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Research Division

Supporting the CPRF mission at the national, regional, state and community levels through excellence in grant funding and project management, the Research Division secures the grant funds that enable the development of innovative options for people of all abilities toward lifelong independence. To do this, crucial relationships are forged with collaborative partners, such as federal agency program managers, university faculty, state agency staff and executive leadership of other community rehabilitation programs.

Through the use of information technology, the CPRF Research team maximizes grant proposal opportunities and the processes used to manage projects. These projects include the Benefits Planning, Assistance and Outreach, and Employment Research projects that closely complement the employment, training and support mission of CPRF.

In recent years, Research efforts have helped the development of the CPRF School of Adaptive Computer Training and assisted with funding that expanded the school beyond Kansas to Atlanta and Houston.

Today the Research Division staff provides benefits counseling for Social Security disability recipients throughout Kansas through CPRF's Kansas Benefits Counselors Network. Through relationships forged with Wichita State University and the University of Texas at San Antonio, the Research team developed the Employment Research project to study factors that influence whether employers hire qualified people with disabilities. The ultimate goal is to develop an evidence-based, model set of policies and practices that other companies can successfully and efficiently implement toward the employment of people with disabilities.

A leader in the national Ticket to Work initiative, the Research team has also successfully positioned CPRF as the state's "go-to" source for subject matter experts in benefits planning and has become the state's leading Employment Network. The Employment Network works to establish a bridge between employer partners in the community and employment candidates who use the network to find a long-term, successful match.

The team's most recent endeavor is the Benefits and Tax Research project. The project's goal is to build a successful support structure for each customer through education in individual and family budget management - including benefits management, assets management and tax planning.

A position of leadership

The Research Division seeks project opportunities that will:

- Focus on the unresolved problems that diminish the opportunity for people to become economically self-sufficient.
- Position CPRF as a leader in Kansas, and nationally, in the selected research and demonstration areas.
- Build collaborative relationships with strategic partners in the education, nonprofit and corporation sectors to sustain excellence in research and demonstration outcomes.