



WORLD INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY

Working toward equality

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The mission of the World Institute on Disability (WID) in communities and nations worldwide is to eliminate barriers to full social integration and increase employment, economic security and health care for persons with disabilities. WID creates innovative programs and tools; conducts research, public education, training and advocacy campaigns; and provides technical assistance. An internationally recognized public policy center founded in 1983 by leaders of the Independent Living Movement, WID's program work focuses on issues and problems that directly affect people's ability to live full and independent lives. A majority of the Board and staff are persons with disabilities.

Access to Assets

Approximately 20% of the United States population lives with some level of disability, and people with disabilities are almost three times as likely to live in poverty than any other group. WID's Access to Assets project opens doors for the disability community by promoting asset-building and financial literacy among people with disabilities. Asset building is an anti-poverty strategy helping low-income people move toward greater economic independence by saving and purchasing long-term assets. Building assets, as a complement to increasing income, provides the stability necessary to escape the cycle of poverty.

With support from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, the Friedman Family Foundation and other generous funders, Access to Assets bridges the gap between the asset building and disability communities through the following services:

► **Training and Technical Assistance:** Advise asset-building organizations how to include consumers with disabilities in their programs.

► **Disability Community Outreach:** Inform disability organizations about available programs and relevant federal policy.

► **Policy Analysis:** Develop and influence federal asset-building legislation conducive to the participation of people with disabilities.

► **Public Education:** Produce monthly EQUITY e-newsletter. The newsletter includes articles by leaders in the field, program administrators, and participants in asset-building programs, helpful tips, answers to questions about disability issues, federal policy updates, and resources. Read current and past editions of EQUITY at <http://www.wid.org/equity>

► **Information and Referral:** Toll-free hotline serves individuals with disabilities seeking information on how to participate in poverty reduction programs.

For more information, contact Thomas Foley, WID Deputy Director/Program Director, at tom@wid.org or toll-free 1-866-723-1201.

Work Incentives Initiative

WID launched the Work Incentives Initiative (WII) in 2000 to provide information on health coverage, work, and benefits to youth and adults with disabilities in California and to develop community based public policy recommendations.

Through Disability Benefits 101 Information Services, WII provides community outreach, training and web-based services, including one-on-one technical assistance at its website, Disability Benefits 101 (www.DB101.org), to Californians with disabilities. The site offers easy to understand, practical information on public and private benefits, employment services, and other programs, as well as interactive benefits calculators. WII has also created benefits calculators for the state of New Jersey and has calculators in development in Minnesota.

In addition to its information services, WII also develops community based public policy recommendations in California and at the national level. As part of this effort, it staffs a statewide policy, education, and discussion forum on health, work, benefits, and disability - The California Work Group on Work Incentives and Health Care (the CWG).

WII has received funding from the California Health Incentives Improvement Project, The California Endowment, the Social Security Administration, and individual training and event sponsors.

For more information, contact Bryon MacDonald, Program Director, at bryon@wid.org.

Disaster Preparedness and Response

WID and the American Red Cross (ARC) launched an innovative national training, awareness and action program to help ARC staff and volunteers better serve people with disabilities during disasters.

Funded by a grant from the Verizon Foundation, the program is improving emergency preparedness and disaster response by ARC staff and volunteers for people with disabilities; increasing collaboration between the ARC and local community-based disability organizations; and increasing understanding of the needs of people with disabilities in disaster situations.

For more information, contact Thomas Foley, WID Deputy Director/Program Director, at tom@wid.org.

Health Access and Long Term Services

WID addresses health care disparities for people with disabilities by working to improve access to quality, culturally competent healthcare and services.

Funded by The California Wellness Foundation and building on other training resources, the **MAP to Health Access Project** is addressing the substantial health disparities for women with disabilities that result from medical providers' lack of knowledge about their responsibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The project will empower disabled women and improve care for their unique health care needs by training them in self-advocacy skills to enable them to become educators and resource people to their own health providers and local health care organizations about these rights and the resources required to enact them. The MAP Project offers research, education, training, technical assistance and technical resources, and will develop a comprehensive training curriculum, including high-motivation learning tools and downloadable, web-based materials, so women with disabilities may learn about their right to accessible, quality health care as stipulated by federal law. WID will disseminate MAP for Health Access in English and Spanish throughout California to women's health and disability community organizations.

Access to Medical Care: Adults with Physical Disabilities is a 20-minute video/DVD and training curriculum for physicians, dentists, nurses, and other medical staff about key issues that influence the quality of care in outpatient clinical settings. The video uses interviews with medical providers and a diverse group of people with disabilities to address cultural competence; access and communication issues in the clinic; common myths

Ever Widening Circle

WID's annual gala event, Ever Widening Circle, celebrates disability culture and serves as a model for presenting entertainment that is accessible for all audiences.

Past performances have included Janis Ian, Josh Blue, The Blind Boys of Alabama and internationally renowned AXIS Dance Company, comprised of dancers with and without disabilities.

The success and visibility of Ever Widening Circle is the result of the strong collaborative ties between WID and its partners and sponsors. WID invites individuals and companies to join with us in our commitment to disability rights and support this gala event.

For more information or if you are interested in becoming an Ever Widening Circle sponsor, contact Thomas Foley, WID Deputy Director, at tom@wid.org.

and stereotypes about disability that interfere with accurate assessment of patients; and barriers to health care delivery. The training curriculum offers case-based learning exercises and extensive in-depth reference materials about appropriate provision of care, specific skills to increase good communication and rapport, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The curriculum emphasizes access and communication as the fundamental components in addressing health care disparities for people with disabilities.

WID also seeks to improve the quality and availability of long-term services for people with disabilities, such as Personal Assistance Services (often referred to as home health care) that help people with activities of daily living, such as dressing, bathing and eating. Such assistance can make the critical difference between independent living in the community or institutionalization.

Unfortunately, instances of physical or emotional abuse in such settings are alarmingly high, so WID created the **Curriculum on Abuse Prevention and Empowerment (CAPE)**, a comprehensive training curriculum to educate service providers, people with disabilities and family members about abuse awareness and prevention strategies. Funded by the National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation and Research, CAPE explores fundamental issues of abuse, best-practices training approaches, and personal narratives of successful interventions. The CAPE website (www.wid.org/cape) offers an introduction and sampling of the texts, tools and activities of its curriculum in both English and Spanish.

For more information, contact Dr. Marsha Saxton, Senior Researcher/Program Director, at marsax@wid.org.

International Program

WID's International Program provides training and technical assistance to disabled persons organizations (DPOs) in developing countries to conduct effective disability advocacy, community barrier removal and public education campaigns; develop programs and national policies; and create networks and national coalitions to promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into all aspects of society. Since 2004, WID has worked in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Georgia, Iraq, Russia and Uzbekistan.

Georgian Wheelchair Production Network

Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), WID's International Program launched in 2009 a 3-year project in the Republic of Georgia. Working in partnership with Whirlwind Wheelchair International (WWI) and the Coalition for Independent Living in Georgia, along with their regional member organizations, the Association of Disabled Women and Mothers of Disabled Children in Zugdidi and the Association of Gori Disabled Club, the project is setting up a sustainable wheelchair production and repair facility in Tbilisi; a postural support seating and cushion service; networked wheelchair sales, distribution and repair businesses in Gori and Zugdidi; a mobility, self-care, and advocacy skills training system for men and women who use wheelchairs; and business and advocacy networks between disability communities in Georgia. The project will also conduct advocacy, public education, and community accessibility barrier removal activities in Tbilisi, Gori and Zugdidi. Most of the factory workers and advocacy team members are people with disabilities, and almost all are wheelchair users.

The factory will produce a minimum of 1,000 low-cost, high-quality Whirlwind RoughRider™ indoor-outdoor wheelchairs and eventually other assistive mobility devices for Georgian wheelchair users. The Association of Gori Disabled Club will make pressure relieving wheelchair cushions, and local professionals at the Children's Center for Rehabilitation will be trained in adaptive seating and will fit and produce supported seating for children who use wheelchairs.

The advocacy teams will conduct peer support groups, regional mobility and self-help skills camps for wheelchair users, and disability awareness and community access/barrier-removal trainings and roundtables to educate NGO staff, media professionals, teachers, government officials, lawyers, and architects about the need to improve community access; improve access to key public

buildings by identifying and removing barriers; increase public awareness via organizing disability film exhibitions, media and poster competitions, and the production of a public education video to be shown at film exhibitions and on Georgian national television as well as a public service announcement for broadcast on local radio stations on community accessibility and a barrier-free environment; and host National Forums on Community Accessibility for government officials and lawmakers, professionals, media, and persons with mobility impairments and their families on issues and lessons learned in Georgia and to discuss strategies for implementation of legislation promoting a barrier free environment.

For more information, contact Bruce Curtis, Program Director, at bruce@wid.org.

Ed Roberts Campus

WID is a proud Partner Agency of the Ed Roberts Campus (ERC), a nonprofit (501c3) corporation formed by seven disability organizations that share a common history in the Independent Living Movement of People with Disabilities to create an international center for the Independent Living Movement. This summer, WID will move its offices to the universally designed, transit-oriented campus, located at Berkeley, California's Ashby Bay Area Rapid Transit Station. This multi-modal transit orientation will allow WID staff and visitors easy access to local airports, buses, taxis and paratransit services and provide unprecedented access to all ERC organizations, activities and services. The ERC will offer an impressive array of disability-related services and programs in one totally accessible location; model integrated and accessible service delivery; serve as a national resource for research, legal analysis, education, training, and innovative program development; and provide training, technical assistance, and opportunities for collaboration with disability organizations worldwide.

The universally designed building incorporates fully accessible exhibition space, community meeting rooms, a child development center, offices, vocational training facilities and a café; a helical ramp that permits easy access and safe evacuation; accessible elevators with automatic doors and wide corridors to create easy circulation; restrooms that accommodate all ability levels; specially designed signage and way-finding devices guide people who are blind or have low vision; and hands-free sensors and timers control lighting, acoustical, and security systems.

Proyecto Visión

Proyecto Visión, the first national technical assistance center for Latinos with disabilities, was established to provide services to employers, service providers, and jobseekers to address barriers to Latinos effectively utilizing disability services and connecting to work. Since 2001, Proyecto Visión developed an infrastructure to support positive employment outcomes for Latinos with disabilities by bridging the culture/language gap, creating culturally appropriate responses to the group's particular needs and providing role models and mentors.

In 2008, Proyecto Visión shifted its focus to Latino and other youth with disabilities from underserved populations, ages 16 – 35, so they may successfully transition from school to higher education and attain sustainable independent living and employment outcomes. Funded by the AT&T Foundation, the Verizon Foundation and the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, the

program is using popular youth-friendly Internet sites to inspire our target population with short video clips of Success Stories and recruiting Latino and other youth with disabilities from underserved populations into our ongoing and highly successful Emerging Writers Program, part of the project's leadership development initiative.

Proyecto Visión's program includes a website (**www.proyectovision.net**) featuring news, resources and opportunities for scholarships/internships/jobs; an electronic newsletter that highlights success stories about Latino and other youth with disabilities from diverse communities who found employment; a listserv that allows readers to interact with others facing similar issues; a Facebook page; and Success Story video clips posted on YouTube.

For more information, contact Gabriel Many, Project Coordinator, at gabriel@wid.org.

Technology Policy Program

Society is increasingly dependent on information technology and social media for work and communication. People with disabilities are often not considered when equipment and services are designed and therefore are being left out due to inaccessible technology, further decreasing the capacity of this population to participate and contribute like their non-disabled peers.

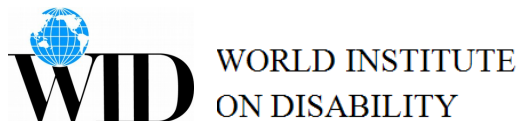
WID's Technology Policy Program provides training and technical assistance to the information technology and telecommunications industry to make their products and services accessible, develops public policy recommendations, and identifies best practices. The program is currently funded by the California Emerging Technology Fund to identify, evaluate and recommend solutions to access barriers in websites, programs, facilities and communications of all of CETF's grantees as well as to assist them to reach more people with disabilities in their programs and services.

For more information, contact Thomas Foley, WID Deputy Director/Program Director, at tom@wid.org.

Training and Public Education

Corporations, government agencies and organizations hire WID to conduct trainings on disability awareness and etiquette, accommodating employees with disabilities, and increasing workplace diversity. WID's Training and Public Education Program also advises on access, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other civil rights laws and offers additional training packages on Access to Medical Care; Working Without Losing Healthcare or Other Needed Benefits; Making Asset Building Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities; How to make Technology Accessible to People with Disabilities; and Including and Accommodating Persons with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response Efforts.

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