OSERS updates “A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities.” For more information, read this week’s Washington Weekly.

Washington Weekly!
by the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
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Administration News

SAMHSA Releases Funding to Combat Opioid Crisis
Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced that it is distributing the first-year funds of its two-year State Opioid Response (SOR) and Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) grant programs. The two programs ultimately will award nearly $3 billion over two years to help States and tribes provide community-level resources for people in need of prevention, treatment and recovery support services. Click here to view SOR and TOR awards - PDF.

DOL Announces the National Disability Employment Awareness Theme
The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has announced the 2020 theme for October’s annual observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), “Increasing Access and Opportunity.” This year is the nation’s 75th observance of NDEAM, which is administered by the Department’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). The observance culminates the Department’s commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For more information about NDEAM, including ideas for how your organization can participate, visit the website. The website also features the 2020 NDEAM poster, highlighting ADA’s 30th anniversary.

Federal Grants

NIDILRR Announces Grant Forecasts Plan
The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) recently announced its plan for releasing grant forecasts and funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) for FY 2021. NIDILRR will publish three competition forecasts in late summer or early fall, with FOAs released in October. NIDILRR aims to publish all other forecasts in December with full FOAs available in January through March. For a view of
NIDILRR’s prior grant opportunities, please see grants.gov and click on ARCHIVED opportunity status.

**Education Issues Notice on FY 2020 Discretionary Grants**
The U.S. Department of Education also has issued a notice on its FY2020 Discretionary grants for an Innovative Rehabilitation Training grant under Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers 84.263D; Client Assistance Program (CAP); 84.263E; Assisting and Supporting Individuals with Disabilities Pursuing Self-Employment, Business Ownership, and Telecommuting; and 84.263F, Field-Initiated Projects in an Area Related to Vocational Rehabilitation. A pre-application meeting was conducted on August 20, 2020. The application deadline is September 3, 2020. The question and answer document along with other relevant material for this competition is available on the NCRTM website.

**Reports and Resources**

**ADA Center Publishes New Report on Digital Access as a Public Accommodation**
The NIDILRR-funded ADA Network Knowledge Translation Center has published a research brief, *Digital Access and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, highlighting the impact of the digital divide for people with disabilities and framing digital accessibility as an issue for businesses, agencies, and organizations considered public entities under Title III of the ADA. The report finds that people with disabilities have less access to and benefit less from technology than people without disabilities. In addition, most websites are not fully accessible, nor do access guidelines fully address access needs. The report also discusses how developers can enhance access and usability throughout the development process and highlights the benefits of creating accessible technology, such as attracting a broader customer base.

**CDC Publishes Articles on Fall Prevention in Journals**
In a new article, published in the *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes the location in which fall injuries that result in emergency department (ED) visits commonly occur among older adults in the United States, and whether these locations differ by sex and age. Understanding sex and age differences related to fall location can be used to develop targeted prevention strategies. Findings include:

- Older women had more fall-related ED visits than older men.
- Almost 80% of older adults’ fall injuries that resulted in ED visits, happened at home.
- More fall injuries occurred indoors (68%), compared to outdoors (32%) among community dwelling older adults.
- 72% of community dwelling women’s fall-related ED visits occurred indoors compared to 62% of men’s fall-related ED visits.

Another recent CDC article, published in the *Journal of Aging and Health*, explores the differences in type and severity of injuries older adults sustain after a fall that required an ED visit. Understanding how fall injuries vary by different characteristics can help identify subsets of older adults at higher risk for severe injuries and inform targeted prevention strategies. Findings include:

- About a third of fall-related ED visits required hospitalizations.
- Hospitalization for fall-related ED visits increased with advancing age and was higher for falls that occurred indoors compared to outdoors.
- Fall-related ED visits were most common among older community-dwelling women (65%).
The most common fall related injury was a fracture or dislocation (35%) and the most common body part injured was the head (26%). Most head injuries (70%) were identified as traumatic brain injuries (TBIs).

**OSERS Updates Transition Guide for Students and Youth With Disabilities**

The U.S. Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) had updated OSERS is the “A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities,” August 2020, to advance efforts in ensuring that all students and youth with disabilities are equipped with the skills and knowledge to achieve their post-school and career goals. In this updated transition guide, OSERS added information about dual enrollment and the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act. It is hoped this transition guide will help students and youth with disabilities and their families to better understand how the State education agencies (SEA), the local education agencies (LEA), and the vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies work together to facilitate improved outcomes for students and youth with disabilities. Click here to download the guide.

Visit our website

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