



Year in Review 2025

I am happy to share this summary of our work from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. This was the 2nd year of our 5-year workplan from 2023 to 2028. In November we celebrated our Center's 50th anniversary!

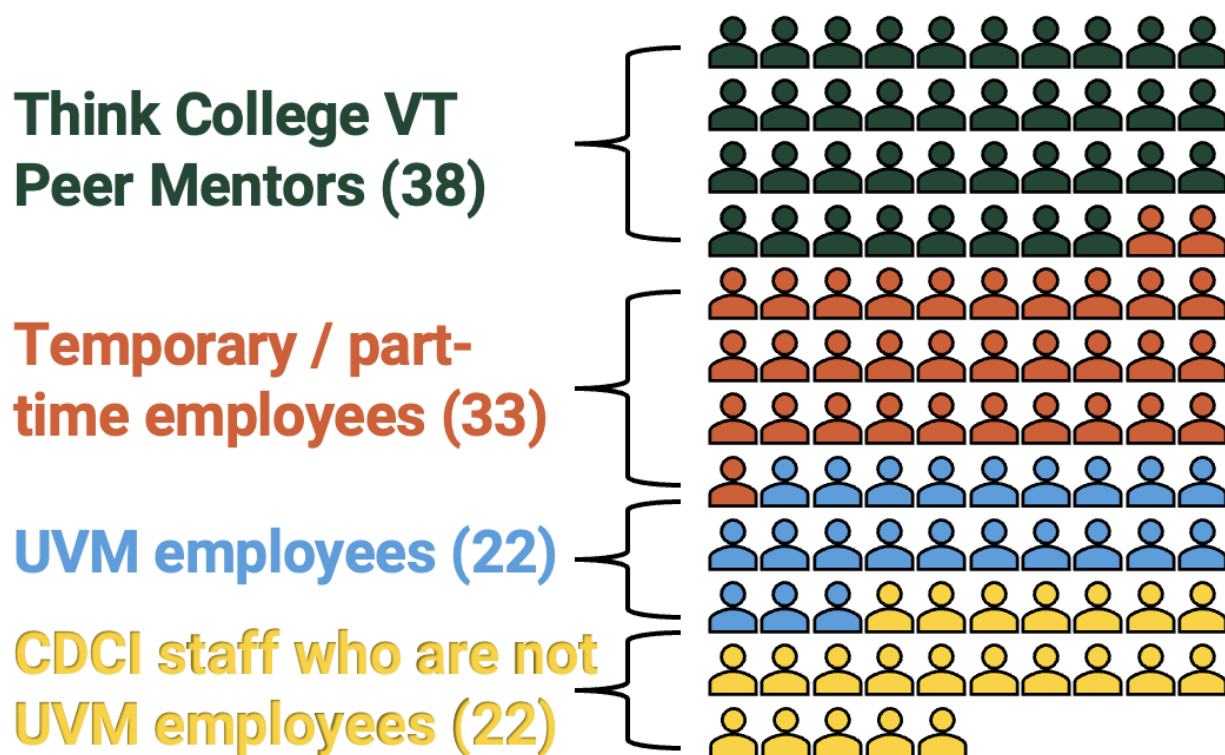
There were many transitions this year. We hired one new project coordinator, Catherine Armani-Munn, and said goodbye to three others: Audrey Homan, Meg Baker, and Julia Wayne.

Funding our work has been a big focus this year. Major cuts are expected from the federal government across Medicaid and other programs for people with disabilities. Two projects are ending because of loss of state funding, and it is more difficult to apply for federal funding. And the White House has proposed eliminating all Centers like ours.

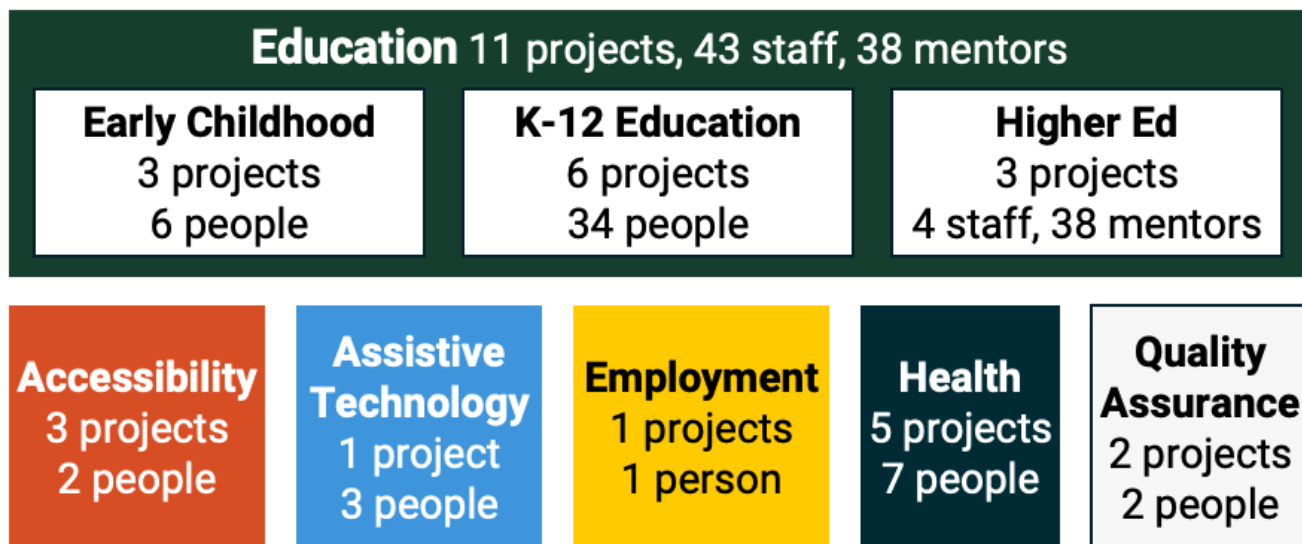
We need your feedback on our work, issues we face, and what to prioritize next.

Thank you!

115 People Worked at CDCI This Year



People at CDCI Worked in 6 Broad Areas



TEACHING

CDCI provides college education focused on disability and community inclusion for future professionals.



Goals & Progress for 2025




1. Support Think College Vermont as a college option.	Great 14th year at UVM! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anonymous donation supports paid internships.• 1st Special Olympics Penguin Plunge team.• 2nd year of intramural basketball.• Think College VT at international conference.• Issue: Cannot grow program without more staff.
2. Create a smaller version of the Certificate in Disability Studies.	Created a micro-certificate so more people will enroll. Issue: This summer and next year need to recruit more students, or program will have to end.
3. Increase access to our teaching.	See goals 2 & 4. Issue: Less support for diversity & inclusion.
4. Design online classes in disability studies and accessibility.	List of topics has been drafted. First class will be "Disability Studies 101" a beginner class. Issue: What should be in first class?
5. Better support students with disabilities at UVM.	Jesse is advisor for Disabled Student Union. Will work with new Office of Accessibility Services and new university president next year.

QUESTION: What are the top five things that should be included in the first online class?

SERVICE

CDCI provides services to people with disabilities, their families, and professionals who support them.



1. Support Vermont Leadership Series	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Financially supported leadership series.Finished project supporting regions to lead cultural and linguistic competency in disability services.Issue: Funding is an ongoing challenge.
2. Provide trainings, consultation, and resources to improve access to services.	<div>Accessibility </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Supported Nature Conservancy of Vermont to survey attitudes about disability in outdoor spaces.Planned project to provide accessibility services.Issue: Audrey left in May 2025. They were our only certified accessibility specialist. <div>Assistive Technology </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">AT Tryout Specialists met all goals for support and device demonstrations.Issue: Due to loss of state funding, CDCI 15-year work with AT will end 9/30/25. <div>Education: Early Childhood </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Helped create and host online training series for Children’s Integrated Services (CIS) professionals.I-Team Early Intervention gave multiday workshop on engagement through play. Matched to educator and family needs, and very well received.Issue: Our 1 CIS staff, Julia Wayne, left position as Personnel Development Coordinator. Cannot rehire.Issue: Our project on early childhood social emotional development (Early MTSS) ended as coordinator, Meg Baker, left position.

<p>2. Provide trainings, consultation, and resources to improve access to services. (Continued)</p>	<p>Education: K-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARES Team saw schools and project did not have enough time to work together. So created new resources for schools to use on own. • Vermont I-Team offered 1st <i>Inclusive Schools Conference Series</i>. National keynote speakers included teacher, family, & person with a disability. • For 1st time, I-Team loaned iPads to schools to support communication as part of Medicaid trials. • Issue: Schools have less time to get support. • Issue: Districts creating more separate programs for students with disabilities. <p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VT Pathways to Partnerships completed pilot year with 3 schools. • Issue: State ended 2-year contract on supported employment after 9 months. <p>Health</p> <p>Lots of new resources to increase access!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continance project launched online training videos. • 24-Hour Postural Care new training on equipment assessments. • PEDSPRO new coordinator, Catherine Armani-Munn!
<p>3. Find new ways to support mental health and housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-Team Family Resource Consultants providing more supports related to mental health. • Cassandra taught <i>Behavior Management</i> course. • Issue: School mental health project likely ending. • Issue: No projects focused on housing.



QUESTION: How can we best learn about people's experiences with services?

RESEARCH



CDCI supports disability research to increase understanding and spark change.

1. Collect and share data on needs in Vermont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collected new data on Vermonter attitudes toward disability with DD Network partners. CDCI projects surveyed to help focus services. Gathered new questions for statewide survey. Issue: Did not launch statewide survey this year.
2. Write report on disability in Vermont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still working on report to share in the Fall. Issue: Focus on website and federal issues did not leave time to finish report this year.
3. Partner with people with disabilities and others to do more research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of attitudes on accessibility in Vermont's outdoor spaces. Supported study on Deaf youth social-emotional development. Continuing Nicole Villemare's Think College study. Issue: UVM Autism Collaborative changing leads.
4. Secure new funding through university and community partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on W.T. Grant Foundation proposal to study Think College programs around the U.S. Issue: Proposal for Autism Research Consortium not submitted because Patty Prelock left UVM. Issue: Many federal programs no longer offering research grants.
5. Write accessible summaries and reports so more people can learn from research about disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using audio as an accessibility tool presentation. We hosted a webinar as part of the Vermont Trails & Greenways Accessibility Hub series. We presented a hybrid workshop on plain language at the State of Vermont's accessibility conference.

QUESTION: What data is most needed to help people with disabilities in VT?

COMMUNICATION



CDCI shares information between university and community to educate and increase awareness about disability in Vermont.

1. Help UVM create a policy on language access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We wrote a draft of a Language Access Plan.• Translated CDCI brochure in 14 languages.• CDCI has been invited to create a college-level plan using ours as a model.
2. Redesign the CDCI and CDCI project websites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We created 18 websites for CDCI and the CDCI projects. This was more than 900 individual webpages, and nearly 1,500 images and documents.• We trained 16 people on how to update their websites. 14 took accessibility courses.
3. Continue to publish Green Mountain Disability Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produced 7 podcast episodes and 11 videos.• Less than last year because websites and training staff took so much work.

Issues:

- Audrey led all of communications at CDCI. They were also only certified accessibility specialist.
- We cannot currently rehire for Audrey's position.
- We are currently not updating social media or podcast.
- We are hiring people in temporary roles to help with website and other communication.

QUESTIONS:

What communication is most important to continue during this transition?

How can we better support sharing the stories of Vermonters with disabilities?