

## Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Works to Promote COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence

Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (GUCEDD) received funding to conduct two COVID-19 Vaccine Access and Confidence initiatives for persons with disabilities residing in the District of Columbia. The funding and support are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and administered through the [Association of University Centers on Disabilities \(AUCD\)](#) and the [HHS Administration for Community Living](#).

For both initiatives, the GUCEDD, in collaboration with its [Advisory Council \(GAC\)](#), will conduct a series of community engagement and education activities to encourage all persons with disabilities, their families, the personnel who provide disability supports and services, and stakeholders to get vaccinated. *Reducing vaccine hesitancy* will require collaborative efforts to identify root causes and developing culturally appropriate messages for the District's diverse communities to *promote vaccine confidence*.

Approximately 1 in 4 Americans has a disability, yet current vaccination efforts do not consistently include and make accommodations for them. One of the goals of the AUCD initiative is to [vaccinate all eligible persons with disabilities by the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) on July 26th.

"These initiatives build upon the GUCEDD's innovative efforts throughout the COVID-19 crisis to support persons with disabilities, their families, and the communities in which they live. We now turn our attention to vaccinations to ensure equity," stated Tawara Goode, GUCEDD Director.

The GUCEDD works to advance self-determination among the diversity of people with developmental and other disabilities and their families, throughout the life course, and advocate for their full participation in all aspects of community life. Learn more at <https://ucedd.georgetown.edu/index.php>.