

LEAD CENTER

Who We Are & What We Do



LEAD CENTER

OVERVIEW ➡➡

The **National Center on Leadership for the Employment and Economic Advancement of People with Disabilities (LEAD Center)** is a collaborative of disability, workforce and economic empowerment organizations dedicated to advancing sustainable individual and systems-level change to improve competitive, integrated employment and economic self-sufficiency for all people with disabilities.

Led by National Disability Institute, with funding through a five-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, the LEAD Center brings together a range of organizations, thought leaders and best-practice innovators to **expand employment, policy leadership** and **economic advancement** opportunities for people with disabilities.

LEAD CENTER MISSION ➡➡

To advance sustainable individual and systems-level change that results in improved, competitive, integrated employment and economic self-sufficiency outcomes for individuals across the spectrum of disability.



*Photo courtesy of ODEP

The LEAD Center provides training and technical assistance, policy research and recommendations, and demonstration projects designed to:

- Break down silos in existing systems, processes and practices;
- Build the capacity of the workforce investment system to meet the needs of job seekers with disabilities;
- Foster wider understanding, adoption and integration of next generation employment practices in both the public and private sector.

LEAD CENTER INITIATIVES

As a collaborative, we create opportunities for people with disabilities to achieve employment and economic advancement by:

- Advancing effective participation for people with disabilities in the workforce development system;
- Enhancing the current 'state of practice' by supporting customized and self-employment in the public workforce system;
- Fortifying the connection between employment and economic advancement goals and outcomes by integrating financial capability strategies within American Job Center services and supports;
- Analyzing policies, tools and opportunities to leverage resources that advance systems change at state and local levels; and
- Serving as a virtual library and resource center on best practices and successful strategies on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Employment First, Customized Employment, financial literacy, economic advancement and more.

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Need additional information or want to discuss a potential partnership with the LEAD Center? Please contact **Rebecca Salon, LEAD Center Project Director** at rsalon@ndi-inc.org.



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