



National Trends in Disability Employment Lunch & Learn Series

Season 11, Episode 1 nTIDE – *Overview of the Securing Employment and Economic Keys to Stability (SEEKS) Research Study*

January 9, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET | Free | Online | [Register](#)

Website: researchondisability.org/ntide | Contact: amy.chamberlain@unh.edu

Welcome to the National Trends in Disability Employment (or nTIDE) Lunch & Learn series. On the first Friday of every month, corresponding with the Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report, we will be offering a live broadcast via Zoom Webinar to share the results of the latest nTIDE findings. In addition, we will provide news and updates from the field of Disability Employment, as well as host an invited panelist who will discuss current disability-related findings and events.

AGENDA

Time	Item
12:00 PM ET	Introduction & Welcome Andrew Houtenville, University of New Hampshire
12:10 PM	Overview of National Trends in Disability Employment (nTIDE) Jobs Report Release John O'Neill, Kessler Foundation The Numbers Andrew Houtenville, University of New Hampshire
12:15 PM	Announcements from the field of Disability Employment: Lillie Heigl, AUCD
12:30 PM	Guest Presenters Yvonne Kellar-Guenther, Center for Public Health Innovation Peter Pike, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, CO
12:45 PM	Question and Answer for Attendees

Brought to you by the Kessler Foundation, Association of University Centers on Disability, and the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability's Disability Statistics Rehabilitation and Research Training Center, funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research.



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PRESENTERS



Yvonne Kellar-Guenther, PhD, is the Associate Director at Center for Public Health Innovation. She works in public health. Yvonne holds advanced degrees in Communication Theory and Interpersonal Communication. She was trained in both qualitative and quantitative methodology. She has been engaged in research for over 30 years and engaged in program evaluation for over 20 years. Dr. Kellar-Guenther was the lead researcher on SEEKS, a randomized control trial that tested a service delivery model designed to increase

employment, increase gross income, and/or reduce social isolation for adults (ages 18-60 years of age) with disabilities who were likely eligible for SSI/SSDI. She was also the lead researcher and program evaluator on Colorado Youth WINS, a randomized control trial looking at providing employment support and benefit planning services for youth with disabilities aged 14-25 in Colorado. Some of her current projects include creating sustainable long-term follow-up for families whose child was diagnosed as a result of newborn screening, creating tools for birthing providers to educate families on newborn screening, and co-leading learning collaboratives with state newborn screening programs and accredited cystic fibrosis centers focused on continuous quality improvement.



Peter J. Pike is the Program Manager, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Office of Independent Living Services. He oversees contracts worth over \$7 million dollars annually with nine non-profits called Centers for Independent Living. These non-profits provide independent living services to support people with disabilities living independently in the communities of their choice. Peter is also the Director of a 5-year random assignment research project called Securing Employment and Economic Keys to Stability (SEEKS) funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, \$2.3 million. This project is testing an intervention to improve gross monthly income, employment outcomes and community participation for people with disabilities.

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Andrew Houtenville, PhD, is a Professor of Economics and Research Director of the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Houtenville is extensively involved in disability statistics and employment policy research. He has published widely in the areas of disability statistics and the economic status of people with disabilities. He is the Principal Investigator on the NIDILRR-funded Employment Policy and Measurement Rehabilitation and Research Training Center. Dr. Houtenville received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of New Hampshire in 1999 & was a National Institute on Aging Post-Doctoral Fellow at Syracuse University in 1998/1999.



John O'Neill, PhD, is the director of employment and disability research at Kessler Foundation and has over 28 years of experience in vocational rehabilitation as a rehabilitation counselor educator, disability employment researcher, and advisor to state vocational rehabilitation agencies. Dr. O'Neill has been a PI or co-PI on six NIDILRR funded, five-year research and training centers focusing on TBI and community integration, disability statistics, disability employment service system, and how individual and contextual factors relate to employment outcomes among people with disabilities.



Lillie Heigl, Esq., MPA, is the Director of Policy at AUCD and is a former New York State Excelsior Public Service fellow, placed at the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities in Albany New York. She worked in program implementation for the agency's Employment & Meaningful Activities unit. She holds a J.D. and an MPA from Syracuse University College of Law and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, also having completed the Disability Law and Policy Program.

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Note. All webinars will be recorded and closed captioned and will be added to our website archives along with full transcripts following the live broadcast.

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