

PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE DESCRIPTION

Title: Achieving Health Equity for Adolescents living with Disabilities in the U.S.

Posting Date: February 28, 2023

Time Frame: Summer/Fall 2023

Hosting Organization: Rose Academies

Location: Hybrid

Preceptor: Susan Stasi, CEO, Rose Academies-Uganda

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Hours: 200 hours

Description: **Problem:** Adolescents living with a disability in the U.S. have diverse healthcare needs, especially when it comes to managing chronic health conditions. According to the US Census Bureau report of 2000, more than 4.36 million U.S. adults ages 18 to 24 have some sort of disability; 2.3 million have severe disability (which includes disorders such as CP); and 1.07 million need assistance in their daily life.¹

There are multiple programs that have been developed in the U.S. to help parents that have disabled children, such as the IDEA program which supports children with disabilities from the age of 3-22 years old or until the child graduates from High School², or government aided programs that help families if they are eligible for services. But benefits change when the child turns 18³ and then what happens? The parents may have aged and haven't prepared their adolescent for life after childhood. What about the young adult that has physical limitations yet wants to pursue post-secondary education or a vocational program? Is there a gaping hole in services for the disabled adolescent or barriers that are preventing these young adults from achieving their full potential in life? We want to explore this phenomenon which without any supportive programs can result in unfortunate outcomes that may include mental, emotional or behavior problems for the disabled adolescent.

- Discovery:**
- How many disabled young adults ages 18-24 are out of the system and lack support?
 - What social determinants are causing the inequities in health/education services?
 - What is the financial impact of lack of supportive services?
 - What are the effects on the adolescent, such as mental health, substance abuse, behavior problems, etc.?
 - What are the effects on the parents/caregivers?
 - What program could be developed to address this gap?
 - What would be the financial gain if there were increased support services for the disabled adolescent?

¹ <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2018/demo/p70-152.pdf>

² <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/about-idea/>

³ <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v75n3/v75n3p35.html>

Deliverables:

Cross sectional study; conduct a cross sectional study using quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the local population's number of disabled adolescents, programs and services from which a program can be developed to address this need.

1. **Quantitative review:** Review existing data of population demographics and social determinants that may have influence on programs for disabled youth.
2. **Survey:** develop a survey that can be conducted in Texas to obtain in depth knowledge of existing gaps in aid
3. **Statistical analysis:** Analyze collected data and create overview report.
4. **Community Impact Report:** Based upon your findings, create an overall impact report that explains why your suggested program will benefit not only the disabled adolescent but the community itself.
5. **Business Plan:** Develop a business plan that details what steps are involved in establishing your program that will support disabled adolescents in the acquisition of employable skills; its financial impact; and potential for scalability.