



Learn about the  
**National Institute on Disability,  
Independent Living & Rehabilitation  
Research**

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# Disclosures

- Dr. Forber-Pratt is a Federal employee and have no financial interest to disclose.
  - Dr. Forber-Pratt has no non-financial conflicts of interest relevant to this activity.
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# NIDILRR's Mission

To generate new knowledge and to promote its effective use:

To improve the abilities of individuals with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community

To expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for individuals with disabilities

# What We Sponsor (Annual Budget of \$119M)



# Outcome Domains



Health and  
Function

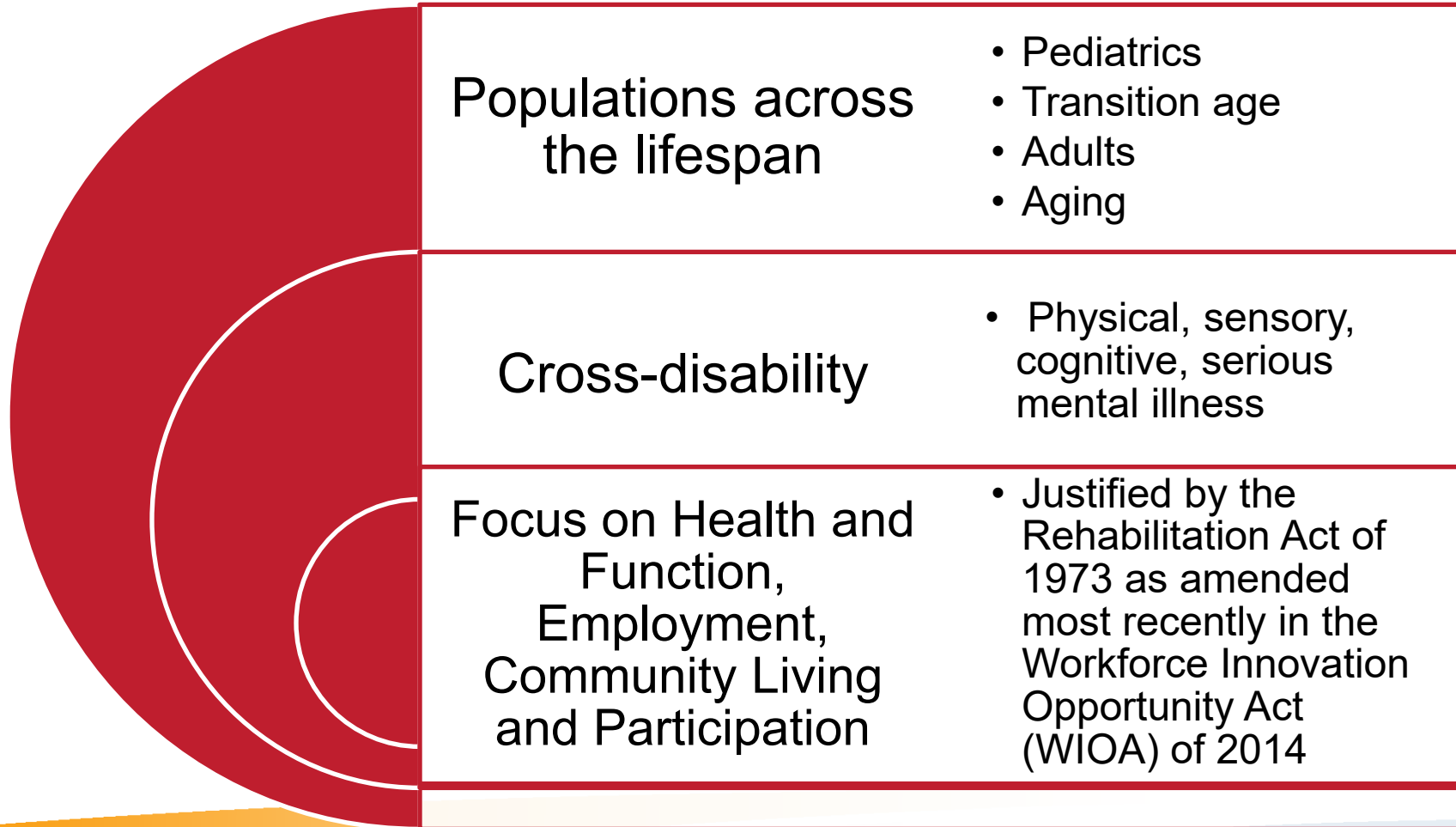


Employment



Community  
Living and  
Participation

# Breadth of Responsibility



# Grant Mechanisms

- Mary Switzer Research Fellowships
- Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT)
- Field-Initiated Projects (Research and Development) (FIP)
- Small Business Innovation Research Grants (SBIR)
- Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTC)
- Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERC)
- Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP)
- SCI, TBI and Burn Injury Model System Centers (SCIMS, TBIMS, BMS)
- ADA National Network
- Knowledge Translation Centers





# Program Types Funded by NIH & NIDILRR

Program Type:	Research	Career Development	Training	Fellowships
National Institutes of Health	R series	K series	T series	F series
National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research	DRRP RERC FIP RRTC	ARRT	RRTC	Switzer

# Activities and Accomplishments: SCI



Improvement of the health and function of people with incomplete SCI by conducting innovative, systematic, and highly focused research examining robotic gait training (RGT) during inpatient rehabilitation (Baylor Scott and White Research Institute)



Multisite collaborative project aiming to build the research infrastructure needed to generate actionable information about how communities shape disability (Kessler Foundation)



Identifications of modifiable barriers and facilitators that may be targets of policy change, leading to improved quality employment outcomes (Medical University of South Carolina)

# Switzer Fellowship Program

- Awards to the individual rather than to the institution
- One-year awards
- Topic, methods, etc., proposed by applicant
- Dissertation Fellowship
  - Must be candidate
  - up to \$45,000 (new for FY24)
- “Merit”
  - Most grantees are early-career PhDs
  - Up to \$70,000 (\$80,000 as of FY24)
- “Distinguished”
  - Must have terminal degree
  - Must have seven years experience in disability/rehabilitation research
  - Up to \$80,000 (\$90,000 as of FY24)
- Competition every year

# Switzer Project Examples

- Characterizing Patterns of Depression, Community Mobility, and Social Engagement Among People with Spinal Cord Injury, by Hannah Mercier
- Sociocultural Determinants of Recovery, Health, and Community Participation in Underserved Asian American Rehabilitation Populations by Jessica Conklin
- Characterizing Inner Speech in Aphasia, by Brielle Stark

# NIDILRR's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program

- The Small Business innovation Development Act of 1982 (as amended) requires Federal agencies with extramural budgets of \$100M or more to allocate 3.2% of their R&D budget to create and maintain a SBIR Program
- NIDILRR's SBIR program is unique in its focus on promoting the commercial application of R&D results to improve the lives of people with disabilities.
- NIDILRR's SBIR budget is approximately 3.2M per year.
- NIDILRR holds one Phase I competition (winter) and one Phase II competition (spring) each year

# Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

- NIDILRR's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants conduct research and development activities toward the creation and marketing of technologies and products to improve the lives of people with disabilities.
  - Phase I: 6-month effort to establish the feasibility and proof-of-concept for technology or product (10 awards per year. Funding = \$100,000).
  - Phase II: 24-month effort to conduct research and develop the technology or product (4 awards per year. Funding = \$287,500 per year).

# Field Initiated Projects (FIP)

- Disability and rehabilitation research topic, methods, etc., proposed by applicant
- Awards may be for research or development projects from one or multiple outcome domains
- NIDILRR's largest competition -- 200-300 applications per year
- 15 awards per year (on average) depending on the availability of funds
- Up to \$200,000 per year
- Three-year awards
- 76 active awards
- Examples:

*-Impacts of Internalized, Interpersonal, and Systemic Ableism in Healthcare Services and Systems: A Field-Initiated Project Program*

*-Enhancing Immune Health Literacy and Behaviors Among People with Psychiatric Disabilities*

*-Using the National Survey on Health and Disability Panel to Document the COVID-19 Pandemic Experiences of Working-Age Americans with Disabilities*



# Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs)

- Projects emphasize research, development, dissemination, technical assistance
- May be for research or development
- Some agency-initiated, some field initiated
- NIDILRR may specify the general area
- \$300,000–\$1,246,000 (specified by NIDILRR)
- Up to five years
- Announcements as needed



# Engage with NIDILRR

Learn about NIDILRR

<http://www.acl.gov/nidilrr>

Receive Funding Opportunity Announcements

<http://www.naric.com/?q=node/33>

Review NIDILRR grant forecast/open grant competitions

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?cfda=93.433>

# Engage with NIDILRR (cont.)

Search NARIC to learn about NIDILRR-funded research in your topic areas


<https://www.naric.com/?q=en/ProgramDatabase>

Engage with NIDILRR grantees

Become a NIDILRR Peer Reviewer

<https://rrm.grantsolutions.gov/AgencyPortal/acl.aspx>

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I hope you are now this excited  
about NIDILRR...



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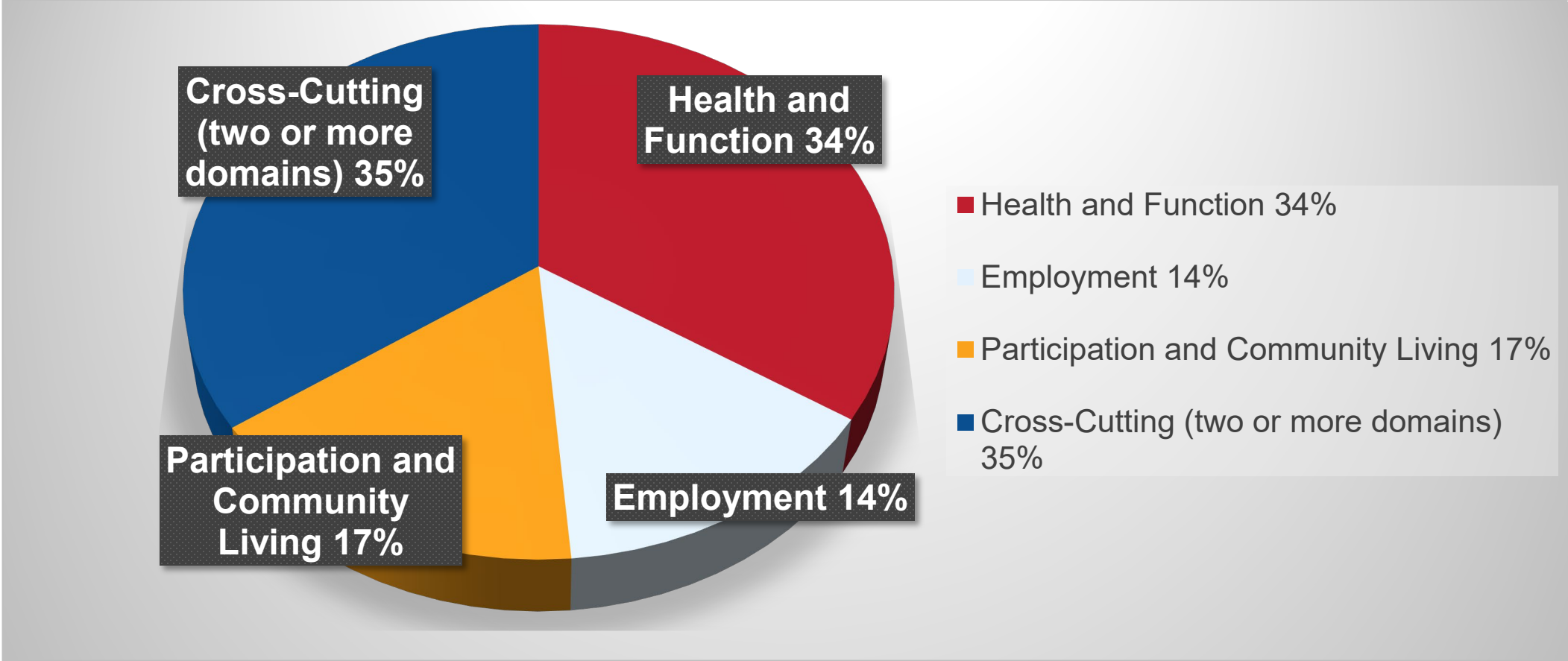
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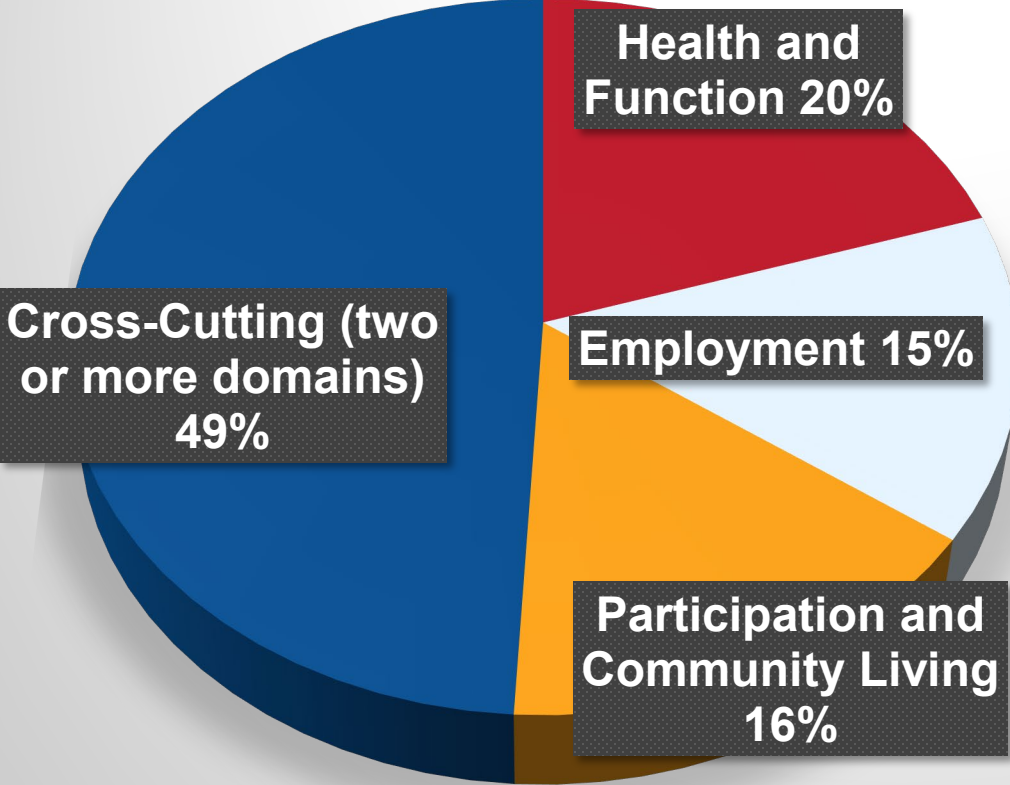


**More NIDILRR Information  
for your later review**

# Research Grant Projects by Domain from FY22



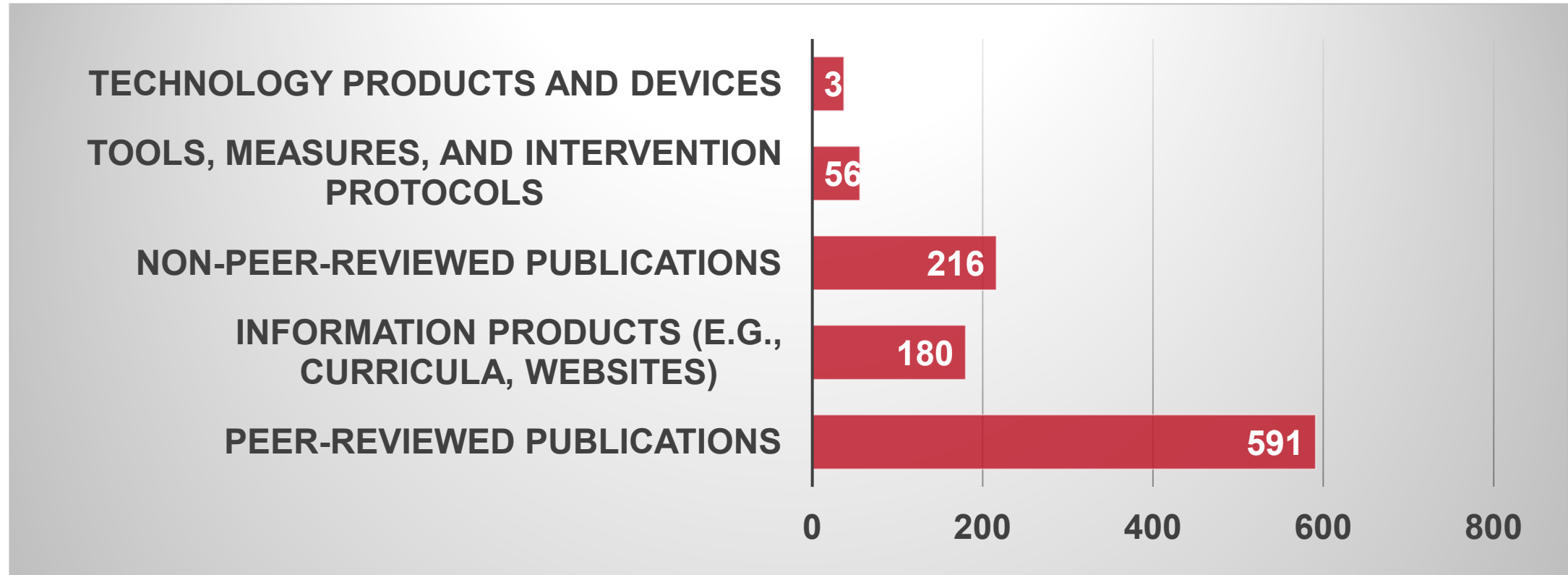
# Development Projects by Domain from FY22



- Health and Function 20%
- Employment 15%
- Participation and Community Living 16%
- Cross-Cutting (two or more domains) 49%



# Total Outputs Produced by All Grantees across All Program Mechanisms from FY22



# Knowledge Translation

Knowledge translation is a process of ensuring that new knowledge and products gained through research and development **will ultimately be used** to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and further their participation in society

- Ensure relevance of R&D to people's lives, in early design stages
- Actively promote R&D-based findings and products in the real world

# NIDILRR's Network of KT Centers

- The Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (<https://ktdrr.org/>)
- The Center on Knowledge Translation for Employment Research ([KTER.org](http://KTER.org))
- The Initiative to Mobilize Partnerships for successful Assistive Technology Transfer ([idea2impact.org](http://idea2impact.org)) Center
- The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center ([MSKTC.org](http://MSKTC.org))
- The ADA National Network KT Center (<https://adata.org/ADAKTC>)
- The National Rehabilitation Information Center ([NARIC.com](http://NARIC.com))

# Advanced Rehabilitation Research Projects

- Provide advanced rehabilitation research training at post-doctoral level
- ARRTs in all three outcome domains
- Awards made to institutions of higher education institutions only
- Must provide interdisciplinary training
- Up to \$200,000 per year
- Five-year awards
- Competition every year

*Example: Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training in Pediatric Mobility for Physicians, Therapists, and Engineers*

# ARRT Project Example

- Rusk Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Postdoctoral Fellowship – NYU, PI: Joseph Rath
  - This project trains psychology postdoctoral fellows in skills necessary to become independent investigators in clinical rehabilitation research. Doctoral-level professionals from appropriate fields of study in psychology (e.g., rehabilitation, clinical, counseling, and health psychology and neuropsychology) receive training through mentored independent research projects (IRPs) and ongoing multidisciplinary collaborative research projects