WHO WE ARE

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development (VKC) has been opening doors and transforming the lives of children and adults with disabilities through research, training, and innovative services for more than 50 years. Our mission is to facilitate discoveries and best practices to improve the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. We support and apply scientific research to bring better services and training to our communities.

We are a national Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC). More than 200 researchers representing 34 departments of Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center bring their expertise to understanding how humans develop and to finding solutions to developmental challenges. We serve Tennessee and the Mid-South as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD). We train health care professionals through the Vanderbilt Consortium Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) program. We address autism through the Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD).

WHO WE SERVE

The need is great. One in 5 children has a developmental disability. Examples of these lifelong conditions include autism, Down syndrome and other genetic syndromes, and other intellectual disabilities. The developmental concerns of Center researchers and clinicians are broad, including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, behavior disorders, depression, learning disabilities, sensory impairments, schizophrenia, and chronic health conditions. In understanding and treating disabilities, researchers and clinicians consider individual and family strengths and resources as well as challenges across the lifespan.

TAKE PART IN RESEARCH

vkc.vumc.org/studyfinder
www.researchmatch.org

INFORMATION

Director: Jeffrey Neul, M.D., Ph.D.
Website: vkc.vumc.org
General: (615) 322-8240
Giving: (615) 875-9108
UCEDD: (866) 936-VUKC

Mailing address: PMB 40, 230 Appleton Place, Nashville, Tennessee 37203
Some programs provided at no cost to families. See website for details.

Arts and Disabilities Program (615) 936-8852
Quarterly exhibits of art by persons with disabilities and art workshops.

Vanderbilt Autism Resource Line (615) 322-7565 Toll-free (877) 273-8862
A gateway to Vanderbilt clinical and research programs and resources.

Autism–TRIAD Families First Program (615) 322-7565
Provides parents of children with autism with techniques to enhance social and communication skills and to manage challenging behaviors.

Autism–TRIAD Training and Education (615) 875-9819
The Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD) provides services and training for families, educators, and other professionals; conducts school consultations; and consults with community organizations.

Disabilities, Religion, and Spirituality (615) 875-3398 faithanddisability.org
Provides resources for religious leaders and educators and supports to individuals and families seeking inclusive communities.

Henderson Training Series for Educators (615) 936-8852
Provides evidence-based training for school teams of general and special educators to support inclusive education and transition to postsecondary education and employment.

iddtoolkit.org
Toolkit for primary care providers servings adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, related online training, and telehealth sessions.

Learning Assessment Clinic (615) 936-5118
Multidisciplinary specialists provide academic assessment of students, 5-25 years, to identify learning strengths and challenges and to recommend strategies to improve academic learning.

Next Steps at Vanderbilt (615) 322-3978
Inclusive 4-year certificate program for persons ages 18-26 with intellectual disability on the Vanderbilt campus. See also TN Inclusive Higher Education Alliance, tnihealliance.org

Online Learning, vklearning.org
Video-based training for health care providers, educators, service providers, and families.

Public Policy (615) 322-5658
Publications and Events (615) 322-8240
Reading Clinic readingclinic@vumc.org
Provides intensive, evidence-based instruction and non-diagnostic assessment for students in kindergarten through middle school.

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder Multicultural Outreach Program (615) 322-8529 (Nashville) (800) 640-4636 (statewide) TNPathfinder.org
A free statewide, multilingual clearinghouse of disability resources. Phone helpline, website with searchable Services Database, Community Calendar, newsletter, and training. A partnership with three State of Tennessee agencies.

TennesseeWorks.org
Web hub for information related to employment of people with disabilities.

TransitionTN.org
Resources to prepare transition-age youth with disabilities for life after high school.

Vanderbilt Rett Syndrome Program vkc.vumc.org/rett
One of seven Rett Syndrome Research Trust Clinical Trial Consortium sites and designated as a Rett Syndrome Clinical Research Center of Excellence.

Volunteer Advocacy Project (VAP) VolAP@vanderbilt.edu
Training (40 hrs over 12 sessions) for persons interested in becoming special education advocates to support families, held at multiple TN sites.