



Vanderbilt
Kennedy Center

FACT SHEET

OPENING DOORS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

A WORLD WHERE ALL BELONG

The researchers, clinicians, and educators of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center imagine a world where every child and adult with a disability is valued—where they are included in their schools and communities, at work and at play and at worship. We imagine a world where people with disabilities and their families are supported throughout life changes.

The need is great. One in 5 children has a developmental disability. Roughly 20% of U.S. families have a member with a disability.

We are dedicated to facilitating discoveries and best practices that make positive differences in the lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We support and apply scientific research to bring better services and training to our communities, from Nashville to the nation to the world.

HOPE THROUGH DISCOVERY

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center is a place where science brings hope. We have been transforming lives by translating research into practice for over 50 years. Behavioral scientists, neuroscientists, educators, developmental pediatricians and other physicians, imaging specialists, and geneticists work together with families to unravel the mysteries of development and developmental disabilities. The Center is directed by Jeffrey L. Neul, M.D., Ph.D., Annette Schaffer Eskind Chair and Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Neurology.

Where do we focus our efforts? On autism, Down syndrome, and other genetic syndromes. On learning disabilities and behavior disorders. On stress, anxiety, depression, and schizophrenia. On strengths as well as challenges. On language and social skills. On education and employment. On supporting parents and siblings. On training the next generation of researchers, health care professionals, teachers, and service providers.

WHAT SETS US APART

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center is a national *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDR) and a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). It has a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Training Program. It is one of only a few centers in the nation to have all three of these major components of the national developmental disabilities network. In addition, the VKC Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD) and Vanderbilt's Autism Speaks Autism Treatment Network Site provide exceptional expertise in autism.

As part of a top-ranked national research university and world-renowned medical research center, with the nation's top-ranked school of education and department of special education, the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center is a national leader in research, services, training, and dissemination.

Please see reverse





QUICK FACTS

RESEARCH

- Over 220 faculty members in over 25 departments, primarily in the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Peabody College, and Vanderbilt University's College of Arts and Science, are affiliated with the VKC.
- Over 80 research grants are directed at understanding typical and atypical development.

SERVICE

- The VKC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities encompasses over 40 programs.
- Our programs and activities have reached individuals or families in every Tennessee county and across the country.

TRAINING

- VKC training activities such as lectures, conferences, and workshops reach over 3,000 participants annually.
- Training across disciplines is integrated into virtually all our Center's research and services. Each year, the UCEDD and LEND have more than 60 long-term trainees and 80 intermediate trainees. Continuing education events reach over 2,000 persons annually.

DISSEMINATION

- The VKC Website includes numerous free and downloadable products, including tip sheets, brochures, guides, videos, social media, newsletters, and more.

CONTACT THE VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER

General Information (615) 322-8240
 Tennessee Disability Pathfinder (615) 322-8529
 (800) 640-4636
 Website vkc.vumc.org
 Email kc@vumc.org

CONNECT

CONTACT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

These Tennesseans with disabilities, family members, and service providers guide the UCEDD. Share your views: vkcac@vanderbilt.edu.

TAKE PART IN RESEARCH

Help advance knowledge and improve practices by taking part in studies. See **StudyFinder** on VKC website to find studies seeking participants. Register with **ResearchMatch** (www.researchmatch.org), and you will be contacted about studies that may be a fit for you. For Down syndrome research, register with dsconnect.nih.gov. Encourage others to enroll in research registries.

FIND RESOURCES

For free information and referral, all disabilities, all ages, and multicultural resources, contact Tennessee Disability Pathfinder, tnpathfinder@vanderbilt.edu, 800-640-4636 (local 615-322-8529). See also Resources section of VKC website.

ATTEND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Educational events are held year-round. Subscribe to *Monday Morning Message* by emailing kc@vanderbilt.edu; and see Events on VKC website.

STAY INFORMED

Learn what's new in research, training, service, and public policy by subscribing to monthly e-newsletter *Notables*; email kc@vumc.org.

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

TennesseeWorks is an online resource for elevating employment outcomes for Tennesseans with disabilities; visit www.tennesseeworks.org.

HEALTH CARE RESOURCES

Health Care for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Toolkit for Primary Care Providers at www.iddtoolkit.org is a resource for families, caregivers, and health care providers.

