

Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is one of 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. SCDD is based at the University of Rochester Medical Center in upstate New York and advances policy and practice for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and communities through research, education, and service.

During COVID-19 SCDD has worked to adapt services and continue to support individuals and families with disabilities in the following ways:

HEALTHCARE SERVICES



- Developed a consolidated COVID resource document for resources and families that has been viewed 1,400 times
- Adapted diagnostic and intervention services to move to a full telemedicine format, with over 1,250 clinical visits conducted since mid-March
- In partnership with the American Academy of Developmental Medicine & Dentistry (AADMD) SCDD has:
 - Co-hosted two webinars on COVID-19 & People with I/DD.
 - Part 1: What you Need to Know reached 700 people
 - Part 2: Healthcare Concerns of People with IDD & Dementia reached 475 people
 - Developed a COVID-19 support website,
 - Posted two policy statements related to accompaniment in hospitals and access to ventilators and other scarce medical resources for people with I/DD
- Co-hosted a webinar for a local disability service provider, including a discussion of facts & myths for COVID-19 and people with I/DD
 - 200 attendees
- Conducted a virtual mindfulness group to support emotional wellbeing
- Partnered with the Latino Health Coalition to create a COVID-19 health directory for the Latino community

EDUCATION



- Conducted a national webinar on supporting caregivers during COVID-19 with over 500 attendees
- Providing ongoing tele-consultation services to over 30 school districts, agencies and early intervention programs
- Delivering virtual parent and staff trainings in 9 NYS counties
- Developing and disseminating key resources for families, providers and educators across NYS

EMPLOYMENT



- Hosting bi-weekly technical assistance webinars on work-based learning virtually with 70+ NY teachers and job coaches
- Created virtual video series on employment services, advocacy and work readiness supports that was made available to a large urban district with 25,000 students

RECREATION



- Developing an inclusive virtual gardening program for adults with IDD to learn how to grow food and prepare meals with fresh produce
- Providing resources for faith communities to support individuals with IDD through SCDD's established Faith Inclusion Network (GRO-FIN)

LEND PROGRAM

The Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND), a program of SCDD, offers collaborative interdisciplinary training focused on improving the health of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and special healthcare needs.

During COVID-19 the LEND program has:

- Hosted 10 virtual sessions for 25 trainees across 14 disciplines
- Created 3.5 hour lecture on the impact of COVID-19 on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Created clinical services that provide behavioral interventions to families who are struggling with demands of sheltering in place



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