

Thank you for joining us.

- The Listening Sessions will begin shortly.
- They are being recorded and will be archived on National Disability Institute's (NDI) website.
- Slides are available at <https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/coronavirus-listening-sessions/>
- A transcript will be ready a few days after the webinar.
- The recordings will be posted about a week after the webinar.

Listening Sessions: Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the Disability Community

Michael Morris

Senior Strategic Advisor

National Disability Institute

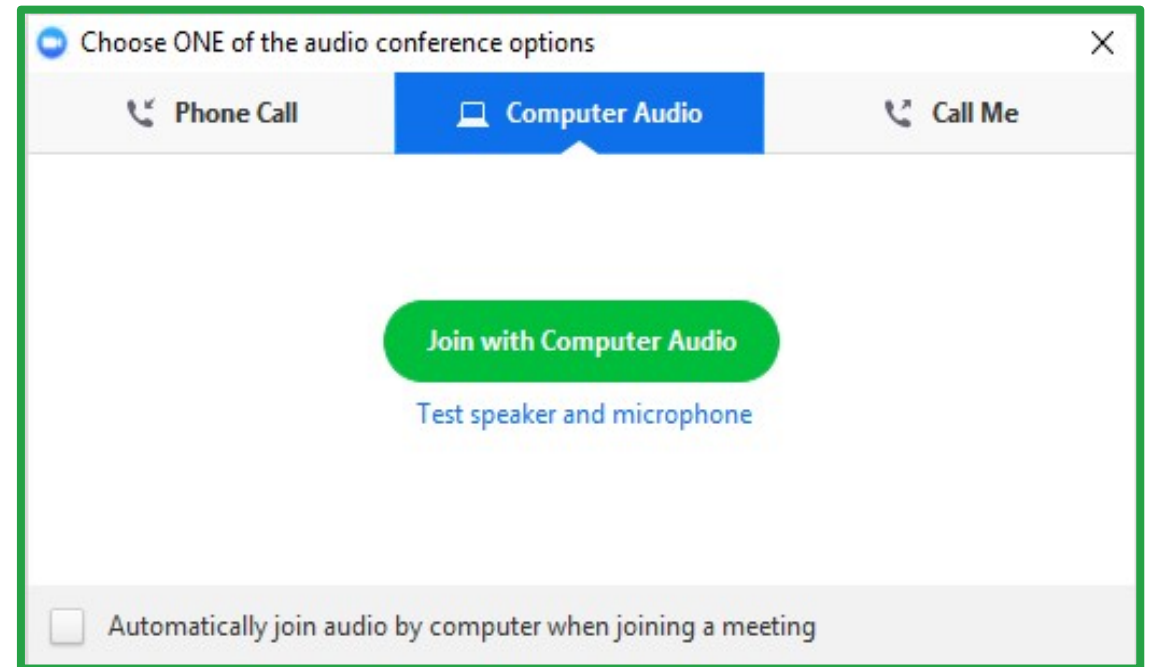
March 24th and 25th, 2020 3pm ET

Listening to the Webinar

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- Please use the chat box to submit any comments you have during the webinar and we will direct them accordingly.
- There will be a survey sent out at the end of the Listening Sessions for you to share additional comments.

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- Please note: This webinar is being recorded and the materials will be placed on the National Disability Institute website at: <https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/resources/webinars>

Agenda

- Setting the Stage
 - Seek to Understand the Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic on People with Disabilities, Their Families and Service Provider Agencies
- Staff from the Office of U.S. Senator Bob Casey
 - Legislation to Help People with Disabilities
- Hear from Disability Organizations and Disability Community - 5 minutes each
- Important Resources
- Take the Survey and Next Steps
- Closing Remarks

Setting the Stage

- Seek to Understand the Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic on People with Disabilities, Their Families and Service Provider Agencies

Staff from the Office of U.S. Senator Bob Casey

Tuesday, March 24th

Michael Gamel-McCormick
Disability Policy Director
Special Committee on Aging
Senator Bob Casey, Ranking Member

Wednesday, March 25th

Thomas Eagen
Health and Aging Fellow

<https://www.aging.senate.gov/>

<https://www.casey.senate.gov/>



Legislation to Help People with Disabilities

- [BILL S.3564](#) — 116th Congress (2019-2020) A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to **provide medical assistance for COVID-19 treatment services for individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19**, and for other purposes.
 - **Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr.** [D-PA] (Introduced 03/22/2020) Cosponsors: (1)
- [BILL S.3517](#) — 116th Congress (2019-2020) A bill to **increase the ability of nursing facilities to access to telehealth services** and obtain technologies to allow virtual visits during the public health emergency relating to an outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and for other purposes.
 - **Sponsor: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy** [D-MN] (Introduced 03/18/2020) Cosponsors: (1)
- [BILL S.3544](#) — 116th Congress (2019-2020) A bill to **assist older Americans and people with disabilities affected by COVID-19**.
 - **Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr.** [D-PA] (Introduced 03/19/2020) Cosponsors: (23)
- [BILL S.3497](#) — 116th Congress (2019-2020) A bill to **provide unemployment assistance to individuals affected by COVID-19**, and for other purposes.
 - **Sponsor: Sen. Peters, Gary C.** [D-MI] (Introduced 03/12/2020) Cosponsors: (25)
- [BILL S.3499](#) — 116th Congress (2019-2020) A bill to **amend coverage requirements to ensure that no person incurs cost-sharing when receiving a test to confirm a COVID-19 infection**.
 - **Sponsor: Sen. Smith, Tina** [D-MN] (Introduced 03/12/2020) Cosponsors: (42)

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

<https://rsa.ed.gov/>

Mark Schultz
RSA Commissioner



Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
U.S. Department of Education

Administration for Community Living (ACL)

<https://acl.gov/>

Julie Hocker

Commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities



Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)

U.S. Department of Labor

<https://www.dol.gov/odep/>

Jennifer Sheehy

Deputy Assistant Secretary



ODEP

Office of Disability
Employment Policy

Partnering Organizations

- [Access Living](#)
- [American Association of People with Disabilities \(AAPD\)](#)
- [American Network of Community Options and Resources \(ANCOR\)](#)
- [Assistive Technology Act Programs \(ATAP\)](#)
- [Association of People Supporting Employment First \(APSE\)](#)
- [Association of University Centers on Disabilities \(AUCD\)](#)
- [Autism Society of America](#)
- [Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law](#)
- [Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination \(CPSD\)](#)
- [Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation \(CSAVR\)](#)

Partnering Organizations, cont.

- [National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities \(NACDD\)](#)
- [National Council on Independent Living \(NCIL\)](#)
- [National Disability Rights Network \(NDRN\)](#)
- [National Down Syndrome Congress \(NDSC\)](#)
- [National Organization on Disability \(NOD\)](#)
- [Paralyzed Veterans of America \(PVA\)](#)
- [United Spinal Association](#)
- [World Institute on Disability \(WID\)](#)

Access Living

<https://www.accessliving.org/>

Tuesday

Karen Tamley
President and CEO



American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)

<https://www.aapd.com/>

Maria Town
President and CEO



American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

<https://www.ancor.org/>

Tuesday

Sean Luechtefeld
Communications Director



Wednesday

Donna Martin
Director of State Partnerships & Special Projects

Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP)

<https://www.atapong.org/>

Audrey Busch
Executive Director



Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)

<https://apse.org/>

Julie Christensen
Director of Policy & Advocacy



Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

<https://www.aucd.org/>

Denise M. Rozell
Director of Policy Innovation



Autism Society of America

<https://www.autism-society.org/>

Tuesday

Chris Banks

President and CEO



Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

<http://www.bazelon.org/>

Wednesday

Jennifer Mathis

Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy



Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD)

<https://thecpsd.org/>

Alison Barkoff
Policy Advisor



Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) <https://www.csavr.org/>

Tuesday

Steve Wooderson
CEO

Wednesday

Rita Martin
Deputy Director



National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) <https://www.nacdd.org/>

Tuesday

Donna Meltzer
CEO

Emily Kranking
Communications Intern

Wednesday

Robin Troutman
Deputy Director



NACDD
National Association of Councils
on Developmental Disabilities

National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)

<https://ncil.org/>



National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

<https://www.ndrn.org/>

Cheryl Bates-Harris
Senior Disability Advocacy Specialist



National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC)

<https://www.ndsccenter.org/>

David Tolleson
Executive Director

Heather Sachs
Policy & Advocacy Director



National Organization on Disability (NOD)

<https://www.nod.org/>

Carol Glazer

President

Tuesday

Charles-Edouard Catherine
Special Assistant to the President

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON
DISABILITY

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

<https://pva.org/>

Wednesday

Heather Ansley

Associate Executive Director for Government Relations



United Spinal Association

<https://unitedspinal.org/>

Tuesday

Jenn Wolff

Chapter Advocacy Representative
Iowa Chapter

Wednesday

Steve Lieberman

Director, Policy & Advocacy

Kent Keyser

Public Policy Fellow



***United Spinal
Association***

World Institute on Disability (WID)

<http://wid.org/>

Marcie Roth
Executive Director and CEO



Takeaways from First Listening Session (Slide 1 of 5)

1. Access to community-based services is threatened:

- Loss of personal assistance services will lead to re-institutionalization as individuals with disabilities are no longer able to remain living independently in their homes and community.
- Family caregivers who are caring for family members with disabilities are becoming overwhelmed by 24-hour a day support with no access to a backup system of direct care workers. They are also worried about what happens if they become sick and immobilized by Coronavirus and no one to support their sons and daughters with disabilities.

Takeaways from First Listening Session (Slide 2 of 5)

2. Loss of job and income puts people at risk:

- People with disabilities have been furloughed from jobs as have many direct care workers.
- Loss of job coaches and other supports that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities depend on for community integrated employment. Service providers are closing due to the Coronavirus crisis and are struggling to remain financially viable so they can reopen later.
- Loss of income to individuals with disabilities and family members who have been furloughed or terminated puts people at risk for meeting basic needs (food, paying rent). Unclear how an emergency payment of \$1,000 would impact means-tested public benefits eligibility.

Takeaways from First Listening Session (Slide 3 of 5)

3. Loss of access to existing healthcare services and fear of priority setting for testing, medical equipment and treatment that consider people with disabilities less valued.
4. Students are at risk of not being able to access IDEA services. Students with disabilities should not be discriminated against in the move to distance learning.
5. Must closely monitor policy developments and practices at state and community level against changes in access to healthcare and other services. Civil rights laws protecting against discrimination cannot be waived in emergency situations.

Takeaways from First Listening Session (Slide 4 of 5)

6. Federal agencies (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA) and Office for Special Education (OSEP)) should offer flexibility in their rules and regulations and increase funding for needed supports and services to help states and nonprofit providers meet needs across environments (home, classroom, workplace, community).
7. Disability community (people and providers) must work closely with healthcare systems, emergency responders and public agencies to be more vigilant and not ignore the urgent needs of people across the spectrum of disabilities and families most adversely impacted by the Coronavirus crisis. Collaboration must be in planning and implementation of emergency response. Contingency plans must be in place at an individual, family, organization, public agency and community level as this crisis worsens and should include consideration of future emergency situations.

Takeaways from First Listening Session (Slide 5 of 5)


8. The power of unity of purpose is evident. The diverse disability community is unified by a common purpose to be heard and a public response must be developed to meet the emergency needs of people with disabilities and families, as well as service provider organizations. Their collective voice is already focused on educating decision makers at all levels of government that these needs not be omitted from emergency funding packages.

Important Resources

- Families First Coronavirus Response Act - Congressional Summary
<https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Families%20First%20summary.pdf>
- Independent Sector's Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Summary for Nonprofits <https://independentsector.org/resource/families-first-coronavirus-response-act-summary-for-nonprofits/>
- CMS Publishes First Set of COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for State Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Agencies
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-publishes-first-set-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions-faqs-state-medicaid-and-childrens-health>


Important Resources, cont'd.

- Southeast ADA Resource Page
<http://www.adasoutheast.org/coronavirus/>
- US DOL Coronavirus Resources
<https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus>
- National Disability Institute Document:
Promoting Financial Health and Resiliency for People with Disabilities and Their Families During the COVID-19 Pandemic:
<https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/financial-resiliency-tips.pdf>



Promoting Financial Health and Resiliency for People with Disabilities and Their Families During the COVID-19 Pandemic


The novel coronavirus, or COVID-19 pandemic, has created uncertainty for Americans' physical, mental and financial health. During this time, we must be vigilant in promoting healthy habits and resiliency. The Center for Disability-Inclusive Community Development (CDICD), managed by National Disability Institute (NDI), has developed five strategies and resources to assist you in taking steps to maintain your financial health.



Assess Your Financial Health

Assessing your financial situation and creating a plan for your financial health is an important part of preparing for and managing through a crisis.


- Create or update a spending plan: catalog.fdic.gov/system/files/4_PG.pdf. Developing a spending plan assists in understanding your financial situation.
- Look closely at your expenses. Identify any items that can be eliminated during this crisis.
- Plan ahead and put together a weekly menu and food shopping list: nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/menu-planning-and-shopping-list-2020.pdf.
- Look at your bills and prioritize which to pay. Call about bills that cannot be prioritized and ask what your options are during this crisis: consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/protect-yourself-financially-from-impact-of-coronavirus/.



Find Community Resources

Municipalities and community-based organizations are working to meet the needs of the disability community during this time.

- 2-1-1 assists individuals who are looking for resources within their community: 211.org.
- Feeding America is the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization. Locate a food bank in your area: feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank.
- The Disaster Distress Helpline is available 24 hours a day offering free support to people experiencing emotional distress: samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline.
- The Administration on Community Living (ACL) has guidance for people with disabilities and caregivers, which includes connections to state and local resources at: acl.gov/COVID-19.

 Questions? Send an email to ask@ndi-inc.org.

APSE Alert

- REAADI for Disasters Act (HR. 3208 & S. 1755)
- Disaster Relief Medicaid Act (HR. 3215 & S. 1754)
- <https://apse.org/action-alerts-2-2/>

FRB, FDIC, OCC Issue Joint Statement on CRA Consideration for Activities in Response to COVID-19

Encourages financial institutions to meet the financial services needs of their customers and members

Working with Customers. Pursuant to the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), the agencies will favorably consider retail banking services and retail lending activities in a financial institution's assessment areas that are responsive to the needs of low- and moderate-income individuals, small businesses, and small farms affected by COVID-19 and that are consistent with safe and sound banking practices. These activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Waiving certain fees, such as:
 - Automated teller machine (ATM) fees for customers and non-customers,
 - Overdraft fees,
 - Late payment fees on credit cards and other loans, and
 - Early withdrawal penalties on time deposits;
- Easing restrictions on cashing out-of-state and non-customer checks;
- Expanding the availability of other short-term, unsecured credit products for creditworthy borrowers;
- Increasing credit card limits for creditworthy borrowers;
- Providing alternative service options to customers in light of limited ability to access branches; and
- Offering payment accommodations, such as allowing borrowers to defer or skip payments or extending the payment due date, which would avoid delinquencies and negative credit bureau reporting, caused by COVID-19-related issues.

FRB, FDIC, OCC Issue Joint Statement on CRA Consideration for Activities in Response to COVID-19, cont.

Community Development Activities: In light of the declaration of a national emergency, this statement clarifies that financial institutions will receive CRA consideration for community development activities.

Qualifying activities include those that help to revitalize or stabilize low- or moderate-income geographies as well as distressed or underserved non metropolitan middle-income geographies, and that support community services targeted to low- or moderate-income individuals. Such activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Loans, investments or services that support digital access for low- and moderate-income individuals or communities;
- Loans, investments or services that support access to health care, particularly for low- and moderate-income individuals or communities;
- Economic development activities that sustain small business operations, particularly in low- and moderate-income communities; and
- Investment or service activities that support provision of food supplies and services for low- and moderate-income individuals or communities.

<https://www.fdic.gov/news/news/financial/2020/fil20019a.pdf>

Next Steps

- **Take the Survey.**
https://ndiinc.formstack.com/forms/financial_resiliency_during_corona_virus
- Please **share the survey** with your members.
https://ndiinc.formstack.com/forms/financial_resiliency_during_corona_virus
- **Talk with members of Congress** to make sure that people with disabilities and their families and service provider agencies are not left out of emergency economic stimulus legislation and appropriations.

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Closing Remarks

Michael Morris
Senior Strategic Advisor
National Disability Institute

Thank You for Joining Us on the
Listening Sessions:
Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic
on the Disability Community