

National Service Inclusion Project: Needs Assessment Results

The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI), a University Center of Excellence (UCE), University of Massachusetts in Boston and Boston Children's Hospital, in partnership with the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) instituted a cooperative agreement with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to operate the National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP). Within this project, relationships between UCEs and local CNCS organizations will form so that UCEs can provide training and technical assistance to CNCS programs as an attempt to increase the numbers of individuals with disabilities as volunteers/members in National Service programs.

In order to obtain a clear and accurate image on the type of information that the UCE network needs in order to make this program a success, a needs assessment was created to determine the networks knowledge of National Service and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Questions on the assessment ranged from the networks understanding of the mission and philosophical concepts of National Service, to knowing of local volunteer programs in which individuals with disabilities are actively engaging in volunteerism.

For questions regarding this report, please contact:
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Assessment Results

The reported is formatted in such a way that the questions and responses given, by graphs, text and charts, are given on the same page.

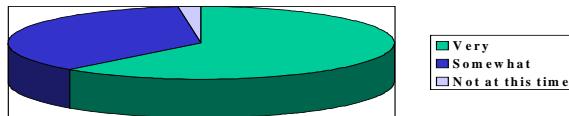
53 of the 61 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities completed the Needs Assessment.

Presentation generated by AUCD on November 19, 2001.

Is your Center interested in learning about opportunities to collaborate with State or National CNS programs?

33 UCEs stated that they are very interested in learning about opportunities to collaborate with State or National CNS Programs, 19 UCEs are somewhat interested, and one UCE was not interested at this time. Very little additional information was provided by the UCE that was not interested. See slide number 13.

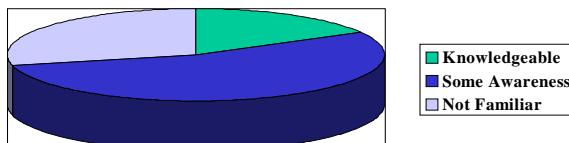
Choice	Count	Percent
Very	33	62.3%
Somewhat	19	35.8%
Not at this time	1	1.9%



Are the Staff in your Center Familiar with...the mission of CNS?

43 UCEs acknowledged that they were either not familiar with (15) or had some familiarity (28) with the mission of CNS, while 9 were aware of the mission of CNS.

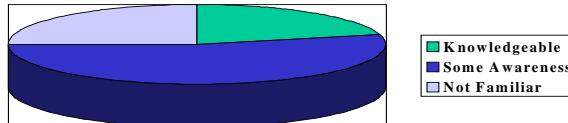
Choice	Count	Percent
Knowledgeable	9	17.3%
Some Awareness	28	53.8%
Not Familiar	15	28.8%



Are the Staff in your Center familiar with...the philosophical concepts behind 'National Service'?

One the same token, 41 UCEs recognized that they were either not familiar with (13) or had some awareness (28) of the philosophical concepts behind "National Service" while 11 were aware of them.

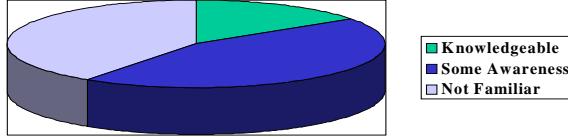
Choice	Count	Percent
Knowledgeable	11	21.2%
Some Awareness	28	53.8%
Not Familiar	13	25.0%



Are the staff in your Center familiar with...the Corporation for National Service (CNS)?

Additionally, 44 UCEs were either not familiar with (21) or had some awareness of (23) the Corporation for National Service, while 8 were familiar with the Corporation.

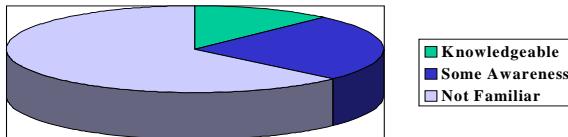
Choice	Count	Percent
Knowledgeable	8	15.4%
Some Awareness	23	44.2%
Not Familiar	21	40.4%



Are the staff in your Center familiar with...the CNS State Office?

Most UCEs, 46, were either not familiar with (33) or had some awareness of (13) the CNS State Office, while 6 were aware of the CNS State Office.

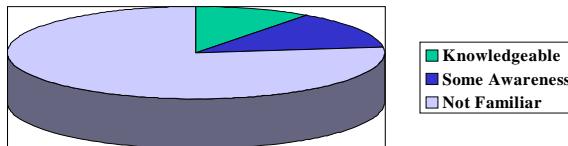
Choice	Count	Percent
Knowledgeable	6	11.5%
Some Awareness	13	25.0%
Not Familiar	33	63.5%



Are the staff in your Center familiar with...the State Commission Office for CNS (different than the CNS State Office)?

The same was true for the State Commission Office, where 47 UCEs either had no knowledge of (40) or some knowledge of (7) the Commission Office, while 5 UCEs were familiar with the State Commission Office.

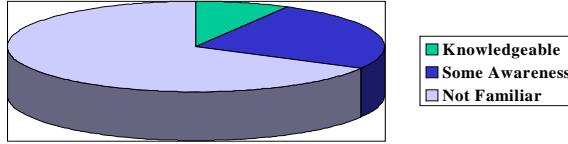
Choice	Count	Percent
Knowledgeable	5	9.6%
Some Awareness	7	13.5%
Not Familiar	40	76.9%



Are the staff in your Center familiar with...National Service projects funded in your state having volunteers or members with disabilities?

Only 4 UCEs were aware of National Service projects that are inclusive of individuals with disabilities, while 48 were either not aware (35) or had some awareness of (13) CNS programs that were inclusive of individuals with disabilities.

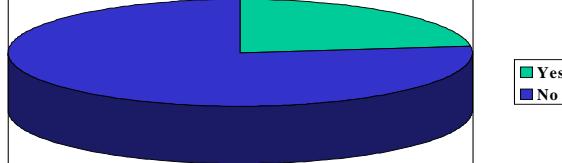
Choice	Count	Percent
Knowledgeable	4	7.7%
Some Awareness	13	25.0%
Not Familiar	35	67.3%



Is your Center involved in or has your center provided any training and technical assistance (or any other assistance) to a CNS program in your state or nearby state(s) regarding disability issues?

12 UCEs reported that they have previously provided training and technical assistance to CNS programs around disability related issues. 40 UCEs reported not having such experiences.

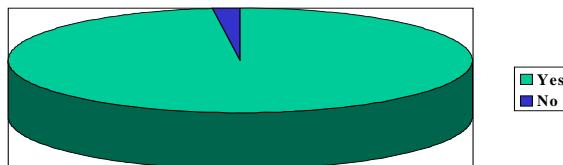
Choice	Count	Percent
Yes	12	23.1%
No	40	76.9%



Is your Center interested in coordination with the national project, in providing training and technical assistance to a CNS program in your state or nearby state(s) regarding disability issues?

Of the 49 responders to this question, 48 UCEs stated that they are interested in providing training and technical assistance to CNS and its programs. See slide number 5 for the one UCE that was not interested.

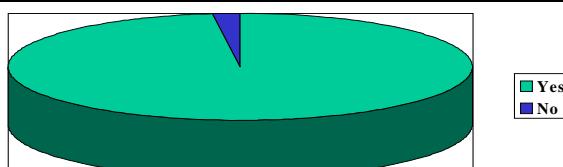
Choice	Count	Percent
Yes	48	98.0%
No	1	2.0%



Would your UCE accept a mini-grant to assist in coordinating training and technical assistance to selected CNS programs in your area?

Additionally, of the 49 responders to this question, 48 UCE stated that they are interested in receiving a mini-grant to provide training and technical assistance to CNS programs in their area. See slide number 5 for the one UCE that was not interested.

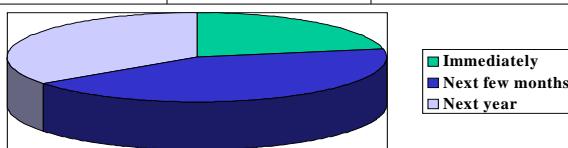
Choice	Count	Percent
Yes	49	98.0%
No	1	2.0%



What is a reasonable timeframe for your UCE to be able to start providing training and technical assistance to such programs?

38 UCEs have the ability to provide training and technical service to CNS programs within the next 3 months, while 17 reported needing until the middle of next year to prepare for such efforts.

Choice	Count	Percent
Immediately	11	22.4%
Next few months	21	42.9%
Next year	17	34.7%



Needs Assessment Summary

While many UCEs within the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities network are not aware of the mission, philosophy, or scope of the type of activities that CNCS administer, almost all UCEs are interested in creating a training and technical assistance relationship with local CNS programs.

Needs Assessment Summary Continued

It is therefore the role of the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) UCE, University of Massachusetts in Boston, in partnership with the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) to enhance the knowledge within the UCE network of the:

- overall philosophical concept behind National Service
- role that CNCS, the State CNS Offices and the State Commission play in implementing programs
- vast array of possibilities that exist for individuals with disabilities to serve in one of the many CNCS programs

Needs Assessment Summary Continued

To accomplish these tasks, ICI and AUCD will work collaboratively to:

- Facilitate inter-network discussions about the mission and philosophy of CNCS
- Conduct trainings at national and local UCE disability related meetings and conferences to discuss CNCS and the NSIP
- Assist UCEs in writing their mini-grant applications for NSIP
- Make connections and foster relationships between state UCEs and state CNCS programs

UCEs that responded

- Mailman Center for Child Development
- ICI
- Louisiana UCEDDERS
- Westchester Institute for Human Development
- Center for Disabilities
- UCE of OK
- Alabama UCE - Civitan International Research Center, UAB
- Partners for Inclusive Communities
- Georgetown University Child Development Center-UCE
- MIND Program at Vanderbilt
- Center for Persons with Disabilities
- Iowa's University Center for Excellence on Disabilities
- Interdisciplinary Human Development Institute
- Mississippi: Institute for Disability Studies
- University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion, UCE

UCEs that responded (continued)

- Vermont - Center on Disability and Community Inclusion
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Center for Development and Disability
- Nebraska
- The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
- Kansas University Affiliated Program
- Tarjan Center for Developmental Disabilities
- Cincinnati Center for Developmental Disorders
- Institute on Developmental Disabilities
- Wyoming Institute for Disabilities-WIND
- West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities (WVUCED)
- Texas Center for Disability Studies
- Developmental Disabilities Institute
- Nevada UCE

UCEs that responded (continued)

- Institute on Community Integration
- JFK Partners
- Kennedy Krieger Institute
- South Carolina
- Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence
- Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities
- Northern Marianas College
- University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service
- Center on Human Development and Disability
- UMKC- IHD
- Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities
- North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities
- Rochester
- Center for Human Development

UCEs that responded (continued)

- Rhode Island
- Center on Disabilities and Human Development
- Institute for Human Development
- Riley Child Development Center
- Rose F. Kennedy Center
- Institute on Disability and Human Development
- Center for Disabilities Studies
- Institute on Human Development and Disability at the University of Georgia
- Oregon Health and Science University, Oregon Institute on Disability and Development

Thank you!

We here at ICI in Boston and AUCD would like to thank all of those that contributed to this assessment. The information gathered assisted us in developing strategies to provide training and technical assistance to the network on the Corporation for National Service, effectively disseminate information to the network, and determine interest in the project. Thank you!

Paula Sotnik and Aaron Bishop