**A. Williams Blog re: ES Study on COVID Impact – May 3, 2021**

No one would argue this last year was a terrible one for virtually everyone. But for the 61 million people living with disabilities in our country, there is no doubt; they have been disproportionately impacted by this crisis.

Thanks to a transformational gift to Easterseals by philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, we commissioned Accenture, a global professional services company, to conduct a [[[national study](http://www.easterseals.com/)](https://www.easterseals.com/shared-components/document-library/media-room/easterseals-study-on-the-impact-of-covid-full.pdf)](https://www.easterseals.com/shared-components/document-library/media-room/easterseals-study-on-the-impact-of-covid-full.pdf) to better understand COVID-19’s impact on the disability community and get to the core of these challenges.

We will use these [[findings](https://easterseals-my.sharepoint.com/personal/swatson_easterseals_com/Documents/_From%20P%20Drive/swatson/sharon/Angela2021Blog%20for%20Accenutre%20study%20May%203.docx?web=1)](https://www.easterseals.com/shared-components/document-library/media-room/easterseals-study-on-the-impact-of-covid-summary.pdf) as a dynamic roadmap forward to modify, expand, and amplify our services to respond to the evolving needs of the many children, adults and families we serve.

But we cannot do this alone. We need employers, educators, government officials, funders, corporate and community leaders to step up, drive solutions, and do more to advance equity for all in our communities. The Study and its findings promise to inform our conversations with these stakeholders to positively change the landscape for people with disabilities in a post-pandemic world.

Simply put, now is the time to urgently address these systemic barriers, once and for all.

Angela F. Williams, President & CEO, Easterseals