

April 2023

# IACC Round Robin Updates



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## Federal Agency Updates

### Administration for Community Living (ACL)

- Every five years, the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) is mandated by Congress to develop a Long-Range Plan (LRP) that outlines NIDILRR's guiding principles, priorities, and focus areas for the next five years. Last year, NIDILRR initiated the development of its new 2024-2028 LRP and obtained comments and input from the field about current gaps and needs, experiences, and opportunities, to ensure that NIDILRR's planning is relevant and responsive to the needs of the disability community. Based on the feedback received, NIDILRR finalized the direction for the new LRP and will host a webinar on April 19, from 2:00 – 2:45 pm ET to present the key themes and priorities for the new LRP. Registration for the webinar is available at this link: <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/webinar-nidilrrs-2024-2028-long-range-plan>

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC has released two new reports from the Autism Developmental and Disabilities Monitoring Network (ADDM) on data collected during 2020. Findings include new patterns in prevalence by race/ethnicity and a novel analysis showing the dramatic impacts of COVID-19 on early evaluation and identification of autism. Key findings include:
  - The latest prevalence estimate of 1 in 36 8-year-old children in 2020 is higher than the previous estimate published of 1 in 44 8-year-old children in 2018.
  - Before the pandemic, children born in 2016 received more evaluations and more children were identified with autism by age 4 compared with children born in 2012 when they were 4. These improvements in evaluation and detection were wiped out after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in fewer children identified with autism compared with children born in 2012. These disruptions in the timely evaluation of children and delays in connecting children to the services and supports they need could have long-lasting effects.
  - For the first time, the percentage of 8-year-old Asian or Pacific Islander (3.3%), Hispanic (3.2%), and Black (2.9%) children identified with autism was higher than among 8-year-old White children (2.4%). This is the opposite of racial and ethnic differences observed in previous ADDM reports. While this new pattern could suggest improvements in equitable identification of autism, it is too early to know why this shift is being observed.
    - Of note: In 2018, a new pattern emerged in racial and ethnic differences among younger children, where the percentage of Black and Hispanic 4-year-old children identified with autism was higher compared with White children aged 4 years. This pattern continued in 2020 among 4-year-old children and was seen for the first time among 8-year-old children.
  - Autism prevalence in the 11 ADDM communities ranged from 1 in 43 (2.3%) children in Maryland to 1 in 22 (4.5%) in California. These variations could be due to how communities are identifying children with autism.
  - The full citations for the reports and the PubMed link are below:
    - Maenner MJ, Warren Z, Williams AR, Amoakohene E, Bakian AV, Bilder DA, Durkin MS, Fitzgerald RT, Furnier SM, Hughes MM, Ladd-Acosta CM, McArthur D, Pas ET, Salinas A, Vehorn A, Williams S, Esler A, Grzybowski A, Hall-Lande J,

Nguyen RHN, Pierce K, Zahorodny W, Hudson A, Hallas L, Mancilla KC, Patrick M, Shenouda J, Sidwell K, DiRienzo M, Gutierrez J, Spivey MH, Lopez M, Pettygrove S, Schwenk YD, Washington A, Shaw KA. Prevalence and Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Children Aged 8 Years - Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, 11 Sites, United States, 2020. *MMWR Surveill Summ.* 2023 Mar 24;72(2):1-14. PMID: 36952288.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36952288/>

- Shaw KA, Bilder DA, McArthur D, Williams AR, Amoakohene E, Bakian AV, Durkin MS, Fitzgerald RT, Furnier SM, Hughes MM, Pas ET, Salinas A, Warren Z, Williams S, Esler A, Grzybowski A, Ladd-Acosta CM, Patrick M, Zahorodny W, Green KK, Hall-Lande J, Lopez M, Mancilla KC, Nguyen RHN, Pierce K, Schwenk YD, Shenouda J, Sidwell K, Vehorn A, DiRienzo M, Gutierrez J, Hallas L, Hudson A, Spivey MH, Pettygrove S, Washington A, Maenner MJ. Early Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Children Aged 4 Years - Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, 11 Sites, United States, 2020. *MMWR Surveill Summ.* 2023 Mar 24;72(1):1-15. PMID: 36952289.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36952289/>

- CDC recently received \$5 million additional funding in the 2023 fiscal year budget for the ADDM Network in order to expand ASD tracking activities and to re-establish cerebral palsy surveillance in at least two ADDM Network sites. Details about the new ADDM Network sites will be announced soon. Learn more about the ADDM sites here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/addm-network-sites.html>

## Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

- On February 15, 2023, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a proposed National Coverage Determination (NCD) decision that would, for the first time, expand coverage for power seat elevation equipment on certain power wheelchairs to Medicare individuals. CMS follows a long-standing process established by Congress to determine whether a medical item or service can be covered nationally by Medicare, including when an item or service is reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis of and/or treatment of an illness or injury. The proposed NCD follows an evidence-based clinical analysis CMS initiated in August 2022 to examine whether the use of power seat elevation equipment on power wheelchairs: 1) falls within a Medicare benefit category and 2) if yes, whether it is reasonable and necessary. If finalized, power seat elevation equipment would be covered by Medicare for individuals with a Group 3 power wheelchair, which are designed to meet the needs of people with Medicare with severe disabilities, in order to improve their health as they transfer from the wheelchair to other surfaces. Transfers often strain shoulder and back muscles and constrain an individual's daily mobility at home and other customary locations.

CMS encouraged comments from all interested parties, in particular, people with Medicare and their families, providers, clinicians, consumer advocates, health care professional associations, and from individuals serving populations facing disparities in health and health care. CMS also noted that they were specifically interested in gathering additional scientific literature that provides evidence surrounding the medical necessity for seat elevation systems through studies

that include measurable characteristics related to the performance of transfers. The proposed National Coverage Determination decision memorandum is available to review here: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncacal-decision-memo.aspx?proposed=Y&NCAId=309>

The 30-day comment period closed March 17, 2023. For more information on the Medicare coverage determination process, please visit the page on Medicare Coverage Determination Process: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/DeterminationProcess>

- To increase the transparency of nursing home ownership and management, on February 13, 2023, HHS issued a proposed rule (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/15/2023-02993/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-disclosures-of-ownership-and-additional-disclosable-parties>) to require nursing homes to disclose to CMS and states additional ownership and management information. The rule also includes private equity and real estate investment trust definitions, setting the stage for the disclosure of whether nursing home owners are private equity investors or real estate investment trusts. Nursing homes frequently use other companies to provide major services or support, but families currently have no way of knowing which different companies or firms provide care to their loved ones and how they might be connected to the owners of a nursing home. The proposed rule would also require additional information about entities that lease or sublease property to nursing homes, since the facilities and property owners may be set up as different corporate entities even though the entities work hand-in-hand. The proposal marks an important step in continuing to implement President Biden's initiative to improve the quality and care available at nursing homes (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/28/fact-sheet-protecting-seniors-and-people-with-disabilities-by-improving-safety-and-quality-of-care-in-the-nations-nursing-homes/>). By making facility ownership and oversight more transparent, nursing home residents and their families will be more empowered to make informed decisions about care.
  - Press Release: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-continues-unprecedented-efforts-increase-transparency-nursing-home>
  - Fact sheet: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/disclosures-ownership-and-additional-disclosable-parties-information-skilled-nursing-facilities-and>
- As part of the continuing efforts under President Biden's initiative to improve nursing home transparency, safety and quality, and accountability, on January 18, 2023, HHS, through CMS, announced new actions to reduce the inappropriate use of antipsychotic medications and to bring greater transparency about nursing home citations to families. Beginning in January 2023, CMS will conduct targeted, off-site audits to determine whether nursing homes are accurately assessing and coding individuals with a schizophrenia diagnosis. Nursing home residents erroneously diagnosed with schizophrenia are at risk of poor care and prescribed inappropriate antipsychotic medications. Antipsychotic medications are especially dangerous among the nursing home population due to their potential devastating side effects, including death. This action advances the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of reinforcing safeguards against unnecessary medications and treatments that was outlined in President Biden's State of the Union Action Plan for Protecting Seniors by Improving Safety and Quality of Care in the Nation's

Nursing Homes: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/28/fact-sheet-protecting-seniors-and-people-with-disabilities-by-improving-safety-and-quality-of-care-in-the-nations-nursing-homes/>

- CMS plans to take a new step to increase the transparency of nursing home information by publicly displaying survey citations that facilities are disputing. Currently, when a facility disputes a survey deficiency, that deficiency is not posted to Care Compare until the dispute process is complete. This process usually takes approximately 60 days; however, some cases can take longer. Press release: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-takes-additional-steps-strengthen-nursing-home-safety-and-transparency>

## Department of Defense (DoD)

- For the FY 2022 Autism Research Program (ARP), 10 projects were recommended for funding. Abstracts for the projects will be available once award negotiations are complete. The list of those projects can be found here: <https://cdmrp.health.mil/arp/awards/awards>
- The ARP received a \$15 million appropriation for FY 2023 and recently released several funding opportunities, including the Career Development Award, Clinical Trial Award, and Idea Development Award. Pre-applications are required and must be submitted by April 19, 2023. For more information on these funding opportunities, please visit: <https://cdmrp.health.mil/funding/arp>
- Later this spring, the new Discovery Award mechanism will be posted. For more details regarding the ARP, previously funded projects, and current funding opportunities, please visit: <https://cdmrp.health.mil/arp/default>

## Department of Justice (DOJ)

- This month, the Department of Justice COPS Office had the honor of featuring the Montgomery County (MD) Police Department for Disability Awareness Month. Officer Laurie Reyes participated in discussion with working group members and was featured in the March edition of the *Dispatch* publication. If anyone is interested in reading the article, “**Autism/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Awareness to Action**”, please visit this link to read more about the Montgomery County Police Department: [https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/03-2023/awareness\\_to\\_action.html](https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/03-2023/awareness_to_action.html)  
The COPS Office is always looking for opportunities to highlight the great work of our front-line law enforcement officers.
- **Released on March 21, 2023:** The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) along with the Council of State Governments Justice Center released a publication titled: **Supporting Improved Responses to People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Four Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Case Studies**. This publication, supported by BJA, in coordination with the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability (NCCJD; <https://thearc.org/our-initiatives/criminal-justice/request-assistance/>), highlights four themes as lessons-learned from programs supported by the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) that work to improve responses to people with IDD. This publication gives an overview of each grantee’s program, including the work they have done with the help of technical assistance through NCCJD. See the appendix for more resources to expand or improve services for people with IDD. The publication is available here:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/publications/supporting-improved-responses-to-people-with-intellectual-and-developmental-disabilities/>

- A recording of the webinar entitled **The Role of 988 in Supporting People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** can be accessed at this link: <https://csgjusticecenter.org/events/the-role-of-988-in-supporting-people-with-intellectual-and-developmental-disabilities-idd/>

The transition to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, which began in July 2022, has prompted local and state criminal justice and behavioral health providers to engage in stronger collaborations to ensure that they provide an adequate response to each call for service. This cross-system collaboration often includes coordinating with various local and state behavioral health providers that can facilitate connections to care. However, many localities have not considered how they will respond to the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families when they contact 988 for behavioral health crisis support. During this webinar, participants heard from The Arc of the United States on how to include and recognize people with IDD in need of crisis support when developing 988-related policies and the intersectionality of IDD and racial and ethnic disparities in connections to care.

## Department of Labor (DOL)

- ODEP's Partnership on Inclusive Apprenticeship (PIA) has released a podcast episode on Strength-based Practices to Support Neurodiversity at Work. This podcast episode from the PIA project's Apprenticeship for All series features ODEP staff member Dr. Scott Michael Robertson, who is an autistic person. Listen to the podcast episode here: <https://inclusiveapprenticeship.org/strengths-based-practices-to-support-neurodiversity-at-work/>
- ODEP's project on Research Support Services for Employment of Young Adults on the Autism Spectrum (REYAAS) is continuing to explore and research strategies, approaches, practices, and policies to improve access to employment and careers. Service providers, employers, researchers, and others can find its resources online: <https://www.mathematica.org/projects/research-support-services-for-employment-of-young-adults-on-the-autism-spectrum>
- ODEP's Job Accommodation Network (JAN) is hosting a webinar on Accommodation Solutions for Neurodivergent Workers on Thursday, April 13, at 2 pm ET. Registration and additional details are available here: <https://askjan.org/events/index.cfm?calview=eventdetails&dtid=A8FC7F4B-F08E-3D0C-6468F1CC056CEF3E>
- ODEP's Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion (EARN) has released a new resource on COVID-19 and mental health titled Impact of COVID-19 on Employee Mental Health and the Experiences of Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Professionals. The resource is available here: <https://askearn.org/publication/impact-of-covid-on-mental-health-and-eap>
- ODEP's project on Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment (ASPIRE) is advancing access to employment for people with mental health conditions. Additional information about ASPIRE can be found here: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/aspire>

## Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- HRSA will convene the Autism CARES awardees on July 11-12th in DC. The CARES meeting will include an Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health (AIR-P) research day. Poster presentations will emphasize research led by autistic researchers and collaborators, highlighting content related to the physical health and overall well-being of autistic individuals.
- Autism Intervention Research Network on Behavioral Health (AIR-B) held an event titled **Roadmapping Your Child's Skill Set for Life Transitions**, on Friday, March 24, 10-12:30p. More information is available here: <https://www.semel.ucla.edu/autism/event/roadmapping-your-childs-skill-set-lifes-transitions-air-b-conference-english>
- The Healthy Weight Research Network (HWRN) will host a conference on May 4 in Boston, MA, titled **Promoting Healthy Weight-Related Behaviors in Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**. There is no cost to attend the conference, and registration is available at: [https://bit.ly/HWRN\\_Conference\\_2023\\_Registration](https://bit.ly/HWRN_Conference_2023_Registration)
- Abstracts can be submitted online no later than April 7, 2023, at: [https://bit.ly/HWRN\\_Conference\\_2023\\_Poster\\_Abstracts](https://bit.ly/HWRN_Conference_2023_Poster_Abstracts)

## National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)

- In January, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) held a webinar entitled "Minimally Verbal/Non-Speaking Individuals with Autism: Research Directions for Interventions to Promote Language and Communication".
  - A summary of the meeting, agenda, list of participants, and participant-suggested publications can be found at: <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/workshops/2023/summary>
  - The webinar is available on NIH VideoCast as an archived event: <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/workshops/2023/summary#videocast>
- NIDCD is continuing to address research needs related to minimally verbal/non-speaking individuals with autism and is pursuing opportunities identified at the January webinar.

## Social Security Administration (SSA)

- **Ticket to Work Program Research Publication**
  - Social Security Administration (SSA) researchers published a research paper in the Social Security Bulletin titled, "*Effects of the Ticket to Work Program: Return on Investment and Overall Assessment of Outcomes Versus Design*." This paper follows up on the comprehensive evaluation of the *Ticket to Work Program* that was completed in 2013 under a contract with Mathematica. The study showed that *Ticket to Work Program* improved employment outcomes and generated net benefit savings to SSA for many employment-service clients. To read the paper visit: <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v83n1/v83n1p1.html>
  - The *Ticket to Work Program* is a free and voluntary program that offers Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities – including those on the autism spectrum -- the choices, opportunities, and supports needed to find and keep employment, increase their earnings through work, and reduce their reliance on cash benefits to the greatest extent possible. To learn more about the *Ticket to Work Program* visit: <https://yourtickettowork.ssa.gov/>
- **Slam the Scam!**

- On National Slam the Scam Day during March and throughout the year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) joins forces with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to combat Social Security scams and fraud. Learning to recognize common signs of a scam and sharing this information widely will help all of us confidently Slam the Scam.
- **Four Basic Signs of a Scam**  
Recognizing the signs of a scam gives you the power to ignore criminals and report the scam. Scams come in many varieties, but they all work the same way:
  1. Scammers pretend to be from an agency or organization you know to gain your trust.
  2. Scammers say there is a problem or a prize.
  3. Scammers pressure you to act immediately.
  4. Scammers tell you to pay in a specific way.
- **Known Tactics Scammers Use**  
These are red flags; you can trust that Social Security will **never**
  - **Threaten** you with arrest or legal action because you don't agree to pay money immediately.
  - **Suspend** your Social Security number.
  - Claim to need **personal information or payment** to activate a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) or other benefit increase.
  - **Pressure** you to take immediate action, including sharing personal information.
  - Ask you to **pay with** gift cards, prepaid debit cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or by mailing cash.
  - **Threaten** to seize your bank account.
  - Offer to **move your money** to a "protected" bank account.
  - **Demand** secrecy.
- Stay up to date on the latest scam information by visiting [www.ssa.gov/scam](http://www.ssa.gov/scam). It is also important to report Social Security-related scams to OIG right away at <https://oig.ssa.gov/report/>, especially when someone has shared personal information or suffered a financial loss. You can help your loved ones and your community recognize the signs of a scam by sharing this information.
- Upcoming Funding Opportunity – New competition for ARDRAW Grant Administrative Organization
  - The Social Security Administration (SSA) is preparing to post the solicitation for a new grant administrator for the *Analyzing Relationships between Disability, Rehabilitation, and Work* (ARDRAW) Small Grant Program in April/May 2023.
  - ARDRAW consists of two parts: 1) a grant to an organization to serve as grant administrator, and 2) subgrants to graduate students to perform research of interest to SSA's disability program. Graduate students who have previously been awarded ARDRAW subgrants have produced some excellent research relating to autism.
  - **Eligible types of entities for the grant administrator role include:** research organizations; universities; associations of research organizations and universities; and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs); Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) programs; Eunice Kennedy Shriver



Intellectual and Developmental Disability Research Centers (IDDRCs); and similar programs. Only organizations in the United States are eligible to apply.

- For more information, please see the ARDRAW forecast on Grants.gov: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=343104>

## Public Member Updates

### Autism Science Foundation

- On March 30, 2023, the Autism Science Foundation held its 10th **Annual Day of Learning**, a TED-style science conference featuring talks by leading researchers and clinicians on important topics in autism research.
  - The meeting was held in person in New York, NY and was accessible virtually.
  - More information and forthcoming event videos can be accessed at: <https://autismsciencefoundation.org/day-of-learning/>
- ASF awarded its First Round of Profound Autism Pilot Grants. ASF has awarded four grants to researchers for projects examining sleep, neuropsychiatric regression, self-injurious behaviors, and methods for improving access to communications systems.
- These new grants were launched in response to **The Lancet Commission on the Future of Care and Clinical Research in Autism** call for use of the term “profound autism.”
- More information can be found at: [https://autismsciencefoundation.org/press\\_releases/profound-autism-grants/](https://autismsciencefoundation.org/press_releases/profound-autism-grants/)

### Dena Gassner

- At the request of the CDC, IACC member Dena Gassner, along with autistic adult and neurodiversity advocate John Elder Robison, wrote a commentary in response to the release of new autism prevalence rates estimated by the CDC’s ADDM Network. The commentary is titled “There is no epidemic of autism. It’s an epidemic of need” and can be found here: <https://www.statnews.com/2023/03/23/autism-epidemic-cdc-numbers/>
- Ms. Gassner was interviewed by PBS NewsHour on the topic as well: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/why-more-children-are-being-diagnosed-with-autism-and-what-it-means-for-their-families>
- On April 5, 6:00 – 7:00 pm, Ms. Gassner will be giving a presentation on the latest prevalence rates for autism in children in the U.S. as part of Adelphi University’s National Public Health Week events. Additional information and registration can be found here: <https://www.adelphi.edu/events/increasing-autism-numbers-should-we-be-concerned/>

### Madison House Autism Foundation

- Madison House Autism Foundation will host the annual Autism After 21 Breakfast on Friday, April 21, 2023, at 7:15 am. Madison House Autism Foundation founded Autism After 21 Day in 2016 to celebrate the abilities and contributions made by adults on the autism spectrum in our lives and in our communities. Madison House invites the community to join in this recognition of adults on the autism spectrum each April.
- More information about Autism After 21 Day, including how to attend the annual breakfast event, is available here: <https://madisonhouseautism.org/autism-after-21/>

## Morénike Giwa Onaiwu

- Save the date! *Suffering in Silence: Suicidality in Neurodiverse Communities of Color*
- Join us for a free, live roundtable webinar on Friday, April 28, from 12:00 – 1:30 pm ET! Pre-registration will be required. More information to come soon:  
<https://www.psychiatry.pitt.edu/events/suffering-silence-suicidality-neurodiverse-communities-color>
- This webinar, coordinated by researchers, self-advocates, parents, and clinical experts in autism, crisis support, and suicide, will blend learned and lived expertise, cultural considerations, and neurodiversity to examine suicidality through an intersectional lens. Continuing education units are available.
- The webinar is sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Autism Centers of Excellence. The target audience for the event are autistic and/or neurodivergent adults; families; friends; health professionals; researchers; educators; etc.
- The webinar was organized by Shanter Alexander, PhD, Howard University; Morénike Giwa Onaiwu, PhD, Foundations for Divergent Minds; Carla Mazefsky, PhD, The University of Pittsburgh; Lisa Morgan, MEd, Certified Autism Specialist; Camille Proctor, The Color of Autism. Additional panelists for the event include David Brent, MD, University of Pittsburgh; Finn Gardiner, MPP, Autistic People of Color Fund; Tenisha Jones, MEd, Howard University; Kayla Rodriguez, Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network.
- This activity is approved for the following educational credits: APA, AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™, ANCC, ACPE, and/or AAPA Category 1 CME. Other health care professionals will receive a certificate of attendance confirming the number of contact hours commensurate with the extent of participation in this activity.

## Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI)

- The Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) and Neuroscience Collaborations are pleased to announce the launch of the Simons Foundation Undergraduate Research Fellowship in Neuroscience (SURFiN). The request for applications (RFA) for interested undergraduate students opened on March 23, 2023. The deadline for applications and letters of recommendation is May 4, 2023. Detailed information, eligibility criteria, and application instructions are available here: [https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/simons-foundation-undergraduate-research-fellowship-neuroscience-surfin/?mc\\_cid=120a0a9230&mc\\_eid=7f51ca7c64](https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/simons-foundation-undergraduate-research-fellowship-neuroscience-surfin/?mc_cid=120a0a9230&mc_eid=7f51ca7c64)
- For an overview of SURFiN, interested undergraduate students are encouraged to attend a virtual informational webinar on Wednesday, April 5, 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET. The session will be recorded. Registration is available here: [https://simonsfoundation.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tZoTHg9sQ3GNRnwRxJuJYQ?mc\\_cid=120a0a9230&mc\\_eid=7f51ca7c64](https://simonsfoundation.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tZoTHg9sQ3GNRnwRxJuJYQ?mc_cid=120a0a9230&mc_eid=7f51ca7c64)
- Other SFARI Funding Opportunities are always posted here: <https://www.sfari.org/funding-opportunities/>
- SFARI Resources for the research community are always posted here: <https://www.sfari.org/resources>

## Community Updates

### Autism Society of America

- The Autism Society of America has received a multi-million dollar grant from the US Aging's Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative (ADVC), funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living to provide outreach, technical assistance, and support to promote vaccine update. More information can be found in the press release here: <https://autismsociety.org/press-release-autism-society-of-america-receives-multi-million-dollar-grant-from-usaging-for-vaccine-program/>
- This April, the Autism Society of America is proud to continue its fifth annual #CelebrateDifferences campaign in honor of Autism Acceptance Month.

### Autistic Self Advocacy Network

- The Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule ensures that rights to receive services in the home and community are protected. The Autistic Self Advocacy Network has released new plain language and easy read resources about the rule. The toolkit can be found here: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/policy/toolkits/hcbsrule-2/>

### Autism Awareness Month

**For more information on Autism Awareness Month 2023, please visit the IACC website:**

<https://iacc.hhs.gov/meetings/autism-awareness-month/2023/>