

# NIRS

## Definitions

CENTER ON DISABILITY &  
COMMUNITY INCLUSION



### **PURPOSE**

NIRS stands for National Information Reporting System and is used for collecting data for our annual report to the Administration for Community Living. People at CDCI do a lot of innovative and exciting work, and it can be a challenge to figure out what needs to be entered into NIRS and how. This document provides definitions for 8 activities and 2 products, that should be entered into NIRS. They are organized into our four core functions (Teaching, Service, Research, and Dissemination).

Please review each of the core functions and definitions. Consider: What do you? What are you entering into NIRS? What might you be missing?

For more information, please visit <https://www.aucd.org/projects/nirs> make an appointment to meet with Rachel.

### **TEACHING CORE FUNCTION**

**Do you teach a course for credit at UVM or another academic institution or guest lecture in a course? If so, you would enter the following activity:**

#### **1. Interdisciplinary Preservice Preparation Training Trainees:**

This is chosen when the activity advances an individual's academic or professional credentials, takes place in an academic setting or program, and examines and advances professional practice that impacts the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE CORE FUNCTION**

**Are you providing services to an organization or school team? If so, you would enter one or more of the following activities:**

## **1. Continuing Education/Community Training:**

This type of activity refers to any trainings, workshops, webinars, or conferences that you or your project hosts. This type of activity is also used if you present or help to run a conference for another organization. In this instance, you would answer “no” to the question “was the Center the lead on this activity” and you would not be expected to collect satisfaction data. NIRS distinguishes between continuing education and community training based on how you answer the questions “are certificates of completion or CEUS offered?” Continuing education activities are aimed at professionals seeking to maintain their credentials. Community training activities are those that enhance the knowledge of a variety of community members.

## **2. Technical Assistance:**

This type of activity refers to problem solving services provided to programs, agencies, or other entities to assist in improving or enhancing their outcomes or services. This includes services provided to self-advocacy organizations and family support groups.

**Are you providing services directly to an individual with a disability or their family members? If so, you would enter one or more of the following activities:**

### **1. Demonstration Services:**

AUCD defines demonstration services as activities that field test promising or exemplary practices.

### **2. Direct Clinical Services:**

These are rare at CDCI and are activities that deliver specialized clinical services to an individual with a disability with the intention of enhancing the well-being and status of the recipient. This includes direct clinical services such as PT, OT, or SLP.

### **3. Other Direct Model Services:**

This activity can be defined as providing technical assistance or training directly to an individual with a disability or their family members with the intention of enhancing the well-being and status of the recipient.

**For all of the above activities, types and numbers of participants should never include “Trainees.”** Trainees refers only to those individuals in an ongoing training program such as the Disability Studies Certificate program or the Early Childhood / Early Intervention Graduate Degree program.

### **RESEARCH CORE FUNCTION**

**Do you conduct research OR analyze and report on data related to your project? If so, you would enter the following activity:**

#### **1. Performing Research or Evaluation:**

This activity is defined as implementing basic and applied research, program evaluation, or analysis of public policy on issues impacting individuals with developmental disabilities.

### **DISSEMINATION CORE FUNCTION**

**Do you share the work of your project with the community through fact sheets, websites, newsletters, video clips, or by speaking at conferences? Do you write and publish articles? If so, you would need to enter a product into NIRS.**

**There are many different products to choose from in NIRS. Anything you are producing for your project that is being shared publicly should be entered as a product into NIRS. There are two that people often forget about or do not know they should be entering.**

#### **1. Conference Presentations and Posters Presented:**

If you speak at a conference or present a poster at a conference that summarizes a project, findings, policy, or article, you need to enter this event as a product in NIRS. Speaking at a conference should also be entered as a community training activity.

## **2. Academic Course Development:**

This includes written educational programs intended for delivery in multiple segments and designed to drive instruction in an academic program such as curricula or course syllabi.

**Below is a list of the other products that could be entered:**

1. Book
2. Book Chapter
3. Distance Learning Modules
4. Doctoral Dissertation or Master's Thesis
5. Electronic Products
6. Newsletters
7. Pamphlets, Brochures, or Fact Sheets
8. Peer-Reviewed publications in scholarly journals Published/In Press
9. Peer-reviewed publications in scholarly journals submitted
10. Press Communications
11. Reports and Monographs
12. Web-based products