



E3: Employment and Economic Empowerment

Who is WID?

The World Institute on Disability is a disability policy, research, and consulting non-profit organization located in Berkeley, CA and Washington, DC. WID's vision is a world where people with disabilities live fully integrated lives economically and socially.

What is WID E3?

E3 stands for *Employment and Economic Empowerment* and is a first of its kind portal. WID E3 is an online resource www.wid.org to assist those serving youth and adults with disabilities, and their supporters, with information, strategies, and techniques which will help to increase the potential of people with disabilities for work and economic participation.

- WID E3 addresses the often-overlooked roadblocks to full inclusion and equity.
- WID E3 focuses on these missing pieces of the disability employment puzzle by offering strategies and options to improve programming and outcomes.
- WID E3 incorporates personal empowerment, benefits and work incentives, economic inclusion, CareerACCESS, and ABLE 101.

Employment Empowerment: WID's evidence-based skills development curriculum, first created at the University of California, Berkeley and replicated at other colleges and for other youth with disabilities, is a package of instructional topics on fundamental skills development in both employment ambition and workplace competitive skills that reverses the negativity people with disabilities have encountered around building their employment expectations and ambitions.

Benefits Empowerment: Individualized and state-specific disability benefits planning resources and tools created by WID through the web-based resource of Disability Benefits 101 (DB101) guides individuals with disabilities through the Social Security, state, and local benefits maze as they consider and strategize through employment options. WID offers DB101 training materials and curriculum development support to maximize the full impact of DB101's user-friendly format. WID's assistance on how to fully implement DB101 within the culture of a system changes the overall messaging of employment for people with disabilities resulting in increased involvement and understanding of employment potentials.

Economic Empowerment: Asset development, financial planning and other economic strategies from *EQUITY: Asset Building Strategies for People with Disabilities, A Guide to Financial Empowerment*. This guide, available as a stand-alone book and a video series, covers all topics that are important to people with disabilities in their quest for improved finances and asset building. *EQUITY* is complimented with a detailed WID Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) training on how to more effectively save using ABLE accounts.



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Moving Forward with WID E3

The employment participation rate for people with disabilities has remained at or below the first rate documented in 1971. Why? What's missing in disability employment programs and policies?

Too often the employment ambitions of people with disabilities are either too low or nonexistent. Too often the disability life experience of people with disabilities (definitions, labels, messaging, benefits, etc.) is negative when it comes to expectations around working and economic self-sufficiency.

WID E3 addresses these missing pieces with proven employment and economic empowerment solutions designed to prepare people with disabilities for competitive job searches and careers. WID E3 does not compete with existing disability employment programs as it's designed to both augment and improve them.

[Learn more about E3](#)

WID E3 focuses on offering strategies and options to improve programming and outcomes. WID E3's goal is to help generate self-confident and well-prepared job seekers with disabilities - job seekers who are more likely to become success stories than before taking advantage of the WID E3 options.

Contact WID

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