

National Network Name: Disability Inclusion Network for Tobacco Control and Cancer Prevention

Population of Focus: People with disabilities, including U.S. Veterans

Organization: National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

Who are the National Networks?

CDC's Office on Smoking and Health and Division of Cancer Prevention and Control supports a consortium of 9 national organizations to advance the prevention of commercial tobacco use and cancer in populations experiencing tobacco- and cancer-related health disparities. The National Networks provide leadership on and promotion of evidence-based approaches for preventing commercial tobacco use and cancer. Strategies and activities will focus on:

- Network administration and management
- Training and technical assistance
- Establishing and managing a virtual or hybrid community of practice that focuses on social determinants of health
- Mass-reach media that adds to work done by CDC-funded offices and chronic disease programs

About the Disability Inclusion Network for Tobacco Control and Cancer Prevention

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) is partnering with the Lakeshore Foundation to advance the prevention of commercial tobacco use and cancer in populations experiencing tobacco- and cancer-related health disparities with a focus on people with disabilities (PWD), including U.S. Veterans.

People with disabilities are more likely to smoke than adults without disabilities and experience barriers related to social determinants of health. [In 2021, 18.5% of PWD smoked cigarettes compared to 10.9% of adults without disabilities.](#) Emerging research also demonstrates that PWD experience higher rates of certain cancers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that U.S. [Veterans use tobacco products at much higher rates than non-veterans.](#) A 2018 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report found that among Veterans, current [use of any tobacco product was higher](#) among those reporting psychological distress (48.2%), living in poverty (53.7%), and with no health insurance (60.1%).

In addition to creating the Disability Inclusion Network for Tobacco Control and Cancer Prevention (Disability Inclusion Network), NACDD will establish regional Communities of Practice (CoP) to support community-based policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change; provide comprehensive training and technical assistance (T/TA) to partners; and

support a mass reach health communication strategy. The goals of these strategies include:

- Advancing tobacco control and cancer prevention and control initiatives to accelerate the decline in commercial tobacco use;
- Reducing the incidence/mortality of tobacco-related cancers; and
- Addressing SDOH to advance health equity.

Training and Technical Assistance Offerings

As part of NACDD's strategy to engage CoPs annually, funding in the form of mini grants will be disbursed to local organizations within given states to pursue PSE change strategies and support mass reach health communications activities. Additionally, in partnership with the Lakeshore Foundation and as part of the Disability Inclusion Network, NACDD will provide flexible, responsive, and comprehensive training and technical assistance (T/TA) over the course of the project period, addressing both local and national needs and priorities. Training and TA opportunities will address, but are not limited to, the following topics: tobacco use prevention, control, and cessation and PSE change strategies and/or innovative interventions that are proven to reduce tobacco-related cancers for PWD, including U.S. Veterans.

NACDD will include T/TA of varying types (e.g., instructional, peer-to-peer learning) and modalities (e.g., webinars, office hours, peer networking calls, one-on-one support). Training and TA modalities will be designed with the audience/learner perspective and populations of focus in mind and include interactive components to the extent possible. Opportunities for virtual, real-time interaction with NACDD, Disability Inclusion Network partners, and other subject matter experts will be made available along with a website, a resource repository, and communications collateral (e.g., media resources) to address gaps and remain responsive to the needs of states and other partners.

Ways to stay connected to the Network.

Updates will be posted on NACDD's Center For Advancing Healthy Communities' website:

<https://chronicdisease.org/the-center-for-advancing-healthy-communities/>

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