



**Interagency Committee
on Disability Research**

FY 2019 Report to the President and Congress

***Submitted by the U.S. Department
of Health and Human Services***

Administration for Community Living (ACL)
National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and
Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)

On behalf of the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR)
Kristi Hill, PhD, ICDR Chair, and NIDILRR Acting Director

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Alex M. Azar II
Secretary

Administration for Community Living

Lance Robertson
Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

Dr. Kristi Hill
Acting Director, Director

October 2019

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October 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Congress established the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) to promote coordination, cooperation, and collaboration among federal departments, agencies, and organizations conducting disability and rehabilitation research. As designated Chair of the ICDR, I am pleased to submit the enclosed *FY 2019 Report to the President and Congress*. The report details noteworthy activities of the ICDR and its member agencies during the reporting period. In these and other activities, the ICDR is committed to engaging our federal partners and stakeholders to ensure the relevance of ICDR activities to the needs of individuals with disabilities, their families, researchers, service providers, employers, and communities.

On behalf of the members of the ICDR, I appreciate your continued support of research and information-sharing that contributes to the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the social, educational, economic, and mainstream of American society.

Respectfully yours,

Kristi W. Hill, PhD
Acting Chair
Interagency Committee on Disability Research

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Abbreviations

AT	Assistive technology
EC	Executive Committee
FY	Fiscal year
GW	Government wide inventory
ICDR	Interagency Committee on Disability Research
NCMRR	National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research
NIDILRR	National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NSF	National Science Foundation
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
WIOA	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Introduction

The Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) is a coordinating group of federal department and agency representatives funding disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research. Authorized by the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA; see [Appendix A](#)), the ICDR promotes coordination and cooperation among federal departments and agencies conducting disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research programs, including programs relating to assistive technology (AT) research and research that incorporates the principles of universal design. The ICDR charge is 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 AT 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 17 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 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 workgroups, providing co-funding for specific activities, and providing resources to help the ICDR achieve its goals. [Appendix B](#) contains a complete list of participating federal agencies in fiscal year (FY) 2019.

The ICDR vision is 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. To meet these goals, the ICDR identified six guiding principles:

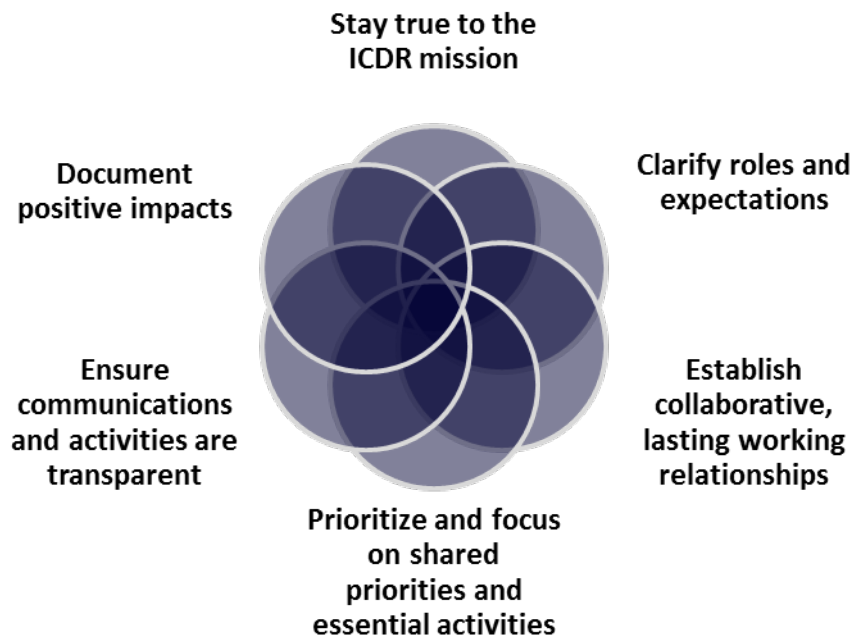


Figure 1. ICDR Guiding Principles

1. **Stay true to the ICDR mission.** The committee should identify its unique niche in disability and independent living research and ensure that its efforts benefit its many stakeholders and partners. Initiatives should focus on the interagency nature of the ICDR and complement the work that agencies are already doing. Establishing a consistent, trusted brand would help the ICDR achieve its mission.
2. **Clarify roles and expectations.** To ensure buy-in and support from each partner agency, the ICDR must clearly establish its expectations. As the ICDR pursues its collective work, it must consider and respect the diversity of agency missions, perspectives, priorities, and decisions. Agencies should be accountable for fulfilling their roles. Committee members should be clear on what decisions they are empowered to make and share that information with fellow members.
3. **Establish collaborative, lasting working relationships.** Committee members must trust their partners for mutual efforts to be most effective. Commitment to ICDR’s mission is critical, and membership can be encouraged and supported by actively soliciting diverse perspectives, positions, and opinions.
4. **Prioritize and focus on shared priorities and essential activities.** Identifying realistic and meaningful activities will help develop common ground among members, capitalize on existing capabilities, and leverage resources. This will assist in decision-making about what the ICDR can realistically accomplish with the time and resources available.

5. **Ensure communications and activities are transparent.** Communication should be open and regular among committee members and across agencies. The ICDR's goals, strategies, and activities should be transparent, with agency contributions openly recognized.
6. **Document positive impacts.** Success will be determined by measuring the positive impacts that disability research and collaboration have on the disability community. The ICDR should pursue clearly defined goals that are compelling and meaningful to member agencies, demonstrate accountability, and share concrete outcomes.

During FY 2019, the ICDR focused on promoting and optimizing interagency coordination and collaboration through its activities and resulting recommendations. In accordance with the ICDR Authority, after receiving input from key stakeholders, the ICDR seeks to identify, assess, and coordinate federal programs, activities, and projects, as well as plans related to research concerning the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities. Stakeholder input informs the ICDR agenda, projects, activities, and plans.

To ensure adequate attention to the interest of individuals with disabilities, the ICDR partners with a variety of agencies. Participants contribute their knowledge and expertise to working groups and conference-planning committees; collect data; make recommendations on research priorities; and disseminate information. These activities stimulate thinking about research-based solutions to issues confronting federal agencies.

This accomplishments report will detail the activities of the ICDR during FY 2019. The ICDR devoted much of its efforts to the final development and implementation planning of the government-wide strategic plan required by WIOA. Efforts to develop the government-wide strategic plan continued to capitalize on potential interagency synergies and reflected the priorities of the WIOA-defined stakeholders: policymakers, representatives from other federal agencies conducting relevant research, individuals with disabilities, organizations representing individuals with disabilities, researchers, and providers. The ICDR hosted meetings related to activities of the government-wide strategic plan during FY 2019 to promote coordination, collaboration, and partnerships. In addition to the final development of and implementation planning for the strategic plan, the ICDR continued its ongoing activities to support its overall mission, goals, and objectives. These included the development of searchable Government Wide Inventory of Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, as well as four EC meetings.

Government-Wide Strategic Plan Activities

This section describes the strategic planning activities accomplished during FY 2019. It includes pertinent background information, working group activities, and stakeholder input. The draft

government-wide strategic plan was finalized in December 2016 and cleared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in April 2019. The plan will now serve as the guiding document for the EC and working groups. [The full plan is available on the ICDR website.](#)

Background

In July 2014, WIOA mandated significant changes when it reauthorized the ICDR. WIOA (Public Law 113-128) included a new requirement for the ICDR to develop a comprehensive government-wide strategic plan for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

The ICDR began a systematic strategic planning process that continued through FY 2019 to develop the comprehensive government-wide strategic plan required under WIOA. The EC and standing committee co-chairs provided leadership for the effort. Topical working groups composed of federal representatives and disability research stakeholders developed and proposed research goals and objectives for the ICDR. The ICDR created an inclusive process in order to give due consideration to all the important needs in disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

The strategic plan builds upon previous efforts to promote interagency collaboration and overall impact by the ICDR. These include:

- Focused efforts in FY 2013–2014 to increase federal agency awareness of disability and rehabilitation research and related activities across the federal government. Partnership meetings highlighted the need for the ICDR to facilitate connections and partnerships between federal agencies and across the disability and rehabilitation research community.
- [Creating a Sustainable Interagency Coordination Network on Disability Research: Report of the Expert Panel](#) includes the findings and recommendations of an ICDR expert panel that met in 2013–2014 to identify the state of the science related to interagency collaboration and suggest steps toward creating a sustainable interagency disability research network.
- [Primer on Interagency Research Collaboration](#) serves as a reference guide that includes an overview of best practices to foster interagency collaboration based on an ICDR literature review, documents from other interagency research efforts, and the ICDR expert panel report.

After considering the recommended practices from these reports, the ICDR reviewed other federal strategic planning efforts to adopt a process to develop this government-wide strategic plan. The plan requires:

- 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, research activity assignments for responsible individuals and agencies to carry out, and research priorities and recommendations;

- A description of how funds from each agency will be combined, as appropriate, for projects administered among federal agencies, and how such funds will be administered;
- The development and ongoing maintenance of a searchable government wide inventory of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research for trend and data analysis across federal agencies;
- 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
- A summary of underemphasized and duplicative areas of research.

The EC adopted the following mission and vision and defined how the ICDR would measure the success of their strategic planning efforts:

1. The ICDR will be widely recognized as the lead organization for facilitating and coordinating federal interagency efforts on disability and independent living research. The EC will promote disability research needed to fill identified gaps and articulate how non-disability research can benefit from considering people with disabilities in the general population.
2. Collaborative relationships will form to ensure the best use of federal resources. Member agencies will review each other's portfolios to help avoid unneeded duplication and to build upon overlapping priorities in order to move proposed research ideas into reality. New stakeholders will join the effort to engage in collaborative initiatives.
3. The organizing framework for the ICDR will promote integrated leadership that supports shared ownership and continuity of participation. EC activities and products will reflect the best ideas of the group.
4. A clear set of responsibilities, goals, and cross-agency priorities will help focus efforts and increase the quality of the EC's work. Clearly articulated outcomes and deliverables will increase the public trust and strengthen member participation. Incorporating a broad range of stakeholder input will help ensure that research is relevant to the needs of people with disabilities and the organizations that provide services to them.
5. Clearly articulated initiatives and specific goals will lead to higher visibility for ICDR interagency disability and independent living research and will ultimately improve outcomes for programs, policies, and people with disabilities.

The EC and working group co-chairs provided continued leadership for the strategic planning effort. Topical working groups composed of federal representatives and stakeholders generated ideas for the ICDR to consider for its strategic plan.

Working Groups

The ICDR niche is broad. It includes all types of research addressing physical and mental function, rehabilitative services and technology, social and community integration, and independent living, as well as all types of disabilities and chronic conditions. The ICDR formed

five strategic planning working groups to identify issues for possible inclusion in the strategic plan:

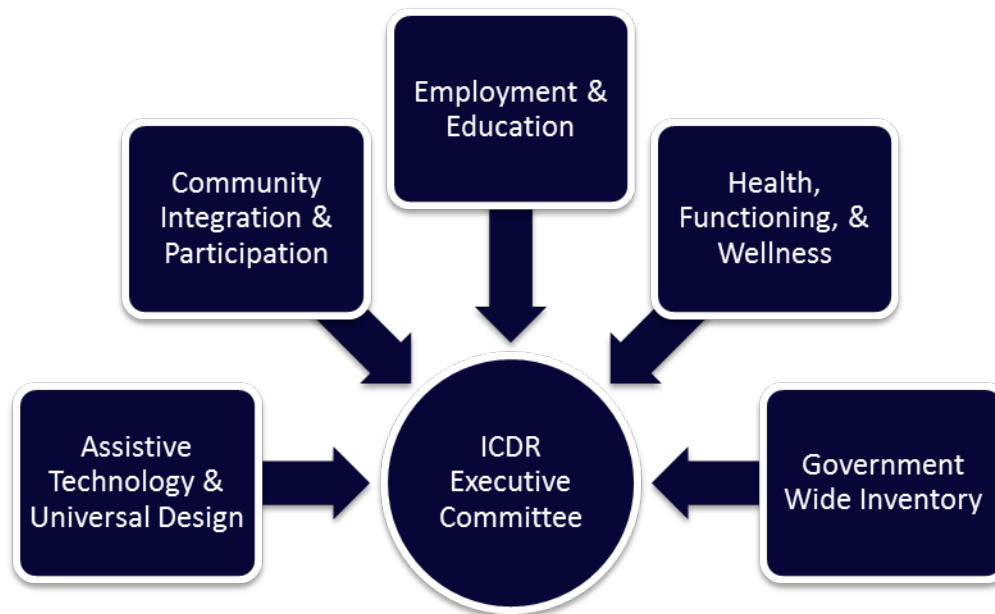


Figure 2. ICDR Working Groups

- The **Assistive Technology and Universal Design (AT/UD)** working group scope includes research, design, development, policy, systems, and services related to AT and 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, as well as youth transition to employment, postsecondary education, and community life.
- 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, and surveillance, among others. This group focuses primarily on health and wellness. An additional stakeholder input session suggested the addition of “functioning” to the title of this working group.
- The **Government Wide Inventory (GWI)** working group is charged with developing the WIOA-mandated GWI of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

The ICDR EC and working groups met throughout FY 2019 to develop action plans, implement their strategic work plans, and discuss current and emerging research areas of interest to the ICDR. Topic areas discussed in FY 2019 included:

- Present and future of 508 and efforts to implement 508
- Accessibility of HealthIT
- A follow-on to the June 26, 2018, U.S. Department of Transportation/National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Accessible Transportation Symposium
- Collaboration between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR), and National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
- Social isolation and the role of Artificial Intelligence
- Transition research academy
- Federal partners in transition
- Medical rehabilitation research

Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

The ICDR 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) 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 time frame—1 to 3 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.

The working groups developed the following goals and objectives:

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

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

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

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

Objective 4: Develop a focused research plan for Center for Independent Living services to understand their value to the disability community.

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

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

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.

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

Goal 2: Develop a GWI of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

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

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

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

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.

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

Objective 3: Implement a stakeholder input resource in accordance with the action plan.

Searchable Government Wide Inventory of Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

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. The working group studied different options for establishing the GWI, recommending that the ICDR capitalize upon and leverage an existing database, the Federal RePORTER. A consortium led by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the National Science Foundation (NSF) developed this initiative to comply with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Federal RePORTER serves as a repository of data and tools

to assess the impact of federal research and development investments. The Federal RePORTER's open and automated data infrastructure enables users to document and analyze inputs, outputs, and outcomes resulting from federal investments in science.

The system leverages existing data collected by federal agencies on federal investments at the individual, award, and institutional levels. The goal of the Federal RePORTER is to utilize existing administrative data from federal agencies and match them with existing research databases on economic, scientific, and social outcomes.

The GWI working group initiated a beta testing analysis of the Federal RePORTER to assess a number of searching and analyzing features. The group is exploring the possibility of conducting analyses of the Federal RePORTER that support the ICDR strategic planning process. Potential approaches include testing search and analysis functions, focusing on identifying potential common ground or shared interests among agencies, and seeking opportunities to capitalize on existing capabilities and leverage resources.

The GWI identified the NIH Library within the Office of Research Services as a resource. The NIH library takes Federal RePORTER data and pulls information based on matched terms to create portfolio analyses. The NIH library has more robust capabilities in creating research portfolios and may be better fitted for the ICDR's needs. The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NCMRR, and NIDILRR committed funds to this project and the transaction began in FY 2018.

During FY 2019, the working group began meeting regularly with interagency colleagues to begin the work. They focused on refining the ontology for the database in order to harmonize the process of developing a useful ontology. The group has developed a fingerprint of systems to create a structured search, allowing for narrowed search results. They are working with the NIH Library to curate datasets from multiple agencies into one dataset.

Strategic Planning Next Steps

The EC and the working groups continued to move forward with statutory member approval of the final strategic plan. During FY 2019, the focus was on completing the vetting and clearance process and to begin implementing the strategic plan's goals and objectives. The EC and work groups continue to meet on a regular basis to execute the strategies for implementation identified in the strategic plan, engaging key stakeholders and partners as needed.

Highlighted Activities of the ICDR

In FY 2019, the ICDR continued with the ongoing work of its mission. The ICDR supported continued collaboration among its member agencies and partners and hosted four EC meetings, planned a data call to member agencies, and initiated a report regarding medical rehabilitation research meetings.

Four Executive Committee Meetings

The EC met in December, May, July, and September of FY 2019. The meetings gave the EC members the opportunity to convene and discuss strategic planning activities, begin to develop action plans, and provide updates on current or upcoming activities.

December 2018: The EC discussed 2019 State of the Science Topics, discussed the membership and activities of the ICDR, and shared information about upcoming initiatives and activities. Discussions included:

- Topics for an upcoming State of the Science;
- A presentation on the *All of Us* Research Program Task Force;
- Updates from working groups on their progress; and
- Updates from agency representatives about upcoming initiatives, activities, and events.

May 2019: The EC discussed the path forward with the approval of the strategic plan. Discussions included:

- Reports on activities and progress from the working groups;
- Membership and recruitment efforts;
- Topics for an upcoming State of the Science; and
- Updates from agency representatives about upcoming initiatives, activities, and events.

July 2019: The EC discussed the implementation of the strategic plan by identifying timelines, next steps, partners, and points of contact. Discussions included:

- General organizational and ICDR updates;
- Implementing the strategic plan, determining points of contact for each task, and developing a timeline;
- Membership and activities of the ICDR; and
- Updates from agency representatives about upcoming initiatives, activities, and events.

September 2019: The EC continued discussing the path forward for establishing action plans. Discussions included:

- Implementation of the Strategic Plan by identifying timelines, next steps, partners, and points of contact;
- Breakouts and brainstorming among working groups;
- Membership and activities of the ICDR; and
- Updates from agency representatives about upcoming initiatives, activities, and events.

[Meeting summaries and any supplemental materials can be found on the Executive Committee page on the ICDR website.](#)

Medical Rehabilitation Research Roundtables

As a part of strategic planning activities, the ICDR supported two Medical Rehabilitation Research Roundtables in FY 2018 and produced a draft report in FY 2019. Federal agencies provided significant investments through the basic and foundational sciences, small business-initiated research, and clinical studies and trials to develop devices and AT. Many devices created in this space face significant challenges when they move through the regulatory process and toward commercialization.

These meetings brought together partners (i.e., U.S. Department of Defense, VA, NSF, NIH, NIDILRR, and others) to engage the community to identify success stories where interagency coordination enabled the translation of a device or AT; to provide information on gaps and on partners who can engage with the government to improve translation; and to determine a clear agenda from a research policy and funding perspective to enhance the ability for individuals with disabilities to access these devices in the future.

The meetings allowed for concrete focus on previous areas of success and identification of needed collaborations or projects between federal agencies that can encourage clinical translation of those devices with high scientific quality and patient impact. Collaborative initiatives of focus included:

- Limb Loss Registry
- Government Wide Inventory
- Pathways to Prevention
- Collaboration with the World Health Organization
- MobilityX
- SCI 2020
- Regenerative Rehabilitation

Appendix A: Statutory Authorization

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (Public Law 113-128):

Title 29 – Labor; Chapter 16 – Vocational Rehabilitation and other Rehabilitation Services; Subchapter II – Research and Training

§763. Interagency Committee

Retrieved from

<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title29/chapter16&edition=prelim>

(a) Establishment; membership; meetings

(1) In order 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, there is established within the Federal Government an Interagency Committee on Disability Research (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "Committee"), chaired by the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, and comprised of such members as the President may designate, including the following (or their designees): the Director, the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Secretary of Transportation, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, the Director of the Indian Health Service, the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(2) The Committee shall meet not less than four times each year, and for not less than 1 of such meetings at least every 2 years, the Committee shall invite policymakers, representatives from other Federal agencies conducting relevant research, individuals with disabilities, organizations representing individuals with disabilities, researchers, and providers, to offer input on the Committee's work, including the development and implementation of the strategic plan required under subsection (c).

(b) Duties

(1) After receiving input individuals ¹ with disabilities, the Committee shall 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 and rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities.

(2) In carrying out its duties with respect to the conduct of Federal research (including assistive technology research and research that incorporates the principles of universal design) related to rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities, the Committee shall-

(A) share information regarding the range of assistive technology research, independent living research, and research that incorporates the principles of universal design, that is being carried out by members of the Committee and other Federal departments and organizations;

(B) identify, and make efforts to address, gaps in assistive technology research, independent living research, and research that incorporates the principles of universal design that are not being adequately addressed;

(C) identify, and establish, clear research priorities related to assistive technology research and research that incorporates the principles of universal design for the Federal Government;

(D) promote interagency collaboration and joint research activities relating to assistive technology research, independent living research, and research that incorporates the principles of universal design at the Federal level, and reduce unnecessary duplication of effort regarding these types of research within the Federal Government; and

(E) optimize the productivity of Committee members through resource sharing and other cost-saving activities, related to assistive technology research, independent living research, and research that incorporates the principles of universal design.

(c) Strategic plan

(1) The Committee shall develop a comprehensive government wide strategic plan for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

(2) The strategic plan shall include, at a minimum-

(A) a description of the-

(i) measurable goals and objectives;

(ii) existing resources each agency will devote to carrying out the plan;

(iii) timetables for completing the projects outlined in the plan; and

(iv) assignment of responsible individuals and agencies for carrying out the research activities;

(B) research priorities and recommendations;

(C) a description of how funds from each agency will be combined, as appropriate, for projects administered among Federal agencies, and how such funds will be administered;

(D) the development and ongoing maintenance of a searchable government wide inventory of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research for trend and data analysis across Federal agencies;

(E) 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

(F) a summary of underemphasized and duplicative areas of research.

(3) The strategic plan described in this subsection shall be submitted to the President and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.

(d) Annual report

Not later than December 31 of each year, the Committee shall prepare and submit, to the President and to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a report that-

(1) describes the progress of the Committee in fulfilling the duties described in subsections (b) and (c), and including specifically for subsection (c)-

(A) a report of the progress made in implementing the strategic plan, including progress toward implementing the elements described in subsection (c)(2)(A); and

(B) detailed budget information.²

(2) makes such recommendations as the Committee determines to be appropriate with respect to coordination of policy and development of objectives and priorities for all Federal programs relating to the conduct of research (including assistive technology research and research that incorporates the principles of universal design) related to rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities; and

(3) describes the activities that the Committee recommended to be funded through grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other mechanisms, for assistive technology research and development and research and development that incorporates the principles of universal design.

(e) Definitions

In this section-

(1) the terms "assistive technology" and "universal design" have the meanings given the terms in section 3002 of this title; and

(2) the term "independent living", used in connection with research, means research on issues and topics related to attaining maximum self-sufficiency and function by individuals with disabilities, including research on assistive technology and universal design, employment, education, health and wellness, and community integration and participation.

(Pub. L. 93-112, title II, §203, as added [Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, §405, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1173](#); amended [Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101\(f\) \[title VIII, §401\(16\)\], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-337, 2681-412](#); [Pub. L. 105-394, title II, §201, Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3651](#); [Pub. L. 108-364, §3\(b\)\(1\), Oct. 25, 2004, 118 Stat. 1737](#); Pub. L. 113-128, title IV, §434, July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1664.)

Prior Provisions

Provisions similar to this section were contained in section 761b of this title prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 105–220.

A prior section 763, [Pub. L. 93–112, title II, §203, Sept. 26, 1973, 87 Stat. 376](#), relating to making of grants and contracts for training of personnel involved in vocational services to handicapped individuals, was renumbered section 304 of Pub. L. 93–112 and transferred to section 774 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 113–128.

Amendments

2014-Pub.L 113-128

- Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 113–128, §434(1)(A), substituted "conducting disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research" for "conducting rehabilitation research", "chaired by the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee," for "chaired by the Director", and "the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration." for "and the Director of the National Science Foundation." and inserted "the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living," after "Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services,".
- Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 113–128, §434(1)(B), inserted ", and for not less than 1 of such meetings at least every 2 years, the Committee shall invite policymakers, representatives from other Federal agencies conducting relevant research, individuals with disabilities, organizations representing individuals with disabilities, researchers, and providers, to offer input on the Committee's work, including the development and implementation of the strategic plan required under subsection (c)" after "each year".
- Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 113–128, §434(2)(A), substituted "individuals with disabilities" for "from targeted individuals" and inserted "independent living and" before "rehabilitation".
- Subsec. (b)(2)(A). Pub. L. 113–128, §434(2)(B)(i), inserted "independent living research," after "assistive technology research,".
- Subsec. (b)(2)(B), (D), (E). Pub. L. 113–128, §434(2)(B)(ii)–(iv), inserted ", independent living research," after "assistive technology research".
- Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 113–128, §434(5), added subsec. (c). Former subsec. (c) redesignated (d).
- Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 113–128, §434(6)(A), substituted "Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate" for "Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate" in introductory provisions.
- Pub. L. 113–128, §434(3), (4), redesignated subsec. (c) as (d) and struck out former subsec. (d) which related to recommendations for coordinating research among Federal departments.
- Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 113–128, §434(6)(B), added par. (1) and struck out former par. (1) which read as follows: "describes the progress of the Committee in fulfilling the duties described in subsection (b) of this section;".

- Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 113–128, §434(7), added par. (2) and struck out former par. (2) which read as follows: "the term 'targeted individuals' has the meaning given the term 'targeted individuals and entities' in section 3002 of this title."

2004-Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 108–364 added subsec. (e) and struck out former subsec. (e) which read as follows: "In this section, the terms 'assistive technology', 'targeted individuals', and 'universal design' have the meanings given the terms in section 3002 of this title."

1998-Pub. L. 105–277 made technical amendment to directory language of Pub. L. 105–220, §405, which enacted this section.

- Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 105–394, §201(1), inserted "including programs relating to assistive technology research and research that incorporates the principles of universal design," after "programs,".
- Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105–394, §201(2), designated existing provisions as par. (1), substituted "targeted individuals" for "individuals with disabilities and the individuals' representatives", inserted "(including assistive technology research and research that incorporates the principles of universal design)" after "research", and added par. (2).
- Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 105–394, §201(3), added subsec. (c) and struck out former subsec. (c) which read as follows: "The Committee shall annually submit to the President and to the appropriate committees of the Congress a report making such recommendations as the Committee deems appropriate with respect to coordination of policy and development of objectives and priorities for all Federal programs relating to the conduct of research related to rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities."
- Subsecs. (d), (e). Pub. L. 105–394, §201(4), added subsecs. (d) and (e).

Change of Name

- Committee on Labor and Human Resources of Senate changed to Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of Senate by Senate Resolution No. 20, One Hundred Sixth Congress, Jan. 19, 1999.
- [¹ So in original. Probably should be preceded by "from".](#)
- [² So in original. The period probably should be a semicolon.](#)

Appendix B: ICDR Membership and Federal Participation

The ICDR is chaired by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or her designee. The authorizing statute identifies the leadership from 16 other departments, agencies, and offices, as well as others the president may designate, as statutory members who provide leadership and oversight for the committee. Statutory members include:

Secretary, Health and Human Services
Director, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research
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 of the Interior for Indian Affairs
Director, Indian Health Service
Director, National Science Foundation,
Administrator, Small Business Administration

In addition to the statutory members, other federal and nonfederal partners contribute to the deliberations, events, and products of the ICDR. Some federal partners play key leadership roles on the ICDR by serving as co-chairs for standing committees, co-funding activities, and providing resources to support achievement of ICDR goals. Due to the nature of activities in FY 2019, primarily federal entities and stakeholder organizations participated in the activities of the ICDR. The following is a list of partners that supported ICDR activities in FY 2019:

Federal Government Agencies

Executive Office of the President

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Johnson Space Center (JSC)

U.S. Department of Education (ED)

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

Rehabilitation Services Administration (SRA)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Administration for Community Living (ACL)

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR)

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

Office of Autism Research Coordination (OARC)

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

Division of Neuroscience

U.S. Department of Labor (DoL)

Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Office of Operations Research and Development (R&D)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D)

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

Office of Research & Development (ORD)

Rehabilitation Research and Development Services (RR&D)

Independent Agencies and Government Corporations

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems

Social Security Administration (SSA)

Point of Contact

For further information regarding this report, or to report any errors or omissions, please contact:

Kristi Hill, PhD

Acting Director

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

Administration for Community Living

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

330 C Street SW, Room 1304

Washington, DC 20201

Email: ICDRinfo@neweditions.net