

Archived Information

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH (NIDRR)

Goal: To support the conduct and dissemination of high-quality research that contributes to improvement in the quality of life of persons with disabilities.	Funding History (\$ in millions)			
	Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Fiscal Year	Appropriation
Legislation: Title II of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by P.L. 105-220 (29 U.S.C. 760-764).	1985	\$39	2000	\$86
	1990	\$54	2001	\$100
	1995	\$70	2002 (Requested)	\$110

Program Description

The goal of this program is to enhance the ability of individuals with disabilities to be independent, employed, productive, and integrated into their communities by supporting and disseminating research that is relevant and scientifically sound by providing for a program of research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities that promote, full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, maintenance of health and function for individuals of all ages with disabilities; and the transfer of rehabilitation technology to individuals with disabilities. The program also works to ensure the distribution of practical scientific and technological information related to rehabilitation and disability, in usable formats to appropriate user populations and to increase opportunities for disabled individuals, including those who are members of underserved minority groups.

NIDRR supports rehabilitation research and development, demonstration projects, and related activities, including the training of persons who provide rehabilitation services or who conduct rehabilitation research. In addition, NIDRR supports project to disseminate and promote the use of information concerning developments in rehabilitation procedures, methods, and devices. Information is provided to rehabilitation professionals, persons with disabilities, and other relevant groups. Awards are competitive, with applications reviewed by panels of experts, including rehabilitation professionals, rehabilitation researchers, and persons with disabilities.

NIDRR is responsible for about 500 studies and 600 training sessions serving approximately 60,000 rehabilitation professionals every year. NIDRR funds research and related activities through 9 programs. The Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers program is the largest investment of NIDRR resources. NIDRR is responsible for advanced training in research for physicians and other clinicians and for promoting coordination and cooperation among other Federal agencies conducting rehabilitation research through an Interagency Committee on Disability Research. Congress assigned responsibility to NIDRR for supporting regional programs to facilitate the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to maintain a program of model spinal cord injury demonstration projects.

Program Performance

OBJECTIVE 1: CONDUCT HIGH-QUALITY RESEARCH THAT LEADS TO HIGH-QUALITY RESEARCH PRODUCTS.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
<i>Percentage of grantees sampled who had good or excellent ratings</i>			<p>Status: Positive Movement Toward target.</p> <p>Explanation: NIDRR conducts two types of reviews, Formative and Summative. Summative reviews began in 1997 and formative reviews began in 1999. The Formative reviews evaluate research design in the first 12 or 18 months of a 5-year grant. The Summative reviews describe the usefulness of research after a project enters the end of its fourth year or its fifth year. Reviews consist of ordinal ratings, comments based on individual reviewers' assessments, group discussion and a closing session that reflects the general agreement on strengths and weaknesses of all panel constituents. The review moves the grantees towards NIDRR's Center of Excellence Model. The model is comprised of four major components- Administration, research, relevance, Productivity and Capacity Building. This year report is based on a small sample of Formatives(19). The Formatives average score were 3.82 (on a five point scale) with 53 percent of the grantees reviewed receiving scores of 3.90 or higher. These percentages are based on one question on excellence. The Summative reviews include four questions that address scientific rigor.</p>	<p>Source: The data sources for this year are the NIDRR Summative and Formative Reviews and the data analysis done by CESSI, VA. And Info-Use, CA. The Research Triangle Institute, NC, is no longer involved in this process.</p> <p><i>Frequency:</i> Experts' continuous evaluation of programs.</p> <p><i>Next collection update:</i> September 2001.</p> <p><i>Data to be reported:</i> October 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Data are validated by the program experts' review process and contractors' analysis.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Verified by Dept. of Ed. attestation process and <i>ED. Standards for Evaluation Program Performance Data.</i></p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: The Summative and Formative review process is a very labor intensive and costly process. We are experimenting with electronic formats to streamline the process and facilitate implementation of recommendations.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: A larger sample of respondents is being developed to allow for more diverse responses on the usefulness of materials. During next year we plan to conduct 54 reviews and include in our reporting the Summatives' reviews.</p>
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1997-98:	37 %			
1998-99:	55%	No targets previously set		
1999-00:	Formatives: 53%	60%		
2000-01:		65%		
2001-02:		70%		

Indicator 1.2 Increased publication and citation: Publication of research findings, with the appropriate citation, will increase in refereed journals.					
Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality	
<i>Average number of publications per grantee (55 grantees total)</i>			<p>Status: Unable to judge.</p> <p>Explanation: Previous data (97-98) did not reflect the rigorous criterion that we need for this measure. Our standard for this measure has changed and it will be based on peer reviewed publications only. In order to focus on measurement of quality research for this indicator we are working at implementing the use of a Performance Reporting System that has undergone OMB clearance. This web based system will collect data on grantees' program activities in NIDRR's major seven grantees' types. All grantees will complete the forms via the Internet. The report system will yield frequencies, cross tabulations, and other tabular displays of information to meet GPRA and other reporting needs.</p>	<p>Source: The data source is the Research Triangle Institute, NC.</p> <p>Frequency: Continuous process. The system will allow grantees to enter information on an on-going basis for an end-of-year report.</p> <p>Next collection update: September 2001.</p> <p>Data to be reported: October 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Verified by Dept. of Ed. attestation process and <i>ED. Standards for Evaluation Program Performance Data.</i></p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: We have developed a web-based Performance Reporting System that will be available to grantees April with which grantees give detailed information on research design, data analysis plan, reports and publications, presentations and the extent of consumer involvement in the conduct of research.</p>	
Year	Actual Performance				Performance Targets
1997-98:	7.1				
1998-99:	No Data Available				No targets previously set
1999-00:	No Data Available				Targets to be set
2000-01:					
2001-02:					

OBJECTIVE 2: DISSEMINATE AND PROMOTE USE OF INFORMATION ON RESEARCH FINDINGS, IN ACCESSIBLE FORMATS, TO IMPROVE REHABILITATION SERVICES AND OUTCOMES.

Targets and Performance Data				Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality	
Indicator 2.1 Information and TA usefulness: Recipients will find the products, information, and technical assistance that they receive from grantees useful.						
<i>Percentage (and number) of recipients responding "yes," "no," and "N/A" to the question on being served adequately</i>				<p>Status: Exceeded target.</p> <p>Explanation: Current information on this indicator is based on Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs) reporting system ADA Impact Management System (AIMS, data for Year '00) and the National Center for the Dissemination Disability Research Customer Satisfaction Survey (Recent quarterly data only). The AIMS and the NCDDR use a Likert Scale. We have collapsed the Likert Scale data as follows: <i>Very Useful, Good and Fair</i> as "yes" and <i>Poor and Very Poor</i> as "no" or <i>Very Useful and Somewhat Useful</i> as "Yes" and <i>Not Very Useful</i> as "No."</p>	<p>Source: The data source is the AIMS and NCDDR.</p> <p>Frequency: Continuous process.</p> <p>Next collection update: July 2001.</p> <p>Data to be reported: September 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Verified by Dept. of Ed. attestation process and <i>ED. Standards for Evaluation Program Performance Data.</i></p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: We are working to expand the sample to other dissemination and utilization grantees by suggesting that they add to their individual reporting systems a question on "usefulness of technical assistance, products and services".</p>	
Year	Actual Performance					Performance Targets
	Yes	No	N/A			
1998:	80% (225)	15% (41)	5% (13)			
1999:	No data available					No targets previously set
2000:	AIMS (00) 95% (1593) NCDDR (Quarter Only) 94% (296)	AIMS (00) 2%(30) NCDDR (Quarter Only) 6% (296)	NA NA			83.5% will respond "yes"
2001:				86.0% will respond "yes"		
2002:				88.5% will respond "yes"		

OBJECTIVE 3: EXPAND SYSTEM CAPACITY FOR CONDUCT OF HIGH-QUALITY REHABILITATION RESEARCH AND SERVICES BY ENSURING AVAILABILITY OF QUALIFIED RESEARCHERS AND PRACTITIONERS, INCLUDING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND OTHER UNDERSERVED GROUPS.

Indicator 3.1 Contributions of trainees and fellows: Contributions by NIDRR trainees and fellows that apply to study rehabilitation will increase.

Targets and Performance Data				Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality	
<i>Out of 18 individuals surveyed:</i>				<p>Status: Unable to judge at this time.</p> <p>Explanation: Our Capacity Building efforts include three activities: ARRTC's, NIDRR Scholars and Switzer Fellows. Data collected to date are highly anecdotal and qualitative. We are moving away from this type of data and are developing instruments to obtain quantitative information for each of the programs. Data gathering activities will start with the implementation of a Performance Reporting System that has undergone OMB clearance. This web-based system will collect data on grantees' program activities in NIDRR's major seven grantees' types. All grantees will complete the forms via the Internet. The report system will yield frequencies, cross tabulations, and other tabular displays of information to meet GPRA and other reporting needs.</p>	<p>Source: The data source is the Research Triangle Institute, NC.</p> <p><i>Frequency:</i> Continuous analysis of data reported in the Performance Management System.</p> <p><i>Next collection update:</i> September 2001.</p> <p><i>Data to be reported:</i> October 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Verified by Dept. of Ed. attestation process and <i>ED. Standards for Evaluation Program Performance Data.</i></p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: We are developing a web-based Performance Reporting System that will be available to grantees April 2001 where we can collect specific data on the ARRTC's, Switzer Fellows and NIDRR Scholars detailed contributions.</p>	
Year	Actual Performance		Performance Targets			
	Published	Presentations	Published			Presentations
1998:	(15) 6.7 average	(10) 18.2 average				
1999:	No Data Available		No targets previously set			
2000:	No Data Available		Targets to be set			
2001:			Targets to be set			
2002:						

Indicator 3.2 Researchers with disabilities and from underserved groups: Participation of researchers working in the field who have disabilities or are from underserved groups will increase.

Targets and Performance Data				Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality	
<i>Number of people with disabilities and members of minority populations who received NIDRR fellowships</i>				<p>Status: Unable to judge at this time.</p> <p>Explanation: As indicated in last year's report a pilot test activity was conducted with 5 grantees. The information collected was partial and updated for GPRA reporting purposes. The grantees that helped with the pilot activities have not used the system since the test and they have not been required to update their information. Therefore no data is available through this mechanism. Data gathering activities will start in April 2001.</p>	<p>Source: The data source is the Research Triangle Institute, NC.</p> <p><i>Frequency:</i> Continuous analysis of data reported in the Performance Management System</p> <p><i>Next collection update:</i> September 2001.</p> <p><i>Data to be reported:</i> October 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Verified by Dept. of Ed. attestation process and <i>ED. Standards for Evaluation Program Performance Data.</i></p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: This question refers only to NIDRR fellowships. We are working on expanding this indicator data by adding information on the number of paid Center staff with disabilities and from underserved groups. We will add this change as we implement the web based Reporting System that will be available to grantees April 2001.</p>	
Year	Actual Performance		Performance Targets			
1998:	No Data Available		Baseline			
1999:	No Data Available		No targets previously set			
2000:	No Data Available		Targets to be set			
2001:						
2002:						

OBJECTIVE 4: ENSURE PRODUCTIVITY AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS.

Indicator 4.1 Usefulness of NIDRR products: The percentage of customers reporting that NIDRR products and information are useful will increase.			
Targets and Performance Data		Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	
1998:	No Data Available	Baseline	<p>Status: Unable to judge at this time.</p> <p>Explanation: Data gathering activities have not started. In order to focus on measurement of quality research for this indicator we will work at implementing an Internet based yearly survey using the NIDRR, NARIC and NCDDR web sites. The survey will yield information on customer's assessments of NIDRR's products.</p> <p>Source: The data source will be a yearly customer survey placed in the web sites of NIDRR, NARIC and NCDDR. <i>Frequency:</i> Annual customer survey. <i>Next collection update:</i> June 2001. <i>Data to be reported:</i> September 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Verified by Dept. of Ed. attestation process and <i>ED. Standards for Evaluation Program Performance Data.</i></p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Planning for creating a web based placeholder for customer input on NIDRR's products is underway. The web site of NCDDR and NARIC will also be used for collecting this information.</p>
1999:	No Data Available	No targets previously set	
2000:	No Data Available	Targets to be set	
2001:		Targets to be set	
2002:			