

Suicidal Behaviors in People With Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities: Strategies for Successful Care



Dr. Mirian Ofonedu, PhD, LCSW-C, is the director of training at the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute. She is an associate professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Graduate School and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Department of Mental Health. She is also a faculty affiliate of the Johns Hopkins Wendy Klag Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities and an adjunct professor at the UMB School of Social Work. Dr. Ofonedu is a psychologist, a licensed clinical social worker and a fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA). Her work spans across two decades.

To register, [click here](#)
or call 443-923-4114.

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. EDT

Where: Live Interactive Webinar

Registered participants will receive an email with instructions on how to join the session.

Objectives: Participants will be able to:

1. Summarize what is known about suicide in the population of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD).
2. List two to three false assumptions about limited cognitive abilities (including how they might serve as protective factors), and two to three ways to address these assumptions.
3. Recognize risk and protective factors and their existence on multiple levels, and why suicide prevention in the IDD population involves everyone and should be targeted at all levels.
4. Explain why we need to routinely screen for suicidality in this population. List two to three available screening measures.
5. Apply practical strategies for successful care outcomes.

People with IDD are at increased risk for undetected suicidal thoughts and behaviors and for developing suicidal thoughts and behaviors, which usually creates high anxiety for professionals, parents and caregivers caring for and working with them. This training aims to increase professionals', parents' and caregivers' knowledge and skills to recognize risk and protective factors, warning signs and suicidal behaviors in people with IDD, and to facilitate early referral of those at risk for suicide. **Instructional level:** Intermediate.

Who should attend? Professionals and anyone interested in the topic. 3.0 Continuing Education Credits (Category 1) will be granted to licensed social workers and psychologists for attending the session in full and completing all requirements. A Certificate of Attendance will be made available for all other disciplines.

Kennedy Krieger Institute Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities is authorized by the Board of Social Work Examiners in Maryland to sponsor social work continuing education programs, and it maintains full responsibility for this program. Kennedy Krieger Institute is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Kennedy Krieger Institute maintains responsibility for this program and its content. No conflicts have been identified (this includes commercial support and research grants/funding). The registration fees are: \$90 for professionals seeking CE credit, \$70 for professionals and community members not seeking CE credit, and \$35 for students not seeking CE credit who register with a school email address.

For more information on our Annual Learning Series or to request accommodation or assistance for individuals with disabilities, please contact us by phone at **443-923-4114**, email **Training.MCDD@KennedyKrieger.org** or visit **KennedyKrieger.org/MCDDTraining**. Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least seven days prior to the scheduled meeting.

