



## Center for Disability-Inclusive Community Development Status Report 2020

May 1, 2020

As we begin a second year for the Center for Disability-Inclusive Community Development (CDICD), we want to thank our Advisors, who are leaders in the financial and disability communities, our funders JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America, and all of those who have presented on our webinars, been guests on our new podcast series and visitors to our publications and materials that can be viewed on the [CDICD website](#).

Most of all, we want to thank Janet Hamer, former staff member with the Atlanta Federal Reserve, and Tom Stokes, former FDIC Community Affairs Director for the Southeast region, for providing their insights and leadership as we build the body of evidence for greater attention of regulated financial institutions to meet their Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) responsibilities through investment, lending and service activities targeted to respond to the financial needs of low- and moderate-income (LMI) people with disabilities.

These are unprecedented times of health and financial challenges for all of us. The COVID-19 pandemic has upended the American economy and brought into focus the financial disparities of LMI populations, including people with disabilities who are not only the most vulnerable from a health perspective, but also least able to survive the financial shock of lost employment tethered to health insurance coverage. More in focus than ever before is the lack of savings for all families who do not have reserve funds to weather this enduring financial shock.

As a result of current economic conditions, the work of the CDICD is more relevant and needed today than ever before. In the next year, the Center's work will remain focused on improving the financial health and well-being of LMI individuals with disabilities and their families by increasing awareness and usage of the opportunities and resources available under the CRA.

Vibrant communities are best supported when economic opportunities are inclusive of LMI populations, including people with disabilities. With the challenges of COVID-19, the Center will focus on the importance of inclusive community development activities, how the financial, community development and disability communities can work more closely together to respond to current financial and economic challenges and bring increased attention to positive examples of CRA investment, lending and service that

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support financial resilience for LMI people with disabilities and their families. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, the Center will present the webinar, *A Conversation with Financial Regulators on Community Development During COVID-19*.

In June, the Center will launch a seven-part podcast series on *The Keys to Financial Inclusion*, which features 30-minute interviews with leading voices in the disability and financial communities sharing their insights on what inclusive community development means and how to respond to the needs of LMI populations, including people with disabilities.

In July, the Center will open nominations for financial institutions and partnering organizations to share their examples of promising CRA activities that target and support LMI individuals with disabilities in housing, small business and workforce development, access to broadband and technology, expansion of financial education and counseling and access to affordable and relevant financial products and services.

In October, the Center will present the first set of Inclusive Community Development awards through a series of webinars that showcase the identified positive examples.

The Center was planning the first set of regional conferences to bring the financial and disability communities together to build the case for collaboration and highlight opportunities for inclusive community development. With an unknown timetable for continued social distancing, the Center will explore later, in the Fall, the piloting of a virtual regional conference.

The Center is closely monitoring the further development of any regulatory changes to support the CRA. The Center submitted comments on the proposed rules and will continue to meet with federal regulators to find ways within and outside the regulatory arena to help educate financial institutions about CRA effective practices to meet the needs of LMI people with disabilities in their locations nationwide.

We welcome opportunities to collaborate with the financial community with training, technical assistance and research activities.

To learn more and inquire about collaboration opportunities, contact Michael Roush, Director, Center for Disability-Inclusive Community Development, at [mroush@ndi-inc.org](mailto:mroush@ndi-inc.org).

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