption of medical care by **building trust and improving engagement with historically underserved communities**.

https://www.builduptrust.org/

Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network (RDCRN)

The RDCNR's mission is to advance medical research on rare diseases by providing support for **clinical studies** and facilitating **collaboration, enrollment and data sharing**. Through the RDCRN consortia, physician scientists and their multidisciplinary teams work together with patient advocacy groups to study nearly **200 rare diseases** at sites across the nation.

Autism-related rare disease categories include: Developmental Synaptopathies, Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, Tuberous Sclerosis Complex

https://www.rarediseasesnetwork.org/funding-opportunities

STEM Access for Persons with Disabilities (STEM-APWD)

The National Science Foundation (NSF) wishes to notify the research community of a new initiative called STEM Access for Persons with Disabilities that seeks to **increase the engagement of persons with disabilities in STEM fields** across seven directorates at NSF. Proposals and supplemental funding requests are sought that address **intersections between disability and fundamental science** and **generalizable research that addresses pathways from theory to application and use** to **support access to and engagement in STEM research, training, and employment activities for persons with disabilities**.

https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2023/nsf23160/nsf23160.jsp

Inviting Comments and Suggestions on Updating the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Mission Statement

This RFI invites input on a proposed revised mission statement.

Proposed revised mission statement: "To seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and to apply that knowledge to optimize health and prevent or reduce illness for all people.

Deadline for Comments: November 24, 2023, 11:59:59 PM ET

https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2023-18989

IACC
INTERAGENCY AUTISM
COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Proposed Rule:

Discrimination on the Basis of Disability in Health and Human Service Programs or Activities

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published a **proposed rule** that would update and amend its **section 504 regulations**, adding new provisions that clarify existing requirements under section 504 **prohibiting recipients of financial assistance from the Department from discriminating on the basis of disability** in their programs and activities.

Deadline for Comments: November 13, 2023

https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2023-19149

Proposed Rule: Adult Protective Services Functions and Grant Programs

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is seeking input on a **proposed rule to establish the first-ever federal regulations for adult protective services (APS) programs**. The proposed rule aims to **improve consistency and quality of APS services across states and support the national network that delivers APS services**, with the ultimate goal of **better meeting the needs of adults who experience or are at risk of maltreatment**.

https://acl.gov/APSrule

Deadline for Comments: November 13, 2023

Proposed Rule: Intermediate Improvement to the Disability Adjudication Process: Including How We Consider Past Work

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is seeking input on a proposal to revise the **time period that is considered when determining whether an individual's past work** is relevant for purposes of making **disability determinations and decisions**. Specifically, the past relevant work period would be **reduced from 15 to 5 years**.

Deadline for Comments: November 28, 2023

https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2023-21557

Upcoming Federal Meetings and Events

Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) Meeting

January 24, 2024

10:00 am to 5:00 pm EDT

Rockville, Maryland

(hybrid event)

https://iacc.hhs.gov/meetings/iacc-meetings/

National Council on Disability (NCD) Meeting

November 16-17, 2023

Providence, Rhode Island

(hybrid event)

https://ncd.gov/events/2023/upcoming-council-meeting

Upcoming Federal Meetings and Events

Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee (ISMICC) Meeting

October 18, 2023

10:00 am to 4:00 pm EDT

Virtual and Open to the Public

https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2023-19449

NIH Workshop: Remote Neuropsychological Assessments in Research: Present and Future Needs

Gaps, needs, and opportunities in remote assessment of cognitive abilities

November 2-3, 2023

Virtual and Open to the Public

https://event.roseliassociates.com/remoteassessments/

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Upcoming Conferences and Conventions

BRAIN Foundation Synchrony Symposium 2023

on translational research in autism

October 20-22, 2023

Asilomar Conference Grounds

Pacific Grove, California

https://brainfoundation.org/
synchrony-symposia/

The Arc's 2023 National Convention

Intellectual and developmental disability (IDD)-related employment, education, advocacy, housing, criminal justice, and more

November 6-8, 2023

New Orleans, Louisiana

https://convention.thearc.org/

First Place Phoenix 2023 Symposium

All Aboard!: On Track to Drive Change

for housing and community living

October 18-20, 2023

Phoenix, Arizona

(hybrid event)

https://www.firstplaceaz.org/leadership-institute/2023-symposium/

OCALICONLINE 2023

Autism and Disabilities Conference

November 14-17, 2023

Virtual

https://conference.ocali.org/

Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) 2023 Conference

Disability research, programming, and advocacy

November 5-8, 2023

Washington, DC

(hybrid)

https://www.aucd.org/conference/index.cfm/2023