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CHILD-BRIGHT

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Background

- Rates of unemployment and underemployment for people on the autism spectrum remain among the highest in Canada^a
- Various social and skill-related challenges and barriers to employment exist for job-seekers with autism^b

Network

- Employment supports are needed but little is known about the specific tools or resources that are useful to job seekers with autism^{c,d}
- Online employment resources are recommended, but few tailored online resources for job seekers with disabilities are available^{c,d}

Objective

The aim of the project is to develop a dynamic and end-user informed, online platform that addresses the employment needs of people in the autism community

Research Questions:

- 1. What is important for job-seekers with autism to enter the workforce successfully that is amenable to an online platform?
- 2. How can the information collected be used to develop an online platform to address their needs?

Method

Phase 1 Needs Assessment

Phase 2

Platform

Development

- Five focus groups were conducted (7 selfadvocates, 6 caregivers, 16 professionals) to understand the jobseeking needs of job-seekers with autism
- Data were analyzed using thematic analysis

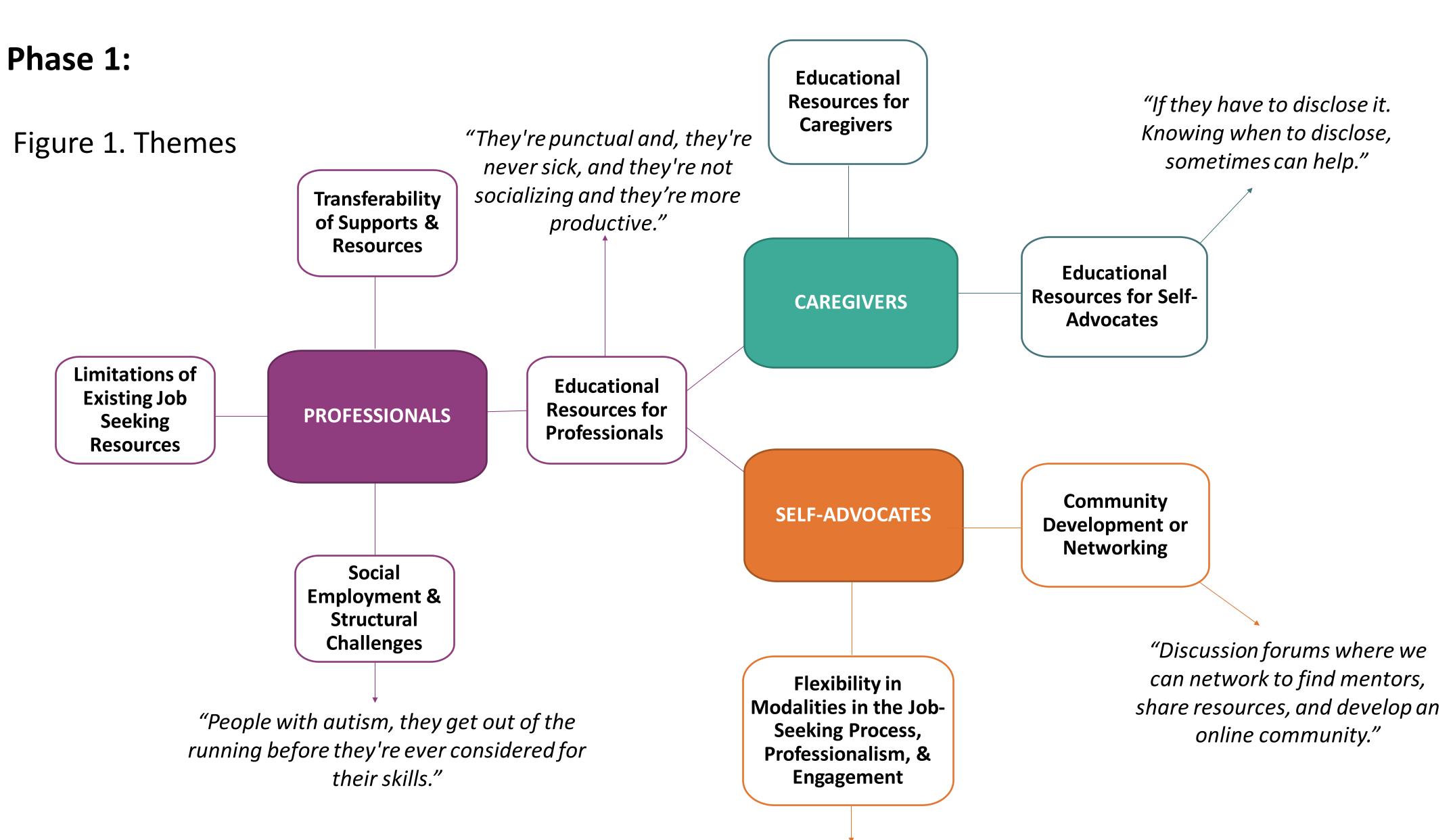
Current Phase

- An employment website was developed based on Phase 1 data analyses
- Upcoming: Participants will be asked to use the platform and provide feedback on its content and usability

Phase 3 Refine & Launch Platform

 The website will be refined before its final release with additional feedback from end-users

Results



"Interviews sometimes can be more difficult in person. [Online interviews] were good because we could have some notes there."

Phase 2:

Figure 2. Ready2Work Website Main Page

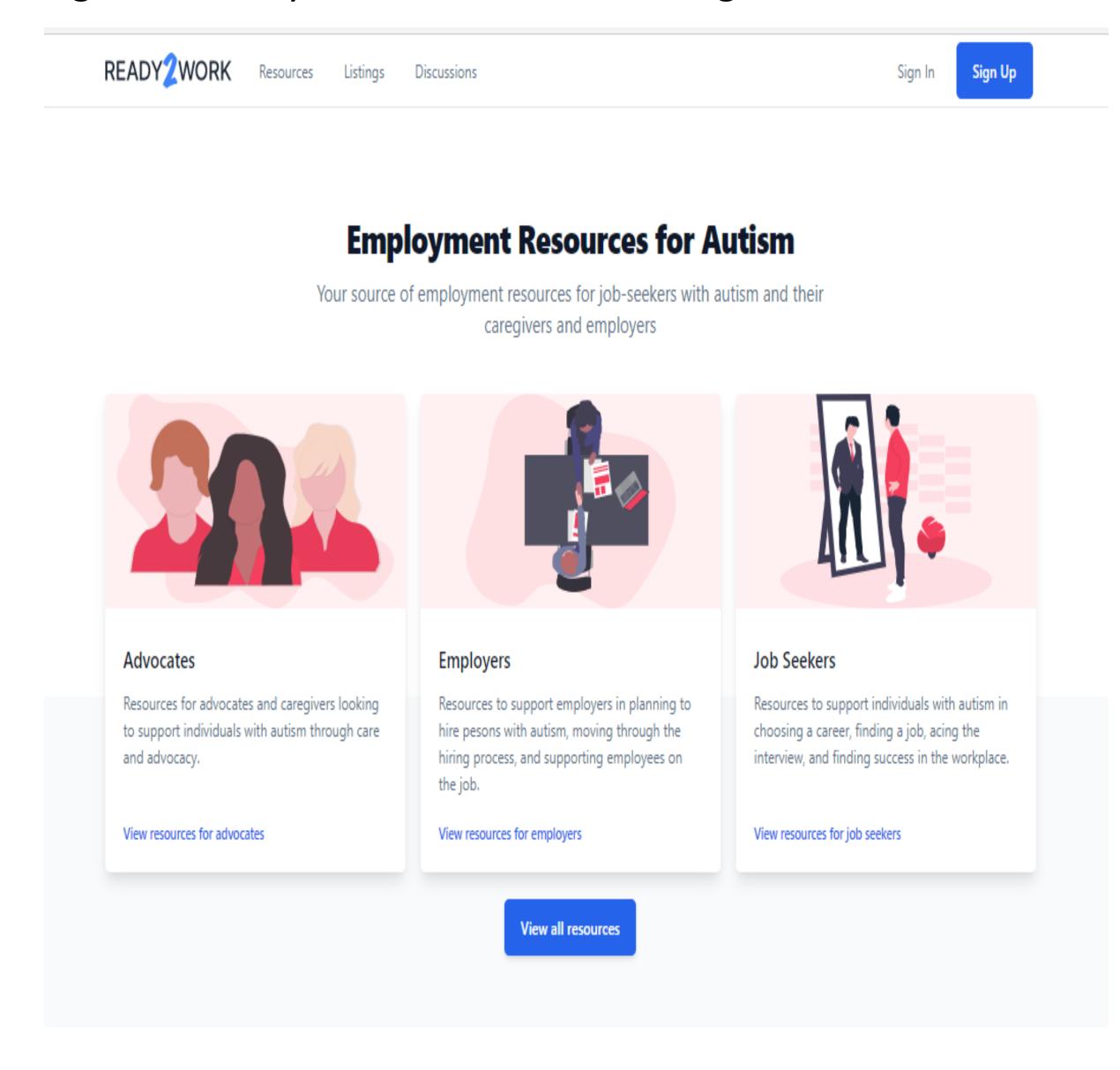
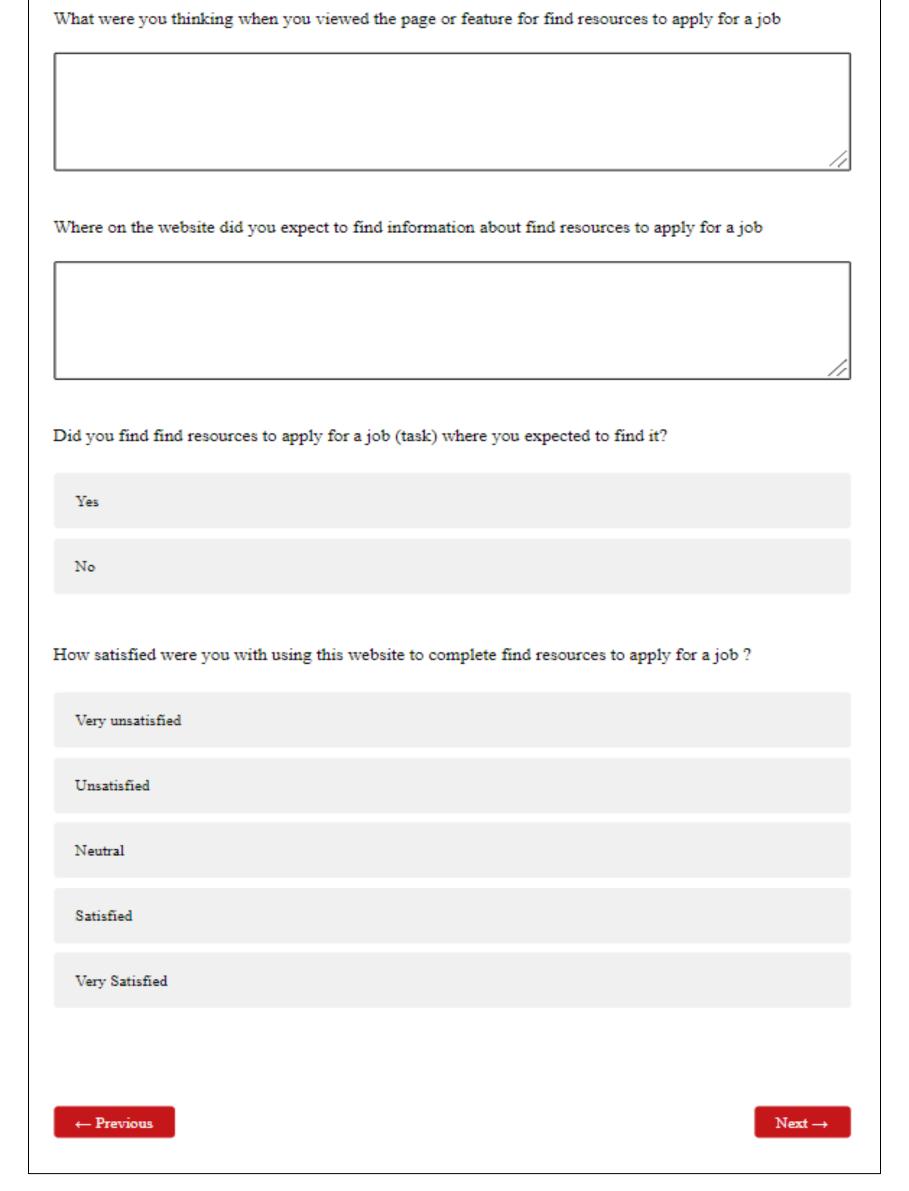


Figure 3. Feedback Questionnaire



Discussion

- This research study demonstrates an innovative approach to developing an online employment resource in which endusers and key stakeholders are engaged throughout the process
- Phase 1 focus group findings informed the development of an employment website in Phase 2
- Phase 2 participants will be provided with website tasks to complete; feedback will be collected on the relevance and usability of the website
- Phase 2 participant feedback will be used to refine the website before its official launch where we will collect additional data from website users on their perceived work readiness
- Results from this study will add to the limited knowledge of the work readiness skills and helpful resources tailored to the idiosyncratic needs of job-seekers on the autism spectrum

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Acknowledgements

 This project has been funded by a Child-Bright Network **Knowledge Translation Innovation Grant.**

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