



Annual Report on Human Subjects Research

***State Fiscal Year 2025:
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025***

To the Governor and the General Assembly of Virginia

July 23, 2025

**Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Human Research Review Committee
2025 Annual Report**

The Code of Virginia §51.5-132 directs the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Human Research Review Committee (HRRC) to submit to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the DARS Commissioner, at least annually, a report on the human research projects reviewed and approved by the HRRC, including any significant deviations from the research applications, as approved by the Committee. The HRRC has internal oversight responsibilities for ensuring protection of the rights and welfare of clients and employees who volunteer to participate in research conducted or authorized by DARS. The DARS Commissioner established the HRRC in August 2000 to review and approve research proposed or authorized by DARS, the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC), Centers for Independent Living (CIL), Employment Service Organizations (ESO) that have a vendor relationship with DARS, and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA).

The HRRC complies with federal requirements for the Protection of Human Subjects (45 CFR 46). The US Department of Health and Human Services approved the HRRC Federal wide Assurance (FWA#00008936) beginning August 15, 2005. The FWA is currently effective through January 25, 2026. The HRRC conducts four types of reviews: Exempt Review (regulatory oversight not required), Expedited Review (application reviewed and approved by one or more HRRC members), Full Committee Review (a quorum of members in attendance), and Cooperative Research Review (Authorization Agreement executed between two Institutional Review Boards). There was one new application reviewed during the state fiscal year (SFY) 2025. Six studies were amended or continued, and one was closed.

To the best of the Committee's knowledge, the HRRC reviewed all research involving human volunteers conducted or authorized by DARS, WWRC, CIL, ESO or AAA during SFY 2025. The HRRC has no evidence suggesting that there were any significant deviations from study procedures, as approved by the HRRC, for the studies approved, amended, or continued during SFY 2025. Composition of the HRRC is governed by 22 VAC 30-40-60 and 45 CFR 46.107. As of July 1, 2025, the HRRC has six members and one alternate. This document is the HRRC's twenty-fifth Annual Report. I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the HRRC for their commitment to supporting this important endeavor.



**Kathryn A. Hayfield
Commissioner**

During SFY 2025 the DARS HRRC reviewed 8 applications.

SFY 2025 Research Applications	
Initial Approval	1
Amended or Continued	6
Closed	1
Cancelled or Withdrawn	0
Total	8

Initial Approval:

Study Title	Principal Investigator	Review Type	Control Number
SWITCIE*	Tim Risesen, Utah State University	Cooperative	SFY25-001

*Utah State University (USU) is serving as the IRB of Record. IRB Authorization Agreement successfully executed between DARS and USU on 6/30/25.

Amended or Continued:

Study Title	Principal Investigator	Review Type	Control Number
Effects of a 9-month Internship Intervention for Military Dependents with ASD	Carol Schall, Virginia Commonwealth University	Expedited	SFY17-005
Effects of Knowledge Translation Methods on VR Counselors Providing Pre- ETS to Youth with Significant Disabilities 14-16 Years of Age: A Pilot RCT	Susan McKelvey, Virginia Commonwealth University	Expedited	SFY20-001
Pathways to Careers Using Partnerships, Apprenticeships and Equity ¹	Susan Foley, University of Massachusetts Boston	Cooperative	SFY23-001
HealthWise: Computer Coaching for Social Connectivity of Older Adults	Marissa Galicia Castillo, Eastern Virginia Medical School	Exempt	SFY24-001

Evaluation of: Real Pay for Real Jobs (RPRJ) Education and Outreach, Partnership Development, provisions of Individualized Services and Capacity Building (EPIC) in Virginia ²	Michelle Yin, Northwestern University	Cooperative	SFY24-002
Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) Program Evaluation ³	Ayesha De Mond, Mathematica	Cooperative	SFY24-003

Closed:

Study Title	Principal Investigator	Review Type	Control Number
The Good Life CAFÉ: Community Access and Financial Empowerment	Rebecca Salon, National Disability Institute	Exempt	SFY21-001

¹University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB) is serving as the IRB of Record. IRB Authorization Agreement successfully executed between DARS and UMB on 7/6/22.

²The American Institutes for Research (AIR) is serving as the IRB of Record. IRB Authorization Agreement successfully executed between DARS and AIR on 12/13/23.

³Health Media Lab (HML) is serving as the IRB of Record. IRB Authorization Agreement successfully executed between DARS and HML on 6/6/24.