



# Collaborative on Faith and Disability

## Building Capacity and Vision Among Faith Communities, Seminaries, and Disability Organizations

### MISSION AND VISION

The mission of the *Collaborative on Faith and Disability* is to support people with disabilities, their families, and those who support them by providing national and international leadership in the areas of research, education, service, and dissemination related to disability, religion, and inclusive supports. Our vision is that people with disabilities and their families will have compelling opportunities and supports to develop and express their spirituality, engage in congregational life, and share their gifts and talents in ways that are personally valued and that strengthen communities. The *Collaborative on Faith and Disability* develops and provides coordinated training, technical assistance, research, and product development to people with disabilities and their families, clergy, congregations, and service providers (both professional and direct support staff) in the arena of inclusive spiritual supports.



### JOIN THE COLLABORATIVE

We encourage organizations and individuals to become sponsors by voluntary contributions at the following annual levels:

- 👤 Sponsoring organizations: \$500
- 👤 Supporting organizations: \$250
- 👤 Individuals: \$100

Some benefits include:

- 👤 Access to a national network of people involved in training, technical assistance, research, and dissemination
- 👤 Dissemination of your own research and resources
- 👤 Access to archived webinars and other website resources
- 👤 Involvement on collaborative grant proposals
- 👤 Subscription to the *Journal of Religion and Disability*
- 👤 Participation in planning and leading shared educational events
- 👤 Participation in collaborative discussions that are respectful of every professional, personal, and faith background

For more information, visit [www.faithanddisability.org](http://www.faithanddisability.org)

### COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

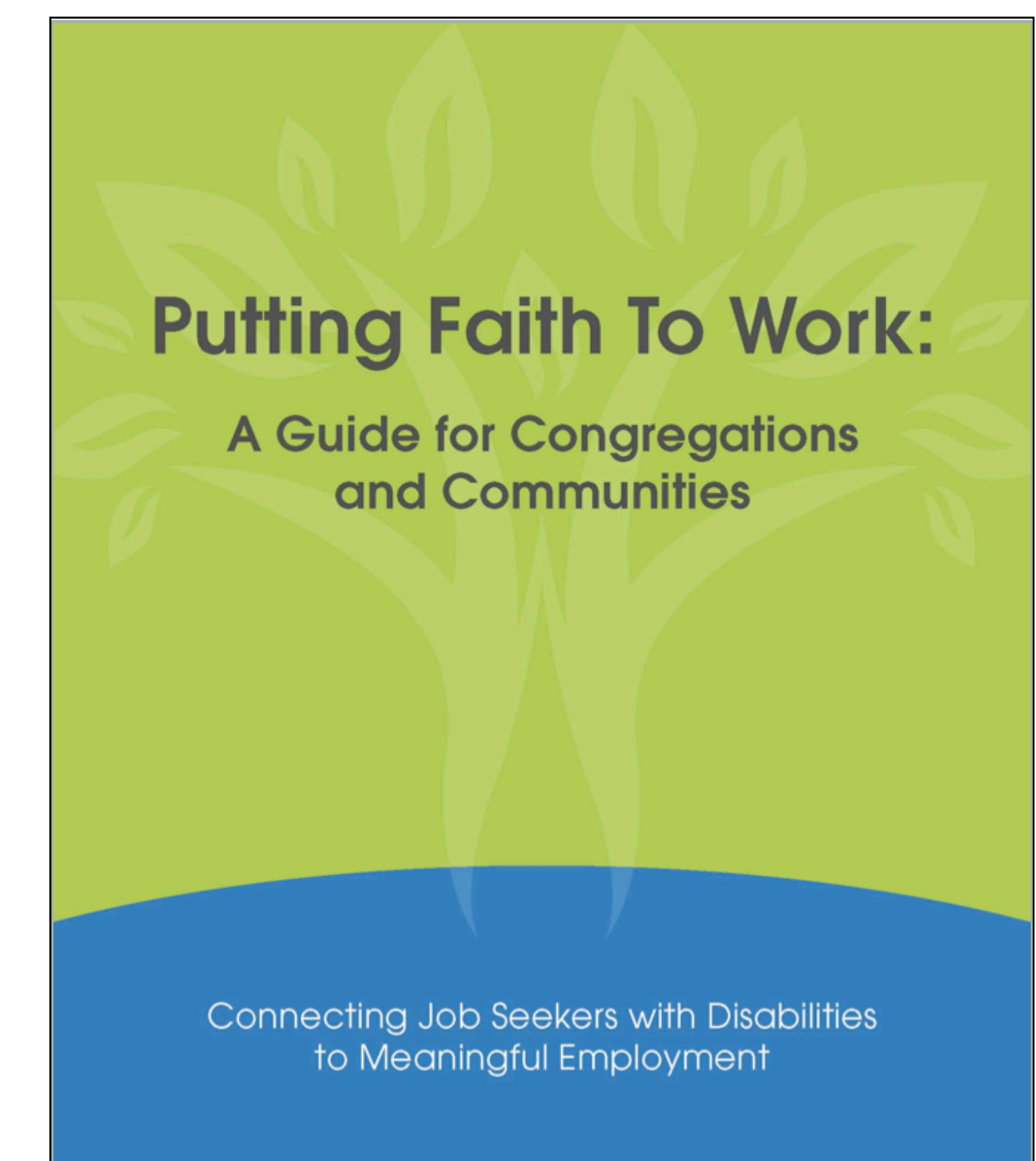
The Collaborative undertakes activities designed to...

- 👤 Support a network of leaders and scholars who are addressing the intersection of disability, religion, and/or spirituality in their work.
- 👤 Foster rigorous, collaborative, and interdisciplinary scholarship.
- 👤 Develop educational materials, programs, and technical assistance for religious leaders, human service professionals, service providers, congregations, individuals, and families.
- 👤 Disseminate compelling resources based on research and state-of-the-art practice.
- 👤 Speak to policy initiatives, cultural developments, and other emerging issues related to disabilities, religion, and spirituality.
- 👤 Serve as a central and visible “clearinghouse” for resources, research, trainings, conferences, programs, and organizations.
- 👤 Provide an accessible and engaging link between academic, professional, and lay communities.
- 👤 Support and enhance the efforts of other organizations, faith networks, and groups carrying out work in related areas.
- 👤 Pursue funding to carry out the work of the Collaborative.

	Research and Scholarship	Education and Training	Service and Technical Assistance	Dissemination
Supporting people with disabilities				
Supporting families				
Congregational inclusion				
Theology and clergy training				
Service systems				
Religious education				

### AN EXAMPLE: PUTTING FAITH TO WORK

Our *Putting Faith To Work* project—a collaboration among four UCEDDs (KY, MN, TN, TX) and funded by the *Kessler Foundation*—focused on enabling faith communities to address the employment needs of some of their members by connecting people with disabilities to individualized employment through the natural networks represented by congregational members, and to provide (or make linkages to) other personal supports.



[www.puttingfaithtowork.org](http://www.puttingfaithtowork.org)



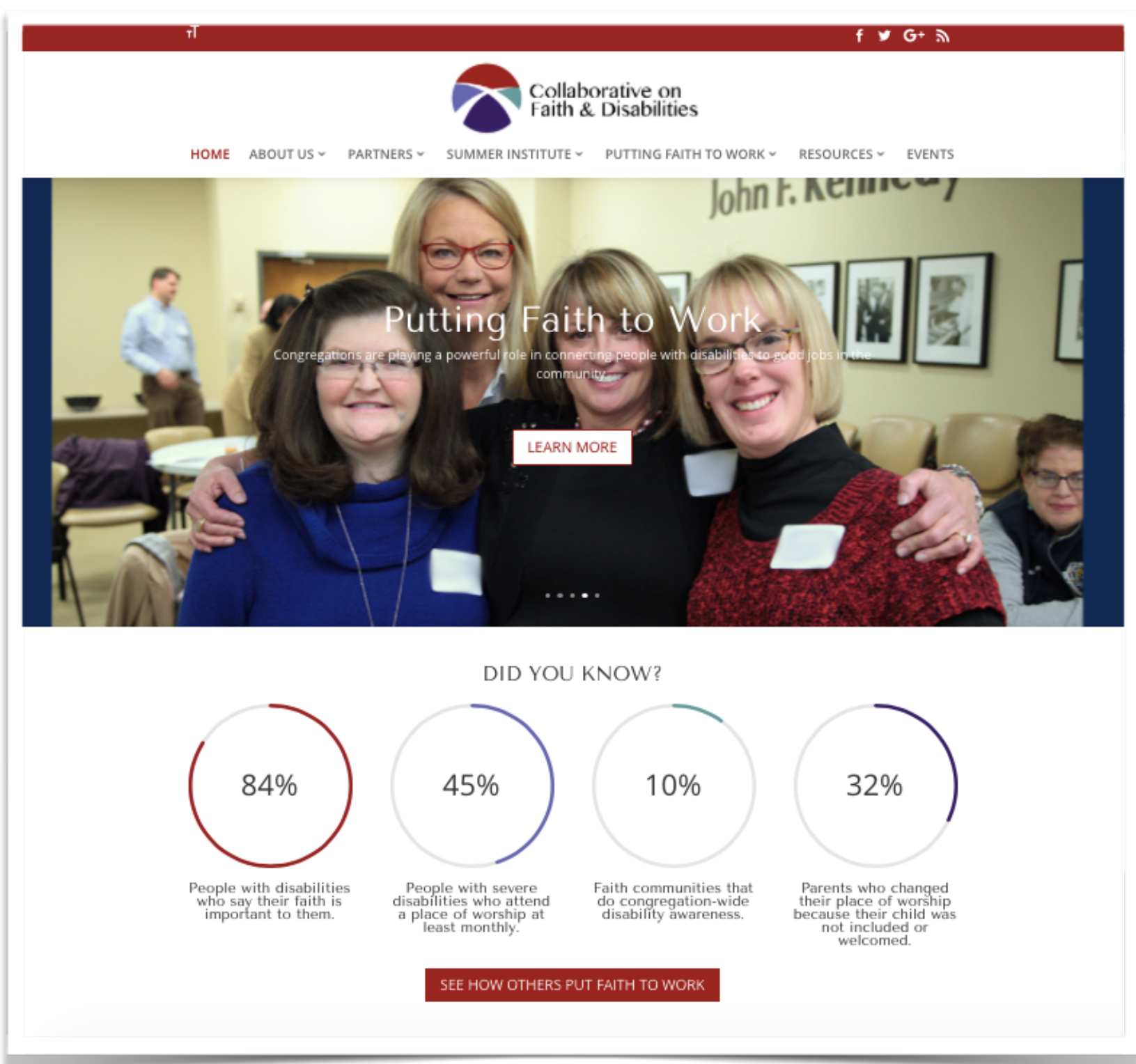
- 👤 Extend the field’s understanding of the possibilities and potential challenges of engaging congregations in supporting employment for people with disabilities
- 👤 Replicate and refine a practical and flexible model for congregations--working alone or in concert with local disability organizations and/or service providers--to address the employment needs of people with disabilities
- 👤 Recruit, equip, and coach congregations to support up to 60 individuals with a disability to secure and/or maintain employment across four states
- 👤 Evaluate the project model’s impact, feasibility, and accessibility
- 👤 Ensure project findings penetrate practice by disseminating broadly through prominent national disability and faith networks

### COLLABORATING PARTNERS

Numerous UCEDDs now participate in the Collaborative, each involved in projects or partnerships addressing the intersection of religion, spirituality, and disability. Other UCEDDs, colleges and university programs, and individual scholars are invited to affiliate with the Collaborative.



### OUR WEBSITE



- 👤 Archived webinars and upcoming events
- 👤 Past *Summer Institute* presentations and info
- 👤 Searchable database of research and publications
- 👤 Searchable database of position statements
- 👤 Project resources

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