

# Interagency Committee on Disability Research

Government-Wide Strategic Plan  
Fiscal Years 2018-2021



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# Introduction

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The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (Public Law 113-128) included a requirement for the ICDR to develop a comprehensive government-wide strategic plan for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research. The plan must include:

- A description of measurable goals and objectives, existing resources each agency will devote to carrying out the plan, timetables for completing the projects outlined in the plan (Appendix A), assignment of responsible offices or sections and agencies for carrying out the research activities, and research priorities and recommendations;
- A description of how funds from each agency will be combined, as appropriate and per appropriation language, for projects administered among Federal agencies, and how such funds will be administered;
- The development and ongoing maintenance of a searchable government-wide inventory (GWI) of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research for trend and data analysis across Federal agencies. This may be accomplished via use of ongoing Federal investments in existing repository systems;
- Guiding principles, policies, and procedures, consistent with the best research practices available, for conducting and administering disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research across Federal agencies; and
- Pending the completion of the GWI, the ICDR will complete a summary of research investments across areas (or domains) and identify underemphasized and unwarranted duplicative areas of research.

Coordinated by the ICDR, this government-wide strategic plan is guided by the principles for success developed through consensus by the ICDR. It is the culmination of an extensive effort to engage WIOA-defined stakeholders – policymakers, representatives from other Federal agencies conducting relevant research, individuals with disabilities, organizations representing individuals with disabilities, researchers, and providers – in order to methodologically produce a document that reflects their priorities and capitalizes on potential interagency synergies.

This plan contains specific goals and objectives for the next three years, with a crosscutting thematic approach that emphasizes transparency, accountability, inclusion of the stakeholder community, and coordination with other existing and emerging Federal interagency efforts. Operationalizing this plan will move participating Federal agencies closer to achieving all the mandated elements included in WIOA.

More details about the ICDR are in Appendix B. Background materials and resources used to develop this plan are available on the [ICDR website](http://icdr.acl.gov) at [icdr.acl.gov](http://icdr.acl.gov). The materials include [Working Group Research Gaps, Problem Statements, and Final Priorities](#) and [Federal Disability Initiatives](#). Please send inquiries about this draft plan or the ICDR, to [ICDRinfo@neweditions.net](mailto:ICDRinfo@neweditions.net).

## *Background*

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The scope of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research is broad. It includes many types of research: epidemiology, economics, health services, translation, and program evaluation, among others. It addresses physical and cognitive function, rehabilitative services, technology, social and community integration, and independent living. It spans all types of disabilities including physical, cognitive, psychiatric, sensory, communication, and chronic conditions that result in functional limitations.

The ICDR recognizes the complex interactions among research, policy, and practice. High-quality research and development is essential to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities. There is great value in generating new knowledge and translating that knowledge into policies and practices.

Funding for a wide range of disability related research is dispersed across numerous Federal agencies. Additionally, a number of agencies responsible for disability programs and policy do not fund research, but use research-based evidence. WIOA authorized the ICDR to serve as the body to coordinate the government-wide strategic plan.

## *About the ICDR*

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The ICDR's mission is to promote coordination and cooperation among Federal departments and agencies conducting disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research programs including programs relating to assistive technology research and research that incorporates the principles of universal design.

During 2015, the ICDR adopted a vision to be widely recognized for facilitating and coordinating Federal interagency efforts, and for promoting collaborative relationships that maximize the best use of Federal resources for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research. The ICDR has a long history of promoting collaboration and coordination across the government to meet the needs of the disability community and leverage limited resources. Examples of ICDR collaborative efforts on topics of common interest include:

- Exploring potential interagency opportunities to advance the availability of accessible transportation technologies;
- Using disability employment research to inform policy and practice;
- Applying technology innovations learned from the Department of Defense (DoD), National Science Foundation (NSF), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to research for people with disabilities;
- Considering disability within the health disparities agenda;
- Extending advances in cloud computing, personalized applications, and other technologies to benefit users with disabilities;

- Working to harmonize disability data collection efforts in the American Community Survey and International Classification of Functioning;
- Bringing together health information technology (IT), accessibility, and user interface experts together with stakeholders to pursue solutions for accessibility and universal design in health IT; and
- Bridging the connection between disability and aging research as well as issues related to aging with a disability.

## Strategic Goals and Objectives

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Over the last year, the ICDR has worked to identify the processes and tasks needed to operationalize certain parts of the strategic plan. This plan incorporates those recommended processes and future actions (including goals and objectives, where possible) to honor both the letter and spirit of WIOA. To be successful, the government-wide strategic plan must be an iterative document, requiring the ongoing commitment of all Federal agencies conducting relevant research in the targeted areas.

To maximize the likelihood of success, the ICDR designed this first government-wide strategic plan to focus on a short timeframe – one to three years. The plan highlights both research related and process related goals and objectives. Working groups forwarded their prioritized research related goals and objectives. The ICDR leadership and EC selected objectives of interest to multiple government agencies with short-term opportunities to make significant advances. Process oriented goals are directly tied to WIOA mandates for this plan.

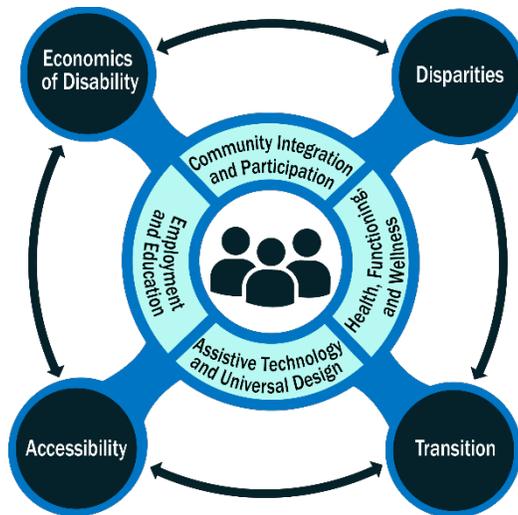
Working groups, in multiple meetings, extensively discussed and debated research needs and priorities. The working group co-chairs conceptualized those needs into problem statements and polled stakeholders about their priorities. Working groups also inventoried additional research topic areas and questions. These can be found in the supplemental document [Working Group Research Gaps, Problem Statements, and Final Priorities](#). The EC will continue to revisit the wealth of information gathered through this process as key elements of the goals and objectives outlined below are detailed and completed.

More information about how this plan was developed, including the stakeholder engagement process, can be found [here](#).

### *Goal 1: Improve interagency coordination and collaboration in four thematic research areas -- transition, economics of disability, accessibility, and disparities.*

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Research can help address many needs in the disability community. For this strategic plan, the ICDR has created a framework to focus the coordination efforts of the ICDR over the next three years. The framework is derived from the extensive stakeholder input and the leadership of the EC. The main content areas identified in WIOA are covered by the five working groups. These groups will focus their activities along four cross-cutting themes: transition, economics of disability, accessibility, and disparities. The thematic approach is designed to stimulate sharing and leveraging of research knowledge in new and creative ways in order to identify research gaps and opportunities for coordination and collaboration among agencies traditionally focused on different topics. The following are some of the areas that may be potentially examined by the working groups in a cross-cutting manner:



- **Transition** (moving from one program, place, or status to another) can be challenging for people with disabilities and is a key concern in many service delivery systems. Research is being conducted on transition issues in different content areas, including scale up models related to education transitions, as well as models for training and educating health care providers in preparing people with disabilities and their caregivers for transitions between providers, and multi-disciplinary interventions for transition age youth and young adults. By bringing this research together, the ICDR will promote information sharing on models and methods that may more efficiently advance the research and impact policy in each area, including:
  - Transitions in education – school to post-secondary education and community life.
  - Transitions in employment – school to work for youth; military to civilian for veterans; career pathways.
  - Transitions in health-care systems – pediatric to adult care; adult to geriatric care; rehabilitation to primary care; coordination of care between primary and specialty care vital to managing long term disabilities and chronic conditions.
  - Transitions in community living – rebalancing in health-care; Olmstead decision implementation.
  - Transitions for military personnel and veterans with disabilities.
  - Transitions in AT/UD – technology transfer of innovations in AT/UD to mainstream technology.
  
- **Economics of Disability.** Substantial information exists about the costs associated with many disability and rehabilitation programs, services, and technologies. However, a lack of integration of this cost-related information makes it more difficult to compile and utilize economic information for policy decisions. For example, some disability policy decisions might rely on studies expressing results in terms of cost identification, cost savings or a cost-benefit ratio, but other decisions might need research results based on cost-effectiveness analysis. Strategically, ICDR prioritizes social and economic research about the overall economics of disability, with a focus on economic outcomes of

intervention programs, toward building an evidence base on those programs that work most effectively. Some of the most important topics in this cross-cutting thematic area include:

- Economic outcomes of health-care interventions among persons or populations with disabilities – cost-savings, cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness, or cost utility association with prevention, treatment, habilitation, and rehabilitation models, calculated at both the individual and systems levels.
  - Economic outcomes of employment interventions – social costs of remaining employed vs. receiving benefits from either the Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance programs; personal and societal costs and benefits associated with participation in state-based vocational rehabilitation programs; and supported employment programs.
  - Economic outcomes associated with expanding community-living options and opportunities – including participation in long-term services and supports compared to institutionalization; programs supporting “aging in place” among elder Americans; housing voucher programs and housing placements in (Olmstead decision) “least restrictive settings” in communities; participation in housing-related services provided by Centers for Independent Living, which can contribute to increasing efficiency in achieving accessible and affordable housing placements and transitions.
  - Economic outcomes associated with AT/UD – expressions of consumer demand for accessible and affordable technologies as a function of need and other factors; impact of providing AT on employment rates, possibly within specific industries; market behavior of individuals and organizations; personal and social costs and benefits associated with providing AT or workplace accommodations that enhance productivity; the net effects on an employer’s efficiency or profitability; social costs and benefits exhibited by community-level universal design strategies, retrofitting, or construction.
- **Accessibility** of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, is key to promoting effective participation in society for people with disabilities and the aging population. Foremost among the jeopardies to inclusion is the much lower rate of adoption and use of the internet by people with disabilities; research is needed to understand the reasons and possible public and private solutions for this. Many services and new technologies move forward without considering accessibility needs, limiting equitable access to these services and products. Too often public accessibility policy must react to technologies that have already entered the market; research aimed at early evaluation of emerging technologies promises to improve industry efficiency in avoiding accessibility barriers in the first place. Domains in which such research is essential include:
    - Accessibility in health – user-centered design in electronic health records (EHRs), personal health records (PHRs), telehealth, kiosks, websites; access to health care tools; lack of privacy standards; physical accessibility of health-care

facilities, equipment, treatment; standards; and use of communication devices to interact with healthcare providers.

- Accessibility in education and employment – AT and accommodations, online training, personalization of information technology (IT) interfaces and content.
  - Accessibility in community living – accessible transportation, housing, banking, educational institutions, shopping, etc.; visitability initiatives.
  - Accessibility in AT/UD – inclusive research methods; user-centered design; human factors research, and information security.
- **Disparities.** Health disparities among individuals with disabilities arise because of the influence of social, economic, and environmental factors such as income, employment status, education, neighborhood, housing, historical trauma, and exposure to environmental hazards that contribute to health disparities. Continued disparities hinder access and quality of services for people with disabilities in many programmatic and societal contexts.

Disability varies by race and ethnicity with a 31.3 percent rate among American Indians/Alaska Natives, 22.6 percent among African Americans, and 10.4 percent among Asian Americans. Individuals with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed, a victim of a violent crime, have cardiovascular disease, be obese, be a smoker, less likely to have preventive screening such as a mammogram, and have more than two times the incidence of diabetes than individuals without disability.

Research to better understand the nature of health disparities that people with disabilities experience, or factors that contribute to health disparities among individuals with disabilities and whether or how they differ from factors influencing health disparities among individuals without disabilities, may be important research topics to explore. Some disparity topics are already being researched, but would benefit from continued study. Examples of these content areas include:

- Disparities in health – access to preventive, primary, and rehabilitative care; impact of disparities in health-care on education, employment, and community living; inclusion of people with disabilities in the health disparities agenda and participation in research as professional and funded researchers, and as consumers (clinical trials, participatory research), including in both cases the training and development necessary for successful participation.
- Disparities in employment and education – research should be in tune with inclusive social policy that aims at mainstream educational and employment settings.
- Disparities in community living – limited availability/distribution of accessible and affordable housing; identification of CIL effective practices to implement the Olmstead decision.
- Disparities in AT/UD – limited access and reimbursement for AT including expensive technologies that do not scale to affordable general use.

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**Objective 1: Identify current and planned agency research activities related to thematic framework areas.**

To establish the landscape of current and planned research activities related to the four thematic research areas (transition, cost-effectiveness, accessibility, and disparities), the ICDR will plan and conduct a data call to gather information from agencies and interagency disability-related groups supporting research, development, and demonstration projects. The purpose is to broadly characterize the Federal portfolio and identify meaningful areas for coordination among agencies.

*Strategies:* Convene a working group to define the objectives, definition of terms, methods, and analyses of the data call with EC oversight. Implement the data call via contract support. Share and discuss the results with the ICDR membership, with an emphasis on identifying opportunities for interagency partnership and coordination.

*Metrics:* Publish and disseminate a comprehensive summary of Federal agency research activities and priorities related to disability transition, cost-effectiveness, accessibility, and disparities by 2020.

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**Objective 2: Secure agency commitments for coordination and collaboration in selected thematic areas.**

Using the results of the data call, agencies will identify complementary areas of existing research and commit to coordinating their individual efforts on those topics. By analyzing planned activities, agencies can select areas for future collaboration that will lead to enhanced outcomes for all.

*Strategies:* Survey the ICDR member agencies to identify specific interagency coordination and collaboration opportunities, secure commitments, and complete administrative processes as appropriate.

*Metrics:* Document interagency coordination and collaboration activities in the ICDR annual report and on the ICDR website by 2020.

To complement the high-level coordination and collaboration planning activities under Objectives 1 and 2, the ICDR will address a limited number of specific research related needs generated by working groups during the planning process. These focus on near term interagency activities and have the potential to produce tangible outcomes.

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**Objective 3: Promote and establish a repository of research materials and best practices for accessible and usable health information technology (IT).**

The Affordable Care Act spurred development of patient-centered health information technology (health IT). Following principles of Universal Design (design for all) and explicitly considering people with disabilities and older adults in the development of health IT systems, could have significant impact on the effectiveness and adoption of health IT systems by people who could benefit the most from them. Designing for these populations puts emphasis on functionalities that might not otherwise be evident, and requires special emphasis on accessibility and usability for all potential users. However, many health IT systems, including mobile “apps,” EHRs, PHRs, telehealth, and kiosks are often not accessible or usable. In 2015, the ICDR-sponsored [Accessibility and Usability in Health IT: A Research and Action Conference to Empower People with Disabilities, Older Adults, and Caregivers](#) found that users, developers, accessibility experts, caregivers, and vendors were unaware of many existing resources that can lead to more usable and accessible health IT. It is imperative that research-based information about accessibility and usability standards be made readily available to encourage accessible design of health IT systems and to ensure people with disabilities and older adults are not excluded.

*Strategies:* The Assistive Technology and Universal Design working group will convene a series of meetings with stakeholders and industry to design, populate, produce, and disseminate a repository of accessible and usable health IT resources to enhance awareness of research-based accessibility practices. The working group will also identify a strategy for updating and keeping the repository current, as the repository can serve as a catalyst for further research and development into accessible and usable health information technology, and serve as a resource for policy in that area.

*Metrics:* Publicly available repository by 2020.

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**Objective 4: Develop a focused research plan for Centers for Independent Living (CILs) services to understand their value to the disability community.**

CILs, funded by ACL, offer valuable services to people with disabilities at the community level. Under WIOA, CIL services were expanded to address Olmstead implementation and transition of youth with significant disabilities. Nevertheless, more needs to be understood about the net impact of specific types of services and delivery methods used by CILs on behalf of individual clients. A research plan focused on CIL services and outcomes is necessary to identify and share effective practices. As a key local provider, it is important to optimize services and expand the population served by CILs.

*Strategies:* The Community Integration and Participation working group, which identified this as a top priority, will convene a series of meetings to devise a multi-agency strategy to research

the services and outcomes of CILs. This will include examination of past research on CIL management and effective practices, research design, and implementation strategy.

*Metrics:* CIL research plan by 2021.

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**Objective 5: Develop a housing research portfolio among agencies who share an interest in research and policy related to housing for individuals with disabilities.**

Disability-related housing topics reveal constructive synergies that can occur through ICDR interagency conversations to explore and establish collaborative efforts to understand and impact housing for people with disabilities. For example:

- HUD - Financing, community “visitability” initiatives and home modifications
- USDA - Food insecurity associated with suboptimal housing, “food deserts”
- DOJ - Crime, *Olmstead* and other civil rights enforcement
- DOL - Building a well-trained personal assistance workforce
- DOT - Accessible transportation technologies research
- HHS - Preparedness, satisfaction for CILs’ services on housing, and impact of housing on health
- NCMRR/NIH - Scalable strategies and technologies to monitor outcomes in the home and community
- SAMHSA – Evidenced-based supported housing

Outcomes related to community integration are directly associated with the availability and quality of housing resources for persons with disabilities. The roundtable will explore how agencies might combine their efforts to develop a research portfolio that might include such topics as methods for investigators to evaluate and measure the characteristics of housing stock at both the community and population levels; understand the extent that discrimination constitutes a barrier to obtaining satisfactory housing; the relationship between housing and community integration; outcomes associated with enforcement of the 1999 *Olmstead* decision, toward ensuring that persons with disabilities receive housing and other services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs; and surveying persons with disabilities about their degree of need for home modifications, financial assistance for housing, and preferences for specific locations or types of housing units all represent worthwhile investigations within this category of a forthcoming research portfolio.

*Strategies:* Convene a working group of interested agencies to plan for and host a roundtable discussion to discuss agency priorities and collaborative synergies to develop a research plan.

*Metrics:* Housing research plan by 2021.

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**Objective 6: Create a Youth Transition Research Academy to analyze and advance quality research methodologies to improve the transition-related evidence base.**

Transition from school to post-secondary education and employment remains challenging for many youth and young adults with disabilities, not only for establishing independence but also ensuring continuing access to therapeutic services. With significant policy and program efforts driven by WIOA underway, it is essential that good research data be considered in real-world settings. There is a need to develop and identify research, evaluation, and scale up methodologies that can be used to improve and expand the use of evidence-based policy, practice, programs, and services around transition.

*Strategies:* The ICDR will convene a Transition Research Academy. The goal of the Academy will be to support the development of an improved transition-related evidence base and effective methods of assessing transition at the system level. The Academy will be comprised of representatives from universities; federal, state, and local agencies; individuals with disabilities; and innovation hubs and training institute leaders, for the purpose of analyzing and advancing quality research and scale-up methodologies in transition to adulthood. The Academy will identify current sources of information about research methodologies in research in transition, make information about those sources publicly available on the ICDR website, and plan the Research Academy Methodologies and Scale Up Conference to discuss current practices and future developments in the field.

*Metrics:*

1. Identify existing sources of transition-based research, e.g., research libraries and innovation hubs and develop a list of resources on methodologies for transition related research and evaluation that could be added to the ICDR website by October 2020.
2. Host Transition Research Academy Methodologies and Scale-Up Conference by October 2021.

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**Objective 7: Convene stakeholders to develop infusion and inclusion strategies to include persons with disabilities as a target audience among Federal agencies conducting health and wellness programs and research initiatives.**

Individuals with disabilities experience significant health disparities compared to the non-disabled population. These disparities affect persons who are born with a disability, acquire a disability as the result of an accident or injury, or develop a disability as the result of chronic conditions such as diabetes or harsh environmental conditions such as structural bias and residential segregation. There is ample evidence of barriers to accessing primary, preventive, and specialized care (see [Objective 8](#)) among persons with disabilities. Yet, people with disabilities are infrequently included in health and wellness research and broader public health initiatives, such as tobacco control programs, often do not include persons with disabilities as a target population.

Listening sessions and other activities conducted by the then-named Health and Wellness working group identified many contributors to less than optimal health and aging among persons with disabilities, including the under-examined impact of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic position and type of disability (see supplemental document [Working Group Research Gaps, Problem Statements, and Final Priorities](#)). The newly renamed Health, Functioning, and Wellness working group will focus its efforts on both infusing a disability perspective in current Federal health promotion activities (including surveillance, research, and programming), as well as advancing opportunities for medical rehabilitation and related health disparities research (see [Objective 8](#)).

*Strategies:* In 2018, hosted a roundtable of Federal agencies, conducting health and wellness research and programs, to identify effective strategies for including persons with disabilities as a priority audience or target population and disseminating these strategies.

*Metrics:*

1. Identify effective policy, programmatic, environmental, and/or cultural accessibility strategies that are being implemented by Federal agencies conducting health and wellness programs by 2019.
2. Identify effective policy, programmatic, environmental, and/or cultural accessibility strategies that are being implemented by Federal agencies funding health and wellness research by 2019.
3. Disseminate effective strategies on the ICDR website by 2020.

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**Objective 8: Convene stakeholders to build upon newly defined and emerging Federal agency priorities for medical rehabilitation.**

The ICDR conducted teleconferences in March and April 2016 to solicit additional stakeholder input for a more detailed gap analysis related to medical rehabilitation research. These conversations and requests for email comments resulted in a robust set of problem statements included in the supplemental document [Working Group Research Gaps, Problem Statements, and Final Priorities](#). The Health, Functioning, and Wellness working group will focus its efforts on medical rehabilitation research.

*Strategies:* Host a roundtable of Federal agencies conducting rehabilitation research to reach a common understanding of current research portfolios and priorities. This should recognize and complement existing Federal infrastructure that has a similar goal (e.g., the VA and DoD ongoing review process and reporting framework), but acknowledge that additional Federal agencies can benefit from knowledge of these processes. This will be critical in identifying future needs and opportunities for collaboration.

*Metrics:* Identify gaps and opportunities for collaboration and potential synergies by the end of 2020.

## ***Goal 2: Develop a government-wide inventory (GWI) of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.***

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WIOA requires the ICDR to develop and maintain a searchable, GWI of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research for trend and data analysis across Federal agencies. This activity is essential for identifying research gaps, duplication, sharing information, and coordinating efforts to maximize the value of resources in a field that encompasses research across many different Federal agencies.

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### **Objective 1: Evaluate the applicability of the Federal RePORTER tool to meet the ICDR GWI requirement.**

The Federal RePORTER, hosted by NIH, is an initiative of STAR METRICS® to create a searchable database of scientific awards from Federal agencies and make this data available to the public. The system comprises data collected by Federal agencies on Federal investments at the individual, award, and institutional levels for the purposes of managing grant awards. It represents a wide collaboration of Federal science and technology research funding agencies with a shared vision of making data available on scientific awards from Federal agencies to the public. This pre-existing system contains a number of features and searchable capacities, which lends itself to be capable of addressing the WIOA requirements on the GWI charge. Most of the agencies funding disability research have linked their agency-based research project database with the Federal RePORTER. Rather than attempting to create a new platform for data collection across multiple Federal agencies in order to develop the GWI, specific to disability research, leveraging this existing platform and database holds promise for an efficient, cost-effective, and most likely sustainable approach.

*Strategies:* Request ICDR members to provide search terms on disability-related topics for use in assessing the feasibility of the searching and analysis enabling features of Federal RePORTER to operationally define elements for generating a useful domain-specific GWI database that targets end-users based on common search terms.

*Metrics:* Report with recommendations for next steps by 2019.

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### **Objective 2: Develop an action plan to establish a protocol for generating the GWI from the Federal RePORTER system.**

The ICDR will prepare an action plan to generate the relevant disability research and domain-specific GWI by using the Federal RePORTER system. The results of the work completed under Objective 1 will be further examined and validated. The ICDR will further engage with the NIH office responsible for the development and maintenance of the system, to provide feedback on the quality and validity of the outputs from the search and test analysis, to facilitate continuous data harmonization across databases, and to allow iterative system improvement and enhancements. The plan will consider broad implementation issues — for example: garnering

agency support, clarity of definitions, submission procedures, maintenance procedures, and analytic capability.

*Strategies:* Convene a working group to prepare an action plan. Work with the Executive Committee to secure review and approval.

*Metrics:* Publish action plan by 2019.

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**Objective 3: Implement and test protocols to generate the new GWI through the Federal RePORTER system.**

The ICDR will implement the action plan prepared under Objective 2. Extensive coordination with agencies will be needed to iteratively test and enhance the system used to generate the GWI.

*Strategies:* Prepare requests for agency participation to continue to periodically provide search terms to the ICDR and maintain collaboration in the Federal RePORTER system to facilitate ICDR's efforts to populate the GWI. Coordinate a series of tests by ICDR members to assess the accuracy and validity of the content and search outputs. Revise and update the system as needed.

*Metrics:* Make selected outputs from the GWI resource and information pertaining to using the Federal RePORTER available to targeted end-users by 2020.

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***Goal 3: Promote ongoing stakeholder input on gaps and priorities for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.***

Stakeholder perspectives on research needs offer critical information to guide the Federal research agenda. WIOA requires the ICDR to collect input from policymakers, representatives from other Federal agencies conducting relevant research, individuals with disabilities, organizations representing individuals with disabilities, researchers, and providers at least every two years. To promote the use of broad stakeholder input by all Federal agencies, a central source of stakeholder input can inform individual agency planning and enhance coordination among agencies. Ultimately, more effective use of stakeholder input will lead to the support of research that meets identified needs in the disability community.

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**Objective 1: Assess agency need for disability stakeholder input.**

To determine an effective way to gather and share disability stakeholder input with relevant Federal agencies, it is important to examine how agencies currently collect and use stakeholder input and identify any areas for improvement.

*Strategies:* Inventory ICDR member agencies on current strategies to collect and use disability stakeholder input and challenges they experience in collecting and applying such input. Identify other potential sources of stakeholder needs information such as journal publications, organization policy statements, and social media discussion sites.

*Metrics:* Report summarizing results of agency inventory and external resources available by 2020.

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**Objective 2: Develop an action plan to create a central resource for stakeholder input.**

Based on the report, the ICDR will consider options for gathering and sharing stakeholder input. For example, options may be to share agency information via the ICDR website, organize formal stakeholder events (hearings, webinars, and written testimony) that support multiple agency needs, utilize distributive models of dissemination, or create a crowd sourcing site for ongoing informal stakeholder discussion.

*Strategies:* Convene a working group to develop an action plan for an easy to use and current resource of stakeholder input that can inform the planning of individual agency research agendas as well as collaborative activities. Present to Executive Committee for review.

*Metrics:* Publish action plan by 2020.

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**Objective 3: Implement stakeholder input resource in accord with action plan.**

Establish and maintain stakeholder input resource.

*Strategies:* Convene a working group to monitor implementation of action plan.

*Metrics:* Establish stakeholder resource by 2020.

## Appendix A: Implementation Timetable Tracker

**Goal 1: Improve interagency coordination and collaboration in four thematic research areas -- transition, economics of disability, accessibility, and disparities.**

Objective	Strategy	Start Date	End Date	Activity Type	Metric	Start Date	End Date	Activity Type
Objective 1: Identify current and planned agency research activities related to thematic framework areas	Convene a working group to define the objectives, definition of terms, methods, and analyses of the data call with EC oversight. Implement the data call via contract support. Share and discuss the results with the ICDR membership, with an emphasis on identifying opportunities for interagency partnership and coordination.			Working Group	Publish and disseminate a comprehensive summary of Federal agency research activities and priorities related to disability transition, cost-effectiveness, accessibility, and disparities by 2019.			Report
Objective 2: Secure agency commitments for coordination and collaboration in selected thematic areas.	Survey the ICDR member agencies to identify specific interagency coordination and collaboration opportunities, secure commitments, and complete administrative processes as appropriate.			Survey	Document interagency coordination and collaboration activities in the ICDR annual report and on the ICDR website by 2020.			Report

<p>Objective 3: Promote and establish a repository of research materials and best practices for accessible and usable health information technology (IT).</p>	<p>The Assistive Technology and Universal Design working group will convene a series of meetings with stakeholders and industry to design, populate, produce, and disseminate a repository of accessible and usable health IT resources to enhance awareness of research-based accessibility practices. The working group will also identify a strategy for updating and keeping the repository current, as the repository can serve as a catalyst for further research and development into accessible and usable health information technology, and serve as a resource for policy in that area.</p>			<p>Meetings</p>	<p>Publicly available repository by the end of 2019.</p>			<p>Repository</p>
<p>Objective 4: Develop a focused research plan for Centers for Independent Living (CILs) services to understand their value to the disability community.</p>	<p>The Community Integration and Participation working group, which identified this as a top priority, will convene a series of meetings to devise a multi-agency strategy to research the services and outcomes of CILs. This will include examination of past research on CIL management and effective practices, research design, and implementation strategy.</p>			<p>Meetings</p>	<p>CIL research plan by the end of 2019.</p>			<p>Research Plan</p>

<p>Objective 5: Develop a housing research portfolio among agencies who share an interest in research and policy related to housing for individuals with disabilities.</p>	<p>Convene a working group of interested agencies to plan for and host a roundtable discussion to discuss agency priorities and collaborative synergies to develop a research plan.</p>			<p>Roundtable</p>	<p>Housing research plan by the end of 2019.</p>			<p>Research Plan</p>
<p>Objective 6: Create a Youth Transition Research Academy to analyze and advance quality research methodologies to improve the transition-related evidence base.</p>	<p>The ICDR will convene a Transition Research Academy. The goal of the Academy will be to support the development of an improved transition-related evidence base and effective methods of assessing transition at the system level.</p>			<p>Research Academy</p>	<p>Identify existing sources of transition-based research, e.g., research libraries and innovation hubs and develop a list of resources on methodologies for transition related research and evaluation that could be added to the ICDR website: October 2019.</p>			<p>Website Resource</p>
					<p>Host Transition Research Academy Methodologies and Scale-Up Conference: October 2020.</p>			<p>Conference</p>

Objective 7: Convene key stakeholders to develop infusion and inclusion strategies to include persons with disabilities as a target audience among Federal agencies conducting health and wellness programs and research initiatives.	In 2018, hosted a roundtable of Federal agencies, conducting health and wellness research and programs, to identify effective strategies for including persons with disabilities as a priority audience or target population and disseminating these strategies.			Roundtable	Identify effective policy, programmatic, environmental, and/or cultural accessibility strategies that are being implemented by Federal agencies conducting health and wellness programs by the end of 2019.			Environmental Scan
					Identify effective policy, programmatic, environmental, and/or cultural accessibility strategies that are being implemented by Federal agencies funding health and wellness research by the end of 2019.			Environmental Scan
					Disseminate effective strategies on the ICDR website by the end of 2020.			Report
Objective 8: Convene key stakeholders to build upon newly defined and emerging Federal agency priorities for medical rehabilitation.	Host a roundtable of Federal agencies conducting rehabilitation research to reach a common understanding of current research portfolios and priorities. This should recognize and complement existing Federal infrastructure that has a similar goal (e.g., the VA and DoD ongoing review process and reporting framework) but acknowledge that additional Federal agencies can benefit from knowledge of these processes. This will be critical in identifying future needs and opportunities for collaboration.			Roundtable	Identified gaps and opportunities for collaboration and potential synergies by the end of 2019.			Report

**Goal 2: Develop a government-wide inventory (GWI) of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.**

Objective 1: Evaluate the applicability of the Federal RePORTER tool to meet the ICDR GWI requirement.	Request ICDR members to provide search terms on disability-related topics for use in assessing the feasibility of the searching and analysis enabling features of Federal RePORTER to operationally define elements for generating a useful domain-specific GWI database that targets end-users based on common search terms.			Search Terms	Report with recommendations for next steps by the end of 2019.			Report
Objective 2: Develop an action plan to establish a protocol for generating the GWI from the Federal RePORTER system.	Convene a working group to prepare an action plan. Work with the Executive Committee to secure review and approval.			Working Group	Publish action plan by the end of 2019.			Action Plan
Objective 3: Implement and test protocols to generate the new GWI through the Federal RePORTER system.	Prepare requests for agency participation to continue to periodically provide search terms to the ICDR and maintain collaboration in the Federal RePORTER system to facilitate ICDR's efforts to populate the GWI. Coordinate a series of tests by ICDR members to assess the accuracy and validity of the content and search outputs. Revise and update the system as needed.	In Process	In Process	Data	Make selected outputs from the GWI resource and information pertaining to using the Federal RePORTER available to targeted end-users by the end of 2019.			Data

**Goal 3: Promote ongoing stakeholder input on gaps and priorities for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.**

Objective 1: Assess agency need for disability stakeholder input.	Inventory ICDR member agencies on current strategies to collect and use disability stakeholder input and challenges they experience in collecting and applying such input. Identify other potential sources of stakeholder needs information such as journal publications, organization policy statements, and social media discussion sites.			Survey	Report summarizing results of agency inventory and external resources available by 2019.			Report
Objective 2: Develop action plan to create a central resource for stakeholder input.	Convene a working group to develop an action plan for an easy to use and current resource of stakeholder input that can inform the planning of individual agency research agendas as well as collaborative activities. Present to Executive Committee for review.			Working Group	Publish action plan by end of 2019.			Action Plan
Objective 3: Implement stakeholder input resource in accord with action plan.	Convene a working group to monitor implementation of action plan			Working Group	Establish stakeholder resource by end of 2019.			Stakeholder Resource

## Appendix B: About the ICDR

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The Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) was established to promote coordination and cooperation among Federal departments and agencies conducting disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research programs including programs relating to assistive technology research and research that incorporates the principles of universal design. The ICDR is charged to:

- identify, assess, and seek to coordinate all Federal programs, activities, and projects, and plans for such programs, activities, and projects with respect to the conduct of research (including assistive technology research and research that incorporates the principles of universal design) related to independent living
- obtain input from policymakers, representatives from Federal agencies, individuals with disabilities, organizations representing individuals with disabilities, researchers and providers;
- share information about research being carried out by members of the committee and other Federal departments and organizations;
- identify and make efforts to address areas of research that are not being adequately addressed;
- identify and establish clear research priorities;
- promote interagency collaboration and joint research activities and reduce unnecessary duplication of effort;
- optimize the productivity of ICDR members through resource sharing and other cost-sharing activities; and
- develop a comprehensive government-wide strategic plan for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

The ICDR develops its agenda and establishes goals and objectives through an interagency Executive Committee (EC). The EC is comprised of ICDR statutory member agencies, the ICDR standing committee co-chairs, and other designated agency representatives. In carrying out its duties, the EC:

- sets the ICDR agenda;
- works to promote effective interagency coordination, collaboration, and communication;
- provides guidance to the ICDR committees;
- reviews and approves committee plans;
- secures the input of other Federal agencies and other stakeholders;
- develops the ICDR strategic plan; and
- hosts meetings to advance the agenda of Federal departments, offices, and partner agencies.

ICDR statutory members include:

- Secretary, Health and Human Services
- Director, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (Designated Chair)
- Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration
- Assistant Secretary, Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
- Assistant Secretary, Labor for Disability Employment Policy
- Secretary, Defense
- Administrator, Administration for Community Living
- Secretary, Education
- Secretary, Veterans Affairs
- Director, National Institutes of Health
- Director, National Institute of Mental Health
- Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Secretary, Transportation
- Assistant Secretary, Interior for Indian Affairs
- Director, Indian Health Service
- Director, National Science Foundation
- Administrator, Small Business Administration

Some Federal partners play key leadership roles on the ICDR by serving as co-chairs for standing committees, providing co-funding for specific activities, and providing resources to help the ICDR achieve its goals.

## Appendix C: ICDR Operational Descriptions

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### Working Groups

The **Assistive Technology and Universal Design (AT/UD)** working group scope includes research, design, development, policy, systems, and services related to AT, accessibility of electronic information and technology, products, and environments.

The **Community Integration and Participation (CIP)** working group scope includes research, policy, systems, and services related to behavioral, social, and environmental factors affecting inclusion in society.

The **Employment and Education (EE)** working group scope includes research, policy, systems, and services related to employment and self-sufficiency of people with disabilities; and youth transition to employment, post-secondary education, and community life.

The **Government-Wide Inventory (GWI)** working group is charged with developing the WIOA-mandated GWI of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

The **Health, Functioning, and Wellness (HFW)** working group scope includes research, clinical, translational, policy, systems, and services related to medical rehabilitation, prevention, health and wellness care, public health issues, surveillance, etc. This group focused primarily on health and wellness. An additional stakeholder input session suggested the addition of “functioning” to the title of this working group.