# COVID-19 ISSUES/CONCERNS

Updated 4/21/2020

## People with disabilities needs/concerns:

* + Increased risk for contracting virus
		- ASAN developing tracker of deaths in congregate settings
		- NASDDDS trying to get more accurate data on deaths in congregate settings
	+ Reduction/disruption in services and supports for various reasons (e.g., day services closed down; growing DSP/PCA shortages; family members that are primary providers hospitalized; moved out of facility)
	+ Mixed messaging regarding social isolation and the need for direct support, including support that requires being in close contact
	+ Increased social isolation
	+ Ensuring civil rights of people with disabilities and equal access to testing and treatment
		- More activity and successes on the issue of rationing of care
	+ Virtual access to services and supports – a solution but also an issue for those without access to technology due to lack of infrastructure and/or family member/guardian/provider limiting individual access to technology
	+ Personal protective equipment and practices for personal care aides/home health aides
		- GA P&A worked with state health department to get group home staff PPE
	+ Being laid off from their jobs
	+ Payments
		- Ensuring proper payments under supplemental 3
		- Ensuring those with representative payees are aware of/have access to funds
		- Potential for scams
		- Still questions about checks and how those will be issued
		- SSA is not providing any guidance on payments issued to individuals on SSI
	+ Families/Family Support
		- Respite care
		- Need for English translators
		- More resources needed on grief and trauma from losing loved ones to COVID-19
	+ Food/Nutrition
		- Food insecurity and possible malnutrition/need for specialized diets
		- Need for emergency funding for food delivery services
		- SNAP cards not accepted by grocery delivery services – USDA has some pilot programs in some states and should be expanded
		- NDRN continues to work with USDA on expanding pilot
	+ Overuse of DNRs/DNIs
	+ Voting access
	+ Medicaid services
		- Solvency of provider network – retainer payments for providers
		- Getting people on waivers if they need immediate access due to death of parents
		- Flexibility in who can provide in home services can help keep people in their homes
	+ Individuals being moved out of current placement
		- LA opening camps in parks and putting people with disabilities in the parks
		- CA – LA/NY – looking at worse-case scenarios of opening day centers as places for adults with COVID-19 to socially isolate
		- # of deaths in nursing homes and the issue of congregate care – what is an effective solution?
	+ Heading into hurricane season and the issue of congregate sheltering – NDRN reached out to Red Cross and will include other stakeholders in those calls
	+ Accessible information – need for plain language and materials in other languages
	+ States have to elect to have DSPs paid when individuals are hospitalized
	+ From NY – having a hard time navigating the various policies and procedures for organizations and regions of the state providing care to individuals with ID/DD
	+ Need for collaboration between ACL programs and CMS given the amount of money going into HCBS and Medicaid
	+ Need for disaster case management to support individuals during the pandemic
	+ VOC Rehab lack of flexibilities under COVID-19 preventing CILs to provide SPED services

# Looking forward

* HCBS Infrastructure/DSP workforce vulnerabilities
	+ Employment staff are getting laid off because they aren’t being provided
	+ can make more money if they get unemployment in some states, particularly those where there is more reliance on institutional services
	+ Providers have to pay a lot of overtime to staff that are working under the pandemic which budgets don’t allow for so providers looking to cut services
	+ States are starting to address these issues and trying to use retainer payments
	+ Transition planning – EI to EC and youth transition – anticipate that being an issue post-pandemic
	+ State budget deficits and the hardships for states into the future
	+ Need for disaster case management to support individuals during the pandemic

## Grantees needs/concerns:

* + Mechanism for sharing resource and information across the AoD programs in the states/territories; utilize existing resources
	+ Access to PPE and other supplies – getting examples from Councils of how they are getting PPE out
	+ Infrastructure for remote/virtual/distance operations
		- CIL promising practices – doing well checks with clients, completing survey on people being institutionalized as a result of loss of HCBS, survey on technology
		- Concerns around access to secure and accessible web-based platforms
		- ILR-NET and AUCD discussed the most accessible and most secure platforms for virtual communications – follow-up is occurring to assess the security and accessibility of known options. Workgroup meeting again on Friday. Found some promising off the shelf video-conferencing resources that can be HIPPA compliant
		- Councils working to get technology out to individuals
	+ Disruption in operations
	+ SBA loans/grant flexibility guidance
	+ Financial burden being taken on by programs when they are providing resources to families, such as hard copies of school materials
	+ Staff health and wellness
	+ A number of Councils are working with emergency managers