



2021-2022

**Institute for Human Development
Report to the Community**

2 2021-2022 SNAPSHOT



Message from our Director

As the executive director of the Institute for Human Development (IHD), I am pleased to present this year's Report to the Community. For over 50 years, the mission of IHD has been to advance attitudes and enhance access so that people with disabilities can engage in all aspects of the human experience. This mission has never been more relevant.

IHD is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), part of a national network dedicated to education, research, community services, and dissemination activities addressing the needs of people with disabilities. In addition to the accomplishments described in this report, IHD was awarded a \$3 million, five-year grant from the Administration for Community Living to continue our mission as a UCEDD.

I want to thank our staff for their hard work and express gratitude to our partners, our university, and the community at large for helping us create a more inclusive society. Together we do make a difference.

Kelly Roberts

Executive Director, Institute for Human Development at Northern Arizona University

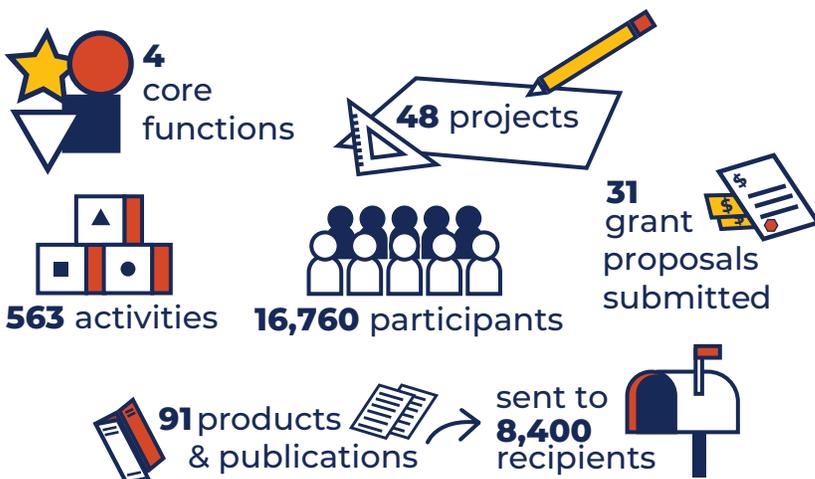
Vision

People with disabilities fully participate in all life experiences.

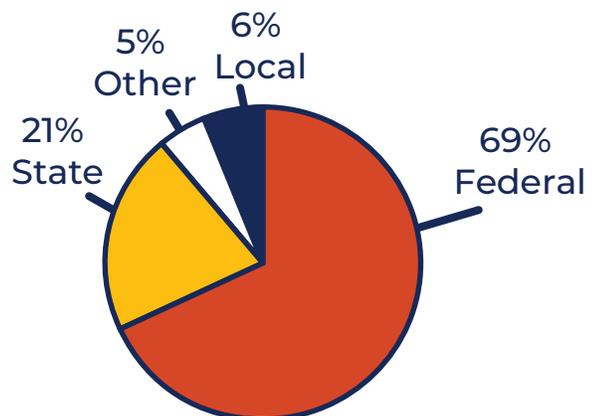
Mission

Promote full inclusion by advancing attitudes that value persons with disabilities and enhancing access to all aspects of the human experience.

Data Overview



Over \$9.9 Million in Leveraged funds



Program highlight: Inclusive Recreation

The Northern Arizona Inclusive Recreation Project is a partnership between IHD, the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC), High Country Adaptive Sports (HCAS), and other local organizations.

The Northern Arizona Inclusive Recreation Project provides:

Year-Round

adaptive recreation opportunities to people with **intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)**.

Adaptive kayaking and hiking excursions to individuals with I/DD, including adaptive equipment and safety gear.



55 kayaking and hiking experiences



288 ski and snowboard lessons



52 scholarships for adaptive skiing

Skiing and snowboard lessons, using the adaptive equipment purchased through the ADDPC grant, take place at the Arizona Snowbowl just outside of Flagstaff.



Community Service

Providing Direct Services

IHD provided services and supports to **5,675 individuals** with disabilities, their families, and service providers to promote increased access and inclusion. IHD's community service programs include:

Early Childhood Initiatives

- **The Growing in Beauty Partnership Program (GIBPP)** works with the Navajo Nation to provide early intervention services for young children suspected of having a disability.

GIBPP services include:

Physical
Therapy

Occupational
Therapy

Speech Language
Pathology

- **The Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters (PLAY) Project** is an evidence-based, intensive developmental intervention that supports caregivers in engaging children with autism in a playful way to help them achieve their full potential.

With funding from ADDPC, IHD trained a team of professionals to implement the PLAY intervention for children on the Navajo Nation.



A **PLAY** workshop was also featured at the IHD Evidence for Success Disability Conference.

PLAY



201 children were referred to the Growing in Beauty Program.

66 children were found eligible for early intervention and had a family service plan developed.

51 children received services for over a year.

40 children per month, on average, were provided therapy by GIBPP therapists.



Assistive Technology (AT) Services

IHD is a leader in AT services in Arizona and houses a number of initiatives related to the field. AT includes products, software, or other devices used to assist functionality and independent living for persons with disabilities.

- **Arizona's Technology Access Program (AzTAP)** is Arizona's AT resource program, funded under the federal Assistive Technology Act. AzTAP offers a range of AT services throughout the state, many of which are free to all Arizona residents.

 **97** trainings were provided to over **2,500** participants

150 demonstrations of AT devices for **480** individuals



\$48,041 in loans were provided for purchase of AT, such as hearing aids and mobility devices

629 equipment loans for **1,935** AT devices were provided to **625+** Arizona residents



With funding from the American Rescue Plan, **AzTAP's Adaptive Gaming Clinic** launched in June 2022.

The clinic works one-on-one with adults and children with disabilities to identify accessibility features and adaptive equipment for them to participate in video gaming.



- **The Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Evaluation and Training Program** helps individuals with speech and language challenges find devices to improve communication.

The AAC program provided:

110 evaluations

427 hours of training on AAC devices to **294** clients and their caregivers



- **The Assistive Technology for Employment and Independent Living (ATEI) program** is a new contract providing assistive technology services to help Arizona vocational rehabilitation clients reach their employment/independent living goals.

The Arizona Economic Security and Rehabilitation Services Administration funded ATEI for a total of **\$5 Million** over four years.

Services to be provided include:

- AT assessments/evaluations
- Short-term AT device loans
- Client-specific AT product purchases
- Implementation services

Pre-Service Preparation Educating & Training

IHD's Pre-Service Training and Community Education initiatives consist of interdisciplinary programs that foster professional growth and development for individuals working in disability-related fields.

During the 2021-2022 academic year

IHD offered **27 courses**, reaching a total of **405 students**.



Academic Programs

- **The Disability Studies (DS) Minor** is an undergraduate program that focuses on the historical and legal treatment of individuals with disabilities, as well as the role of disability in contemporary society.

74 declared **DS minor** students
*10% increase from 2020-2021



11 courses offered

Taken by
303
students



IHD received a **\$25,000** donation from the *Vital Projects Fund* to promote and expand the DS minor

- **The Disability Resource Specialist (DRS) Graduate Certificate Program** prepares students to support individuals with disabilities enrolled at higher education institutions.

9 Admitted graduate students

8 Courses offered



- **The Assistive Technology (AT) Certificate Program** trains graduate students and professionals to utilize assistive technology tools when providing services to individuals with disabilities.

23 Admitted graduate students

8 Courses offered



- **The Supporting Inclusive Practices in College (SIP-C) program** supports students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in attending and succeeding in postsecondary education. SIP-C is supported by the U.S. Department of Education TPSID award and funding from the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council.

IHD identified, recruited, and prepared **15 individuals** to participate in the SIP-C program.

Other Training and Community Education Projects

- **The Special Education Learning Experience for Competency in Teaching (SELECT)** program is funded by the Arizona Department of Education and provides graduate-level courses and professional development to school-based personnel.

35 SELECT courses offered
590 individuals participated



- **Project SCOPE: Supporting Children of the Opioid Epidemic** is a national initiative providing training to interdisciplinary teams on screening, monitoring, and caring for children who are impacted by opioid use. This project is supported by the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, the Nisonger Center at Ohio State University, and the University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

2 courses consisting of
8 lessons on topics such as substance use treatment, advocacy, and resources.
172 individuals participated



- **The Interdisciplinary Training Clinic** offers free health evaluations and recommendations to children and families. It serves as a training experience for NAU graduate students in health and education fields. The clinic is partly funded by a donation from John & Lynn Schiek.

6 clinics were held
providing **evaluations to 12** children



6 seminars were provided
to graduate students



- **The American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Training and Technical Assistance Center (AIVRTTAC)** provides training and technical assistance to the **93** American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) projects across the nation.



IHD was awarded a five-year, **\$5 million** renewal grant from the federal RSA to continue housing AIVRTTAC, now in partnership with the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) Institute at Northwest Indian College.

AIVRTTAC held an **"AIVRS Academy"** training in June 2022, attended by **77** staff from **27** AIVRS projects



AIVRTTAC held and published **10** webinars



The TVR Institute enrolled **110** with **16** earning an award of completion



Research & Evaluation

Investigating & Analyzing

IHD's team of researchers are experts in the disability disciplines of medicine, psychology, speech-language pathology, and education. The team is engaged in research that has direct implications for disability-related practice.

By the end of June 2022

31 grant proposals were submitted

13 proposals were funded
and **9** were pending

6 articles were submitted for
publication in peer-reviewed journals

4 research findings
presentations were delivered



Research Projects:

- **The Culturally Appropriate Research in American Indian Employment (CARE) Project** studies the practices and policies used by American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) projects, with the goal of learning what practices have been most useful in helping American Indians with disabilities find jobs. It is funded by a grant from the Administration on Community Living.



- **Developing a Collaborative Infrastructure for Educating STEM Undergraduate Students Who Are Neurodiverse Learners** is a collaboration between NAU and other universities across the nation focused on increasing the number of students with autism, ADHD, and other diverse neurological disabilities who succeed in post-secondary STEM education. The project is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.



- **TAPDINTO-STEM** is an ongoing research project funded by a National Science Foundation (NSF) INCLUDES grant to empower people with disabilities for success in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines. IHD had 12 applicants and selected 5 students for our first cohort.



- **Health and Disabilities-Related Research** is conducted by the University of Arizona program site through a sub-award from IHD. It emphasizes public health surveillance of birth defects, developmental disabilities, and genetic conditions.



Dissemination

Sharing & Informing

IHD's dissemination team is responsible for ensuring IHD materials are available to a broad audience. The team develops, produces, and shares information in a variety of mediums, ensuring accessibility for all.



Dissemination staff assists with providing online and virtual services, training, and learning opportunities.

To ensure resources are accessible to a wide audience, updates and revisions have been made to IHD websites, brochures, and information sheets.



Dissemination staff assisted in a branding project, creating a series of large wall displays that provide information about IHD to visitors.



The dissemination staff manages the IHD email list of over **800 participants**. This list is our primary tool for sharing highlights, research articles, and webinar announcements throughout the year.



IHD developed and disseminated **91 products and publications** to **8,400 recipients**:

- 6** peer-reviewed publications submitted to scholarly journals
- 8** reports and monographs
- 7** electronic products
- 10** conference presentations and posters
- 4** newsletters
- 30** pamphlets, brochures, and fact sheets
- 14** web-based products
- 12** other/ misc. materials

Conferences

Over the last 24 years, **IHD's Evidence for Success Disability Conference** has become *one of the largest disability-related statewide conferences in Arizona*. Focused primarily on providing professional development education and training, the conference highlights several IHD focus areas, and features as many as 70 educational sessions as well as a large exhibit hall.

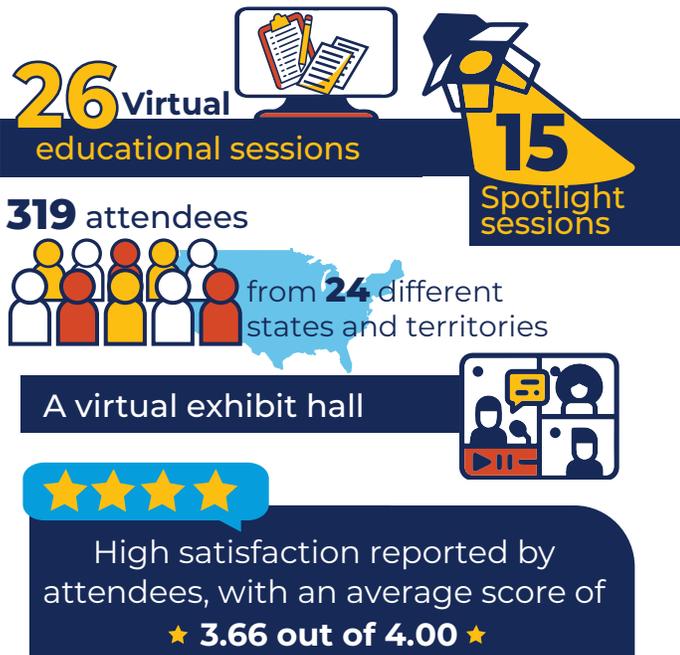
In the period covered in this report, IHD hosted **two** conferences: a **VIRTUAL** conference in July 2021 and a **HYBRID** conference in June 2022.



2021

IHD Evidence for Success VIRTUAL Disability Conference

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, IHD hosted its second virtual conference in July 2021. It featured:



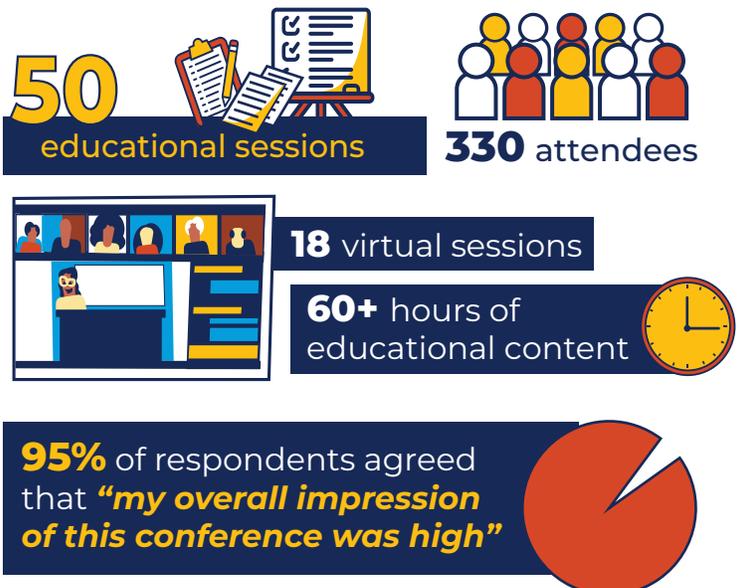
"The presenters this year were really good ... It was awesome having it virtually because we had presenters we have never seen, and they provided new and exciting information! Great conference this year!"

2021 Conference Participant

2022

IHD Evidence for Success HYBRID Disability Conference

In June 2022, IHD hosted a hybrid conference, returning to in-person sessions while still offering virtual participation in select sessions. It featured:



"I learned SO much that my brain is spinning. I think I just loved the camaraderie, productive/clarifying discussions with experts, and meeting so many people with mutual love of service and interests."

2022 Conference Participant

In their own words

Northern Arizona Inclusive Recreation Project

"Being able to participate in adaptive sports and recreation has changed my life completely... I am now focusing on my abilities and stretching them to their limits, rather than on my disability. I no longer have to watch from the sidelines, wishing I could participate."



Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP)

"[Our daughter] loved being heard and we are grateful for the joy that brought her... You are transforming lives by inspiring confidence in the fight for quality of LIFE."



Supporting Inclusive Practices in College (SIP-C)

"We have great people who can lead us to the right resources; for me it is my peer mentor with IHD [who] helped [me] reach my goals and ultimate potential."



2022 IHD Evidence for Success Disability Conference

"There were many extremely good sessions, and I like that they were interspersed with time in the ballroom to chat with vendors and each other... It was nice to be in a group where 'different' is completely accepted without question, and where the desire to assist others is so important."





Access, Attitude, and Inclusion.

Privileged to meet with the passionate faculty and staff who power NAU's Institute for Human Development. The institute's legacy of leadership is strong and the prospects for the future exciting.
#NAUStrong

NAU President Cruz Rivera

Contact us

<https://nau.edu/ihd/>
928-523-5590
ihd@nau.edu



Institute for Human Development