



# LEAD CENTER

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## **LEAD On! - December 2014** <sup>[1]</sup>

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### **LEAD Participates in Louisville Financial Empowerment Summit**

On October 30th, LEAD staff returned to Louisville, Ky. to participate in the city's 2nd Annual Financial Empowerment Summit. Sponsored in part by [Bank on Louisville](#) <sup>[11]</sup> and [National Disability Institute \(NDI\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>, the Summit brought together numerous local and national private and public partners committed to building a more inclusive community and improving the financial health of Louisvillians with disabilities.

During the day-long event, attendees heard from a variety of speakers, including LEAD's Public Policy Co-Lead and NDI Executive Director Michael Morris and Assistant Project Director Elizabeth Jennings. Morris discussed the recently passed Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and its implications on youth and adult with disabilities, while Jennings' afternoon session featured an in-depth discussion on best practices to integrate financial empowerment in the delivery of services to people with disabilities.

In addition to Morris and Jennings, the Summit featured presentations from Kate Griffin, Director of Savings and Financial Security, the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED); Denise Belser, Principal Associate, National League of Cities; and Rebecca Vallas, Associate Director, Poverty to Prosperity Program, Center for American Progress. Congressman John Yarmuth (D-Ky) and Metro Government Chief of Community Building Sadiqa Reynolds welcomed attendees and kicked off the day's program.

At the conclusion of the event, attendees were challenged to continue working to build a network of coordinated and integrated services to better meet the unique financial needs of people with disabilities, and provide them with the necessary tools and supports to build a more financially independent life and an even brighter economic future.

## **LEAD PEOPLE**

### **Tina Lentz, Executive Administrator, Advocacy and Empowerment - Louisville Metro Government Department of Community Services**



Tina Lentz is the Executive Administrator of the Advocacy and Empowerment division, serving Louisville Metro Government's Department of Community Services since 1998. Ms. Lentz has extensive experience in creating and leading financial empowerment initiatives, working to transform the social service delivery system to increase opportunities for financial advancement for families at risk. These initiatives include: Bank On Louisville; the Community Financial Empowerment Certification program; and the Family Economic Success Network. In addition, Ms. Lentz has represented Louisville on the Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) coalition since 2012.

Most recently, Ms. Lentz and her team worked to coordinate a group of area stakeholders to expand financial empowerment efforts into the workforce development arena, with a focus on inclusion of job seekers with disabilities. To accomplish this, the Workforce Development/Financial Empowerment Collaborative was created. This group is supported by a new partnership between Bank On Louisville and National Disability Institute's LEAD Center. It focuses on integrating asset-building activities into the workforce investment system, identifying opportunities for universally-designed services and supports, connecting financial capability to employment goals and improving positive financial behaviors for individuals who use the workforce system and community resources.