



Technical Assistance Center for  
**Quality Employment**

# Lessons Learned

## 2020 – 2025

**Presented by: Cayte Anderson & Jessica Holton**  
**VRTAC-QE Team Members**

---

*The contents of this presentation were developed under a grant, the Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center for Quality Employment, H264K200003, from the U.S. Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal government.*

**tacqe.com**



Technical Assistance Center for  
**Quality Employment**

# Transformative Impact

## State-of-the-Art Accessible Website

- Revolutionized access
- Standardized learning

## Comprehensive Review

- Evidence-based practice
- Policy influence

## Intensive, Targeted, and Universal TA

- Capacity building
- Direct workforce impact

## Dissemination of Findings & Resources

- Knowledge sharing
- Cultural shift

## Rigorous Evaluation Using RSA 911 Data

- Outcome tracking
- Sustainability



Technical Assistance Center for  
**Quality Employment**

# Accessible Website

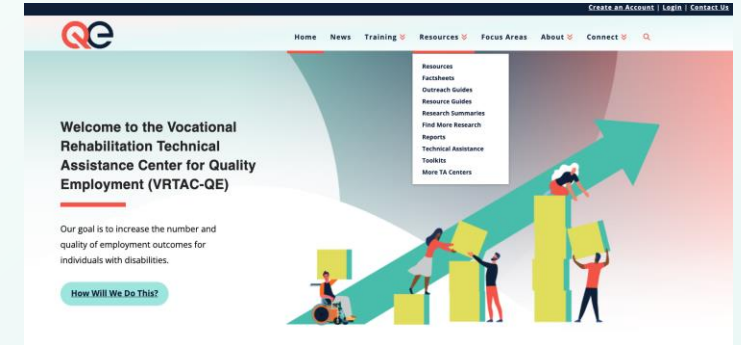
## Metrics of Success

### Member Growth

- 15,744 members registered

### Engagement

- 29,273 individuals registered for at least one on-demand module
- 30,704 registered for webinars
- 6,396 individuals issued at least one training completion certificate



### Content Updates

- Regular updates with new technical assistance and training modules
- Peer-reviewed publications

### Feedback Scores

- Consistent ratings of over 90% for relevance, quality, and useability



Technical Assistance Center for  
**Quality Employment**



Showing 15,311 users in the United States.

# Comprehensive Review of Best Practices

## **Data Collection Effort**

- Reviewed 5 years of data across 78 state VR agencies
- Completed two national needs assessment surveys with hundreds of VR and community-based rehabilitation professionals

## **Feedback and Dissemination**

- 88.7% of participants use information in practice
- 65% adoption rate for strategies identified in the articles
- Special Issues in Peer-Reviewed Journals

# Comprehensive Review of Best Practices

## Innovation

- Plain language summaries
- Interactive toolkits

## Insights and Impact

- Shift to actionable outcomes
- Widespread adoption
  - 41 outreach strategies
  - 48 employment service enhancements



Technical Assistance Center for  
**Quality Employment**

# Intensive Technical Assistance (ITA)

## Outcomes

- 24 ITA plans successfully closed
- ITA participants reported (Year 4):
  - 90.5% rated training as high quality
  - 89.6% found it relevant
  - 87% said it was useful to their work

## Examples of Completed Projects

- New or revised SE and CE policy
- 9 Toolkits available
- Expanded partnerships and collaboration
- Sustainability



Technical Assistance Center for  
**Quality Employment**

# Targeted Technical Assistance (TTA)

(Time-limited projects addressing shared needs)

## Innovative Methods

### Learning Communities

- Rural outreach, Faith-based communities, Justice-involved populations

### Implementation Groups

- Career Pathways, Customized Training, Apprenticeship

### Example Focus Areas

- Transportation solutions
- Justice-involved populations
- Strategies for underserved communities
- Self-Employment

### Outcomes (Year 4)

- 84.3% rated TTA as high quality
- 86.5% found it relevant
- 86.8% said it was useful



Technical Assistance Center for  
**Quality Employment**

# Universal Technical Assistance (UTA)

## Engagement

- 5,519 registrations for on-demand modules in Year 5
  - 25,447 registrations since Oct. 2020
- 5,164 registrations for monthly webinars in Year 5
  - 30,068 registrations since Oct. 2020

55,515 total UTA registrations over  
lifetime of the grant

## Resource Library

- 195 Training sessions
- 43 Webinars
- 29 Fact sheets
- 26 Research summaries
- 17 Resource guides

## Feedback

- 94.7% rated as high quality
- 93.5% found it relevant
- 88.3% said it was useful



Technical Assistance Center for  
**Quality Employment**

# U.S. Territories Engagement

## Geographic Research and Impact

- Addressing unique challenges in remote and underserved regions:
  - Agencies in American Samoa, CNMI, and GUAM benefited from tailored TA
- Pacific Rim (PacRim) Conference in 2024 & 2025
- Monthly PacRim Community of Practice (CoP)
- Focus on Self-Employment, ABLE Accounts, Business/Employer Engagement





Technical Assistance Center for  
**Quality Employment**

# Dissemination of Findings and Resources

## Key Dissemination Channels

- Website and Online resources
- TACQE Tuesday
- Webinars and Training Modules
- Publication and Peer-Reviewed Articles
- Conferences

## Number and Metrics

- 44,650 certificates of completion issued to 6,396 users
- UTA materials downloaded over 10,000 times
- All 50 states and U.S. Territories engaged in training
- Over 30,000 total website users
- Adoption Rate
  - 88.7% reported that they plan to use in practice
  - 75% of SVRA leadership adopted new strategies



Technical Assistance Center for  
**Quality Employment**

# Rigorous Evaluation Using RSA 911 Data

## Numbers and Outcomes

### **GPRA measure 3: Employment Outcomes**

- 33.33% of SVRAs improved employment outcomes from RSA PY 2020 to PY 2021
- 42.86% of SVRAs improved outcomes from PY 2021 to PY 2022
- 61.90% of SVRAs improved outcomes from PY 2022 to PY 2023

### **GPRA Measure 4: Measurable Skill Gains (MSG)**

- PY 2022: 40% of SVRAs met their MSG goal
- PY 2023: 50% of SVRA met their MSG, with 70% showing year-over-year improvement

# Key Lessons Learned

## 1. Learning Communities

- Contemporary evolution of CoP
- Co-development of meaningful products (toolkits)

## 2. Implementation Groups

- Support use of Learning Community products in VR policy & practice

## 3. Individual Online Training Pages

- Customized by site
- Highly utilized; particularly in remote locations
- Continuing Education credits



## Services for State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies

- Training – Develop staff knowledge and skills in best practices
  - Program Evaluation- Assess performance of agencies and their outcomes
  - Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessments
  - Research – Conduct investigations to identify best practices
  - **<https://iparrt.org>**
- Email us at:** [IPARRT@wcer.wisc.edu](mailto:IPARRT@wcer.wisc.edu)

IPARRT is a University of Wisconsin–Madison research team focused on disability, competitive employment and quality of life. The team is dedicated to fostering breakthroughs in rehabilitation counseling research and practice. At IPARRT, we are committed to advancing knowledge, enhancing skills, and improving outcomes for individuals with disabilities through innovative research endeavors and comprehensive training programs.



Technical Assistance Center for  
**Quality Employment**

# **Thank you**

---