NDI BOARD REPORT

## Interim Report--Highlights from NDI Project Activities

(April 2022)

*"Far and away the best prize that life has to offer*

*Is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”*

*-- Theodore Roosevelt*

### Project Highlights

#### Notable Accomplishments and Updates

* **ABLE NRC** created an [ABLE BIPOC Outreach Toolkit](https://www.ablenrc.org/bipoc-outreach-toolkit/) intended for agencies, organizations, and community groups to build awareness on ABLE accounts. It was [designed in partnership with our ABLE NRC BIPOC Ambassadors](https://www.ablenrc.org/bipoc-outreach-toolkit/#note) to showcase and provide guidance on how 529(A) ABLE savings and investment accounts can benefit eligible members of minority populations while helping them maintain eligibility for critical public benefits.
* **ADEN** continues to maintain receipt of payments, participant and member count. At the end of December, year to date net gain for NDI is $263,626.80 with a 936 participant count and 64-member count with a placement rate of 65 percent (up 3% from the last month). The following represents some highlights from ADEN’s 2021 annual report: a) 459 beneficiaries choose ADEN for employment services and benefits advisement. b) 936 beneficiaries received ADEN services. c) 3.1 months – the average time from when a beneficiary begins services with ADEN to when they start a job. and d) 81% of the 64 ADEN service providers have received outcome-based payments for successful employment outcomes defined by SSA.
* **CDICD** [announced](https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/press/center-for-disability-inclusive-community-development-announces-second-annual-inclusive-community-development-award-winners/) the three winners and their partners of its Second Annual Inclusive Community Development Awards: True Link Financial and Sunrise Banks; Life Asset, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI); and Goodwill Industries of East Texas and Prosperity Bank. The purpose of the awards is to raise the visibility of financial institutions’ and community-based organizations’ activities that are promising and exemplary in support of LMI individuals with disabilities to improve their financial stability and health and be more active participants in adding value to our nation’s economy.
* **Financial Resilience Center** shared information about the Federal Student Loan payments for 2022. The COVID-19 emergency relief for federal student loans ends on May 1, 2022. This [page on the FRC site](https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/financial-resilience-center/current-updates/) will help users prepare to make student loan payments and explain how they can discharge their student loans, if eligible. NDI will partner with Experian on reciprocal content initiatives published on both the FRC and on Experian.com. Through this content, both entities will build more awareness, provide helpful educational content, and provide links to resources that are especially relevant for people with disabilities.
* **LEAD Center** has created a new brief, [Increasing Access and Equity Within the Workforce Development System](https://leadcenter.org/resources/increasing-access-and-equity-within-the-workforce-development-system/), which highlights promising employment practices, strategies, and resources for workforce staff and their partners to support people with disabilities from all communities, including those from historically marginalized communities. The last page shares curated disability employment practices from the field. They represent strategies that local and state workforce systems can use to better serve people with disabilities.
* **Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC).** NDI was awarded an 18-month contract (with the option of four years) to support training on the Integrated Resource Team (IRT) approach for staff and partners of the MRC Vocational Rehabilitation division. The scope of work will also include the development of tools and resources to be used in the field, in partnership with job-seekers. This work builds from training and TA activities that NDI put into place as part of the WINTAC. The contract is in the process of being finalized with project activities getting underway in February.
* **Monetization efforts – new eLearning modules**. NDI submitted four new eLearning modules to the YesLMS platform that build upon the work of the employment team and past involvement in national training and TA centers. These trainings focus on disability employment and include: Introduction to Integrated Resource Teams, Creating Career-Pathways Focused Plans, Think Apprenticeship and WIOA Vision. All four courses have been approved to receive CRC credits and will be posted on a part of the YesLMS platform that specifically supports VR counselors. NDI is finalizing fee and payment schedules.
* **NDI Public Policy**. The NDI public policy team led by Michael and Tom continues to meet monthly to review status on relevant legislation pending and regulations open for public comment. Beginning January 1st for three months, Darnell Rice began a part time public policy fellowship with NDI as part of NDI and Alpha Phi Alpha (APA) collaboration. Darnell is an APA member and an individual with a disability.
* **Racial Equity Regional Roundtables.** NDI held the second of its three regional roundtables focused on the financial stability challenges at the intersection of race, ethnicity, poverty and disability on January 25, 27 and Feb 1 in Detroit. The Detroit roundtable was comprised of three parts. Part 1 (January 25) framed the issues and focused on why having this conversation is so important, the key role each organization at the table plays to identify and address key barriers that systematically create greater financial insecurity for communities of color with a disability. Part 2 took place on January 27 and focused on focused on sharing more information on key anti-poverty strategies, systemic barriers faced by communities of color and individuals with a disability that limit access to these strategies and possible opportunities to address these barriers. Part 3, moving to shared action, and took place on February 1. Approximately **28 partners participated in the three-part series event.** The final roundtable, Pittsburg, will take place on Feb 23 and 24. One of the themes emerging from the Roundtable in Houston and Detroit is the need for community-partners to increase awareness of the services each organization provides, share resources and find ways to provide more integrated, holistic services as opposed to working in silos in serving low-income communities of color with a disability.
* **Registered Apprenticeship Center of Excellence.** NDI, through NDI Consulting, completed a draft report on the State Unified/Combined Plan review, which includes recommendations on how to measure an increase in leadership roles assumed by state workforce systems in increasing registered apprenticeship program activity, using the current review of 2020 plans as a baseline and comparing with a similar review of the 2024 state plans for comparison and determination of growth. Continuing discussion of the suggested measures will also inform identification of promising practices to share and promote with regard to strategic leadership and alignment, as well as guidance policy development and technical assistance activity.
* **Small Business Development – Community Navigator Pilot Program**. NDI project staff have held individual meetings with 18 collaborating agencies and organizations and monthly group meetings to begin to build out a comprehensive and coordinated ecosystem to support entrepreneurs and small business owners with disabilities in DC, Maryland and VA. In addition, development of a [microsite](https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/cnpp/) within the NDI website is underway. In addition to highlight pilot activities and collaborating organizations, it offers information and resources for entrepreneurs and small business owners in the greater DC area. It includes a hub and spokes model. As the HUB, NDI will be the center of network of "spokes" deployed in a coordinated and comprehensive system of services and financial assistance to support entrepreneurs and small business owners with disabilities.