

RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER ON
Independent Living

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**RTC/IL Awarded 5-Year Grant
on Measurement and Interdependence in Community Living**

LAWRENCE, KS – The National Institute on Research and Rehabilitation recently awarded the Research and Training Center on Independent Living (RTC/IL) at the University of Kansas \$3.25 million



to research and develop evidence-based strategies that enable people with disabilities to participate more fully in their communities.

The increased emphasis on moving people with disabilities from institutions to the least restrictive community settings can result in isolation unless effective programs, policies, and practices are in place to help increase their integration into everyday community activities.

To be known as the Research and Training Center on Measurement and Interdependence in Community Living, this five-year project has six core activities. Two will develop theory-driven measurement tools. The rest will apply these tools when designing interventions and model assessments involving Home and Community-Based Service waivers, advocacy, personal assistance services, and community participation barriers.

“Together, these projects represent a comprehensive, integrated, and robust set of activities that recognize that ‘disability’ is an interaction between the characteristics of an individual and his or her environment,” said Glen White, center director.

Scientists in the field of disability research from Washington University, the University of Montana, Cornell University and the Oregon Health Sciences University will collaborate on the project. Also collaborating are people with a range of disabilities from across the country working in "consumer-empowered teams.”

The RTC/IL, which began in 1980 to increase the independence of people with disabilities, is one of the 14 centers and more than 100 programs at the University of Kansas’ Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies.

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