



***EMPOWERING PROSPERITY:
INTEGRATING FINANCIAL CAPABILITY AND
ASSET BUILDING STRATEGIES IN TO
HUMAN SERVICES***

**March 9, 2016
Washington, DC**

Moderator



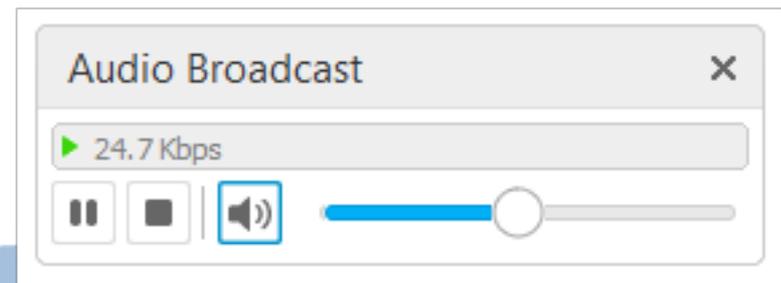
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Impact Network**
National Disability Institute

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National Disability Institute

The mission of National Disability Institute is to drive social impact to build a better economic future for people with disabilities and their families.



NDI's Real Economic Impact Network

- An alliance of organizations & individuals dedicated to advancing the economic empowerment of people with disabilities.
- Consists of more than 4,500 members located throughout the United States.
- Includes non-profits, community tax coalitions, asset development organizations, financial education initiatives, corporations & private-sector businesses, federal/state/local governments & agencies, and individuals & families with disabilities.
- All partners join forces to embrace, promote & pursue access to & inclusion of people with disabilities in the economic mainstream.

Learn more about the REI Network at

www.realeconomicimpact.org/REI-Network.aspx

Today's Presenters



Dr. Janet Boguslaw, Associate Director and Research Scientist at the Institute on Assets and Social Policy, Brandeis University



Dr. Marji Erickson Warfield, Senior Scientist and Lecturer, and Director, Nathan and Toby Starr Center on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Brandeis University



REI Network Webinar: EMPOWERING PROSPERITY

Integrating Asset Building within Human Services

Webinar

March 9, 2016

Funded by

The Kresge Foundation

How and Where Does Asset Building fit into Human Services?

Employment

Health

Housing

Sexual assault and domestic violence

Incarceration

Senior and Youth Poverty

Racial and ethnic wealth gaps

Disabilities

Moving To Opportunity

ASSET BUILDING IS A STRATEGY THAT ENABLES GREATER ACCESS TO ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITIES, PARTICULARLY FOR LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Personal Assets include:

- Financial Resources
- Homes
- Cash Savings
- Vehicles
- Retirement Accounts
- Health Insurance
- Business Ownership
- Access to Credit
- Stocks and Bonds
- Personal Resources
- Education
- Good Health
- Opportunity Structures

Assets enable people to:

- Achieve Resiliency
- Build Social Networks
- Attain Housing Security
- Plan for Their Future
- Improve Children's Development
- Pursue Higher Education
- Retire Securely
- Weather Financial Disruptions
- Take Career Risks
- Live in Good Health
- Leverage Opportunity
- Live Safely
- Pass on Security to the Next Generation

Human Services in Asset Building

Growing asset building networks

Creating service continuums

Championing systemic change

Striving for an inclusive economy

Employment Rate Estimates by Data Source and Population

9.

	2010 Current Population Survey	Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012	2011 American Community Survey
Adults with Disabilities	16.2%	28.4%	32.4%
Adults without Disabilities	75.5%	71.0%	70.5%

Comparison of Systems Designed to Support Employment for Individuals with Disabilities

2

	Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)	Developmental Disabilities Service System	Education
Definition of Disability	In the context of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, the term “disabled individual” means “any person who (1) has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person’s major life activities; (2) has a record of such impairment; or (3) is regarded as having such an impairment.”	State-specific (MA): Adults who are eligible for services from MA DDS have “significantly subaverage intellectual functioning existing concurrently and related to significant limitations in adaptive functioning.	Child with a disability means a child evaluated as having intellectual disability, a hearing impairment (including deafness), a serious emotional disturbance, an orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, an other health impairment, a specific learning disability, deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities, and who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.

Families of Individuals with Disabilities

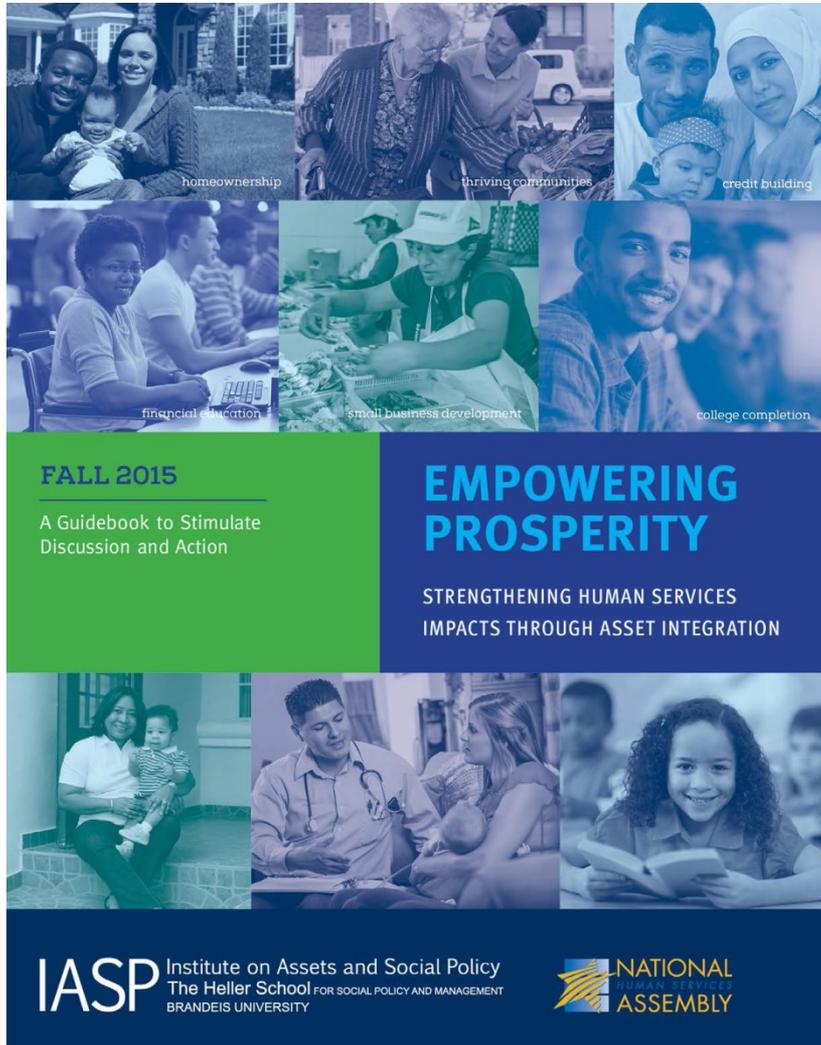
- Employees who live with a child with disabilities are **48% more likely to have lost wages.**
- **Out-of-pocket expenditures**, particularly those for medical costs, for example, are higher among families with children with a special health care need.
- Having a child with disability increases the likelihood of mothers (less often fathers) of **reducing work hours or stop working all together.**
- Households with an adult with disabilities had **substantially reduced net worth** and income compared to households without adults with disabilities, regardless of family structure.

Asset building strategies for individuals with disabilities:

Two Approaches

1. **Disability-related service providers** should be mindful of ways their clients and families can utilize existing mechanisms to build wealth.
2. **Service providers in other service systems** that intersect with the disability community, such as community health centers, schools, and homeless shelters should also be thinking beyond their immediate health, education, and housing concerns toward asset development for the individuals and families they serve.

Empowering Prosperity Guidebook



- Primer on asset building in human services
 - Explore asset development approaches
 - Learn about innovations in human services field
 - Identify asset integration strategies: Partnerships, planning, & funding
- Download the guide here: iasp.brandeis.com/resources

Guidebook Structure

PART 1: ASSET INTEGRATION

- › Integrating Asset Building Into Human Service Agencies, Systems and Structures
 - › Financial Opportunity Centers
 - › Community Health Centers
 - › Community Action Agencies
 - › Housing Agencies
 - › Workforce Development Centers
-

PART 2: ASSET IMPACTS FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS

- › Identifying the Asset Needs of Different Populations Throughout the Life Course
 - › Early Childhood Education
 - › Disability Services
 - › Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services
 - › Senior Services
 - › Financial Services for Immigrants
-

PART 3: CREATING ASSET-BUILDING NETWORKS

- › Integrating Asset Building into Human Service Practice Networks
 - › Stakeholders in Asset Building
 - › Examples of Successful Partnerships
 - › Ways to Take Action
-

APPENDIX-FUNDING SOURCES

Browse the
whole
[guidebook](#)

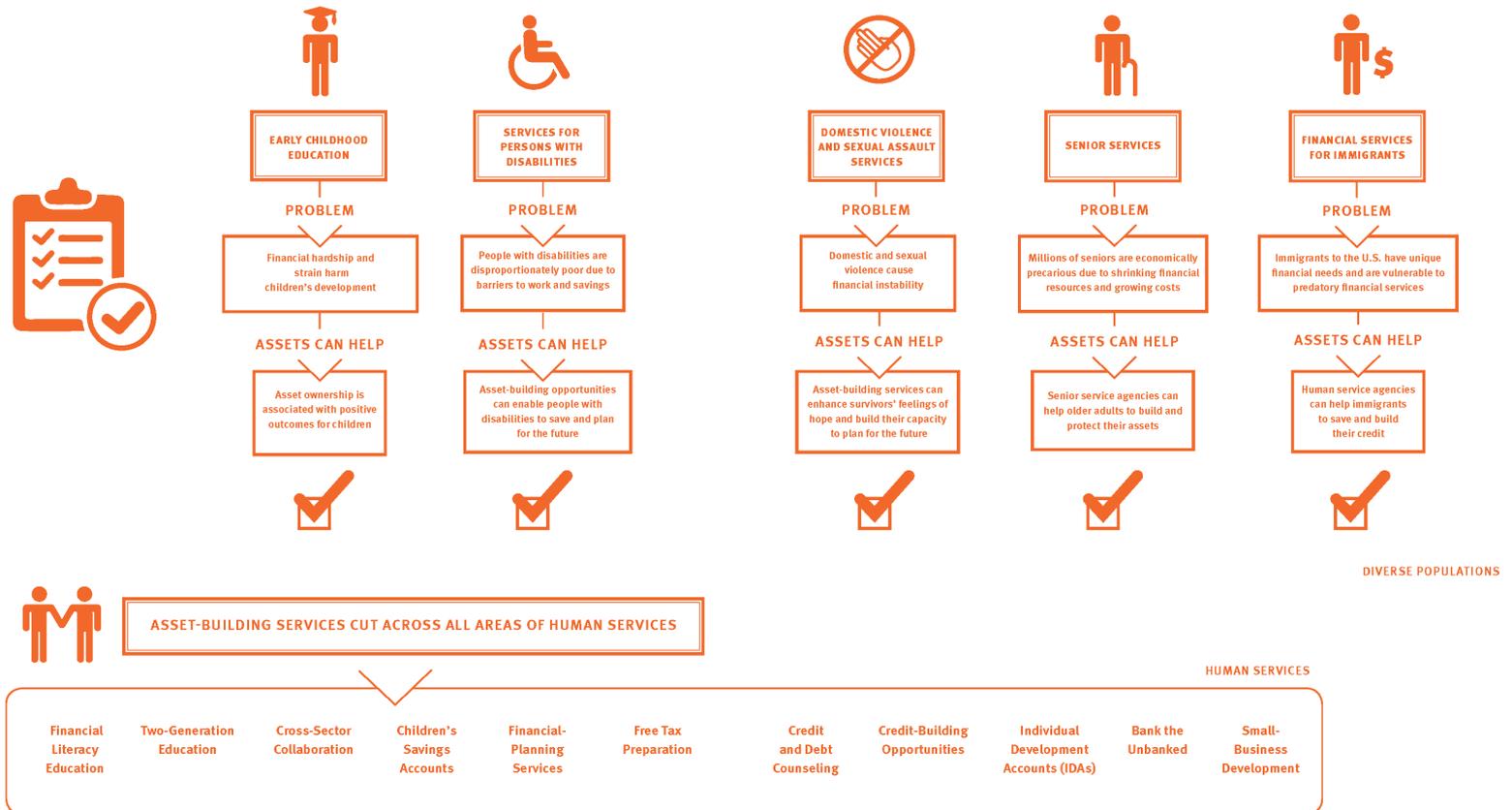
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you

Browse by Chapter

PART 2: ASSET IMPACTS FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS

What are the asset-building needs of diverse populations across the life course?



Navigating the Guidebook

PART 1: ASSET INTEGRATION

- › Integrating Asset Building Into Human Service Agencies, Systems and Structures
 - › Financial Opportunity Centers
 - › Community Health Centers
 - › Community Action Agencies
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APPENDIX-FUNDING SOURCES

Select Individual Sections



ASSET DEVELOPMENT BUILDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



KEY FACTS

- › In the U.S., 37.6 million individuals have disabilities, or 12.1% of the population.⁶⁹
- › 34% of working-age persons with disabilities are employed, compared to 76.3% of those without disabilities.⁶⁹
- › Nearly one in three Americans with disabilities lives in poverty, more than twice the poverty rate for nondisabled persons.⁷⁵
- › 59% of people with disabilities are asset-poor.⁶⁶

THE ROLE OF ASSETS

- › **Maximize Take-Home Income** Take-home income can be maximized through tax credits and deductions that reduce tax liability and generate income for some lower-income filers.
- › **Build Savings** By building savings through individual development accounts (IDAs), individuals can save for specific goals, including adaptive technology, without losing Medicaid eligibility.
- › **Plan for the Future** By offering financial-planning services, a human services agency can help families anticipate difficult financial situations such as a child aging out of care; understand their options; and create a strategy for long-term financial well-being.



IDEAS FOR HUMAN SERVICES

- › Disability service providers can raise awareness about existing asset-building policies and services by talking with consumers about the programs in their communities.
- › Human service providers can facilitate access to existing asset-building policies and services, such as free tax preparation.
- › Disability service providers can partner with asset-development organizations to offer programs tailored to the unique needs of consumers, such as IDA programs that allow individuals to purchase adaptive technology to facilitate employment.

SUCCESS STORY

Learn more about Laura, who wanted to own a home and used asset-development tools to make her dream a reality (page 44).

Asset-Building Strategies for Persons with Disabilities

- **Individual Development Accounts:**
Matched savings accounts for particular goals: education, home ownership, small business, & adaptive technology
 - **IN ACTION:** Community Vision of Portland, OR (p. 47)
- **Financial Planning:**
Planning for ongoing medical expenses; saving for retirement while planning for the long-term care of a loved one
 - **IN ACTION:** Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights (PACER) Center of Bloomington, MN (p. 49)

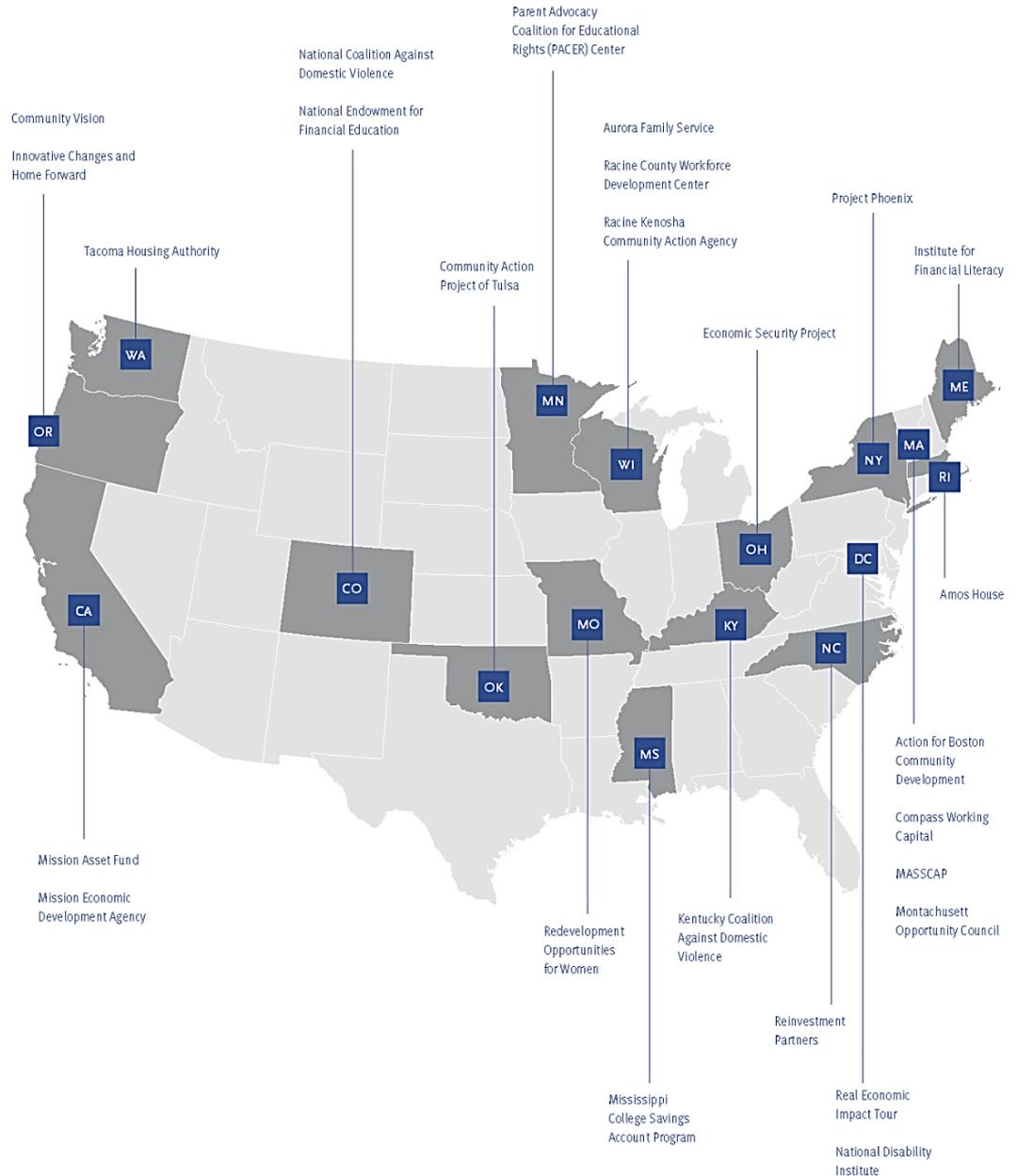
Asset-Building Strategies for Persons with Disabilities

- **Community Collaborations:**

Interagency cooperation to raise awareness of disability-specific issues among asset-focused agencies and educate all service providers about asset-building opportunities

- **IN ACTION:** NDI's Real Economic Impact, nationwide (p. 51)

Innovative asset building practices from 25 human services providers across the U.S.



Lessons from the Guidebook

- **Work across sectors** to envision and build a *prosperity grid* – a network of institutions that make prosperity possible for all families & communities
- **Break down siloes** to comprehensively address barriers & move toward long-term solutions.
- Asset building strategies allow agencies to **address structural barriers** shaped by race, ethnicity, disability status, etc.
- Integrating asset work is complex and highly individualized. **Let us know if we can help.**

Certified Employment Support Professionals: WIOA requirements and ABLE Accounts

- a. Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA) provides additional funds supporting the transition from school to employment.
- b. Employment professionals can support youth with disabilities in setting up an ABLE account in order to build savings while maintaining their eligibility for other means tested programs such as SSI

Community Health Centers – Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts

- a. Patient navigators at Community Health Centers help youth with disabilities transition from pediatric to adult care.
- b. In this process they can also inform parents of the need to establish guardianship and look into special needs trusts to protect assets and maintain eligibility for SSI or Medicaid

Homeless Shelters/Low Income Housing: Connections to Early Childhood Services

- a. Children growing up in poverty have higher rates of developmental delays.
- b. Providers of shelters or low income housing can support families of young children by connecting them to early intervention services, Early Head Start and Head Start. Not only will children get appropriate developmental services, these providers can connect families to tax assistance services.

- Today's speakers

- Janet Boguslaw, Brandeis University

- boguslaw@brandeis.edu

- Marji Erickson Warfield, Brandeis University

- mew@brandeis.edu

- Download the guidebook [here](#):

- <http://iasp.brandeis.edu/resources/empowering%20.html>

- For Guidebook information: iasp@brandeis.edu

QUESTIONS?



Join the Movement!

NDI's Real Economic Impact Network

Sign-up at bit.ly/NDI-sign-me-up

If you have questions on strategies to build the financial wellness of persons with disabilities, you can send your question to ask@ndi-inc.org.

Wrap-Up & Thank You

Join us for our next webinar:

Wednesday, March 22, 2016 at 2 pm ET

**NEW COLLABORATION TO PROMOTE SAVINGS
OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES**

Presenters: NDI and America Saves

More information about this webinar will be sent out to the REI Network list via email in the coming weeks.

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