**Kansas ABLE Savings Plan Update**

The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Savings Program passed the Kansas legislature in April 2015. All ABLE Savings Programs are structured to provide a way for persons with disabilities to save money without impacting their Federal benefits.


The request for proposals (RFP) for the multi-state Consortium's ABLE program was issued in June 2016 and proposals are due by August 1. Applications will be reviewed, a contract negotiated and awarded, and regulations will be written. As a member of the multi-state Consortium, the Kansas program hopes to be up and running by the end of 2016. For more information about the Kansas ABLE Savings Plan go to: [https://www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/prodweb/education_savings/able.php](https://www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/prodweb/education_savings/able.php).

Kansas citizens who are ready to explore the merits of an ABLE Savings Program have some other options right now. The states of Tennessee, Ohio, and Nebraska are enrolling beneficiaries from any U.S. state. Florida requires that a participant be a Florida resident at the time of application. Websites for Tennessee, Ohio, Nebraska, and Florida: [http://abletn.gov/](http://abletn.gov/); [http://www.stableaccount.com/](http://www.stableaccount.com/); [https://www.enablesavings.com/home/able-act.html](https://www.enablesavings.com/home/able-act.html); [http://www.ableunited.com/overview/](http://www.ableunited.com/overview/).

The ABLE National Resource Center (ANRC) invites potential ABLE participants and others to attend a free webinar, *A Closer Look at the New ABLE Programs*, on Thursday, August 4, 2016 at 1:00 – 2:00 pm Central. To register for the webinar, use the following link: [https://ndiwebinars.webex.com/ndiwebinars/onstage/g.php?MTID=e86f5b82e54d863ca4514f43c78404ae4](https://ndiwebinars.webex.com/ndiwebinars/onstage/g.php?MTID=e86f5b82e54d863ca4514f43c78404ae4).


If you have questions about the ABLE Savings Program, you may call Sara Sack, Director, Assistive Technology for Kansans, at 620-421-8367.

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The Insider is archived online at [http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu/newsletters](http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu/newsletters).
Just the “STATS” LSI at Parsons faculty and staff reported 278 national, regional, and local training and technical assistance activities in FY 2016.

Project News

KCCTO-KITS Partnership: Statewide Child Care Infant/Toddler Specialist Network

In collaboration with the Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc., the KITS Project of the Life Span Institute at Parsons has received a new grant to provide training and technical assistance to child care providers serving infants/toddlers and their families.

The overall outcome for the project is to increase access to and quality of child care across the state. The 3-year KCCTO-KITS Partnership: Statewide Child Care Infant/Toddler Specialist Network began on July 1, 2016. It is anticipated that this project will bring up to eight new employees to the LSI/Parsons. This project will be highlighted in a later edition of the Insider – once the project is up and running.

The Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS) Infant and Toddler Project has been renewed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for a three-year period. The project will also expand with the addition of two new staff members.

Other projects renewed for the coming year include: Active Treatment Training Program for the state hospitals at Parsons and Topeka (Kansas Neurological Institute), the Southeast Kansas Respite Care Services, and the Coordinated Resources and Support Services Project.

New Grant Submission

Sara Sack, Assistive Technology for Kansans Director, submitted a new 3-year grant proposal, Kansas Alternative Financing Program: Reframing the Kansas Alternative Finance Program Structure to Include Persons with Disabilities who are Unbanked, Underbanked, and Credit Invisible, under a funding opportunity by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Publications


Publication (in press)

Presentations

Jones, S. (2016, July). *Accessing equipment through Kansas Telecommunication Access Program*. Presentation at the Prairie Independent Living Resource Center (PILR), Dodge City, KS.


Invited Presentations Scheduled

Kate Saunders is also invited to join The Sarasota Symposium on Behavior Analysis in Sarasota, FL, the weekend of October 14-16. Murray Sidman, who lives in Sarasota no longer travels to conventions, so a small group of researchers in Behavior Analysis meet with Dr. Sidman by invitation and discuss interesting topics. Presenters’ papers will be submitted to the *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*.

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