Disability Inclusion, Intersectionality, and Knowledge Translation

KTDRR's 2024 Virtual KT Conference

October 15, 16, and 18

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**KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION FOR
DISABILITY** & **REHABILITATION RESEARCH**

From Theory to Practice: Strategies for Sustaining and Expanding Research Impact

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Home Usability Program (HUP)

- The Home Usability Program (HUP) is a NIDILRR-funded project facilitated through a partnership with the University of Kansas and the University of Montana.

- Designed to evaluate the effects of home modifications on factors such as exertion, safety, and community participation.

- Implemented October 2019 to June 2022, with four Centers for Independent Living (CILs) located in Georgia, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

- CIL staff were trained as researchers to collect data for the project (e.g., pre/post tests) and implement the Home Usability Program (e.g., conduct home assessments, implement home modifications).

Community Living Summit

- On Aug. 17, 2022, we hosted a 90-minute Community Living Summit webinar in collaboration with the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL).

- NCIL advertised the webinar, bringing together Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs) across the country.

- During the webinar, we shared several key resources developed during the Home Usability Program (HUP) research study:
  - National Community Living Resource Center
  - Home Usability Program
  - Home Modifications Fact Sheet
  - Findings from the Home Usability Program study (e.g., Greiman et al., 2022; Goddard et al., 2024)

Follow-Up and Webinar Series

- Following the summit, we invited attendees to participate in a series of information sessions designed to provide intensive, hands-on technical assistance and support in starting their own Home Usability Programs.

- Due to the detailed nature of support, we worked with only five CILs at a time.

- The initial webinar series was conducted October/November 2022.
  - **Session 1**: Focused on training around the consumer-directed content of the Home Usability Program
  - **Session 2**: Provided strategies for implementing the Home Usability Program
  - **Session 3**: Offered one-on-one technical assistance meetings to address follow-up questions and support the initiation of the program

- Due to the high level of interest, we conducted additional sessions in January 2023.

Individualized Technical Assistance

- Through the webinar series and follow-up initiatives, we established personal connections with 10 CILs across the country.

- These connections were crucial in understanding the specific needs and challenges faced by each center.

- We offered ongoing technical assistance (TA) to these centers throughout the year, including guidance on conducting home assessments, implementing usability solutions, and identifying funding sources for home modifications.

Home Usability Peer Network

- The HUP webinar series and technical assistance provided to CILs created a strong network of CILs experienced in home usability, paving the way for more structured and sustained collaboration.

- Building on this groundwork, we launched the Home Usability Peer Network in collaboration with the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) on December 6, 2023, through a kickoff webinar.

- The objective of the Peer Network is to support and connect CILs to resources and information about home modification programs, serving as a platform for CILs to share best practices, lessons learned, and peer support.

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Peer Network Monthly Meetings

- Starting January 2024, we organized monthly meetings to facilitate continuous support and resource sharing.

- Each call is structured to have a presenter discuss a topic for 10–15 minutes, followed by 45 minutes dedicated to general peer discussion and support.

  - **January:** Home usability website and solutions

  - **February:** Home usability assessments

  - **March:** Home usability funding

  - **April:** Community partnerships

  - **May:** Program evaluation

  - **June:** Next steps for the network

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HUP Resources Webpage

▪ We also collaborated with the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) to create a Home Usability Peer Network Resource Page to provide easy access to valuable resources and information shared during calls.

- Webpage: https://ncil.org/hup-resources/

▪ The resource page includes resources relevant to:

- Housing advocacy
- Home usability assessment
- Community partnerships and funding
- Home usability solutions
- Program implementation and evaluation

Key Lessons Learned

- Consider and strategically plan how each KT activity will build on the previous one, creating a structured pathway for learning and implementation. For example,

1. Empowering CIL staff as researchers leveraged their diverse expertise and supported their inclusion as co-presenters in research dissemination activities.

2. Research dissemination activities supported establishing an initial network of CILs interested in participating in more focused technical assistance calls.

3. Technical assistance calls enabled us to develop relationships with CILs to support the establishment of a peer network / community of practice.

4. Establishing a peer network / community of practice created a platform for ongoing support, resource sharing, and collaboration among stakeholders.

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Conclusion

- At the heart of our work is the belief that research should not sit on a shelf and collect dust. Instead, it should be actively translated into practice, making a tangible impact on the community.

- Embracing the principle of "nothing about us without us," we have involved those directly affected by our research in every step of the process.

- By building a cohesive and interconnected KT strategy, we have demonstrated how research can be transformed into actionable solutions, driving real-world change and improving lives.

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Q&A

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