

October, 2022

DIAL—Center for Independent Living

DIAL Inside Look



National Disability Employment Month

*October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and all members of DIAL are encouraged to participate. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate everyone about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

Held annually, National Disability Employment Awareness Month is led by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, but its true spirit lies in the many observances held at the grassroots level across the nation every year. Employers of all sizes and in all industries are encouraged to participate.

DIAL members can support National Disability Employment Awareness Month by visiting www.dol.gov/NDEAM. Suggestions range from simple, such as putting up a poster, to comprehensive, such as implementing a disability education program. Regardless, all play an important part in fostering a more equitable and inclusive workforce, one where all people are recognized for their abilities — every day of every month.

Let's Celebrate!



Important meeting on October 18, 2022 at the Newark Public Library from 12:00 pm to 2 pm. The NJ Statewide Independent Living Council is seeking input from people with disabilities on issues critical to their independence. Get involved and be heard. See flyer which is enclosed for more information.

Make a difference!

NJPAC Tickets

DIAL is proud to announce the collaboration with the NJPAC Ticket Subsidy Program for the 7th year. This unique program provides tickets to people with disabilities with limited means. The tickets are \$7.50 each and with varied performance list. These tickets are limited and you need to send in your ticket order now. The deadline for the orders has been extended until October 31, 2022. The ticket performance list and order form are included in this mailer. You do not want to miss out on this opportunity.



DIAL Recreation Program Remote Services



The DIAL Recreation Program is being held via remote services either by telephone or ZOOM for residents of Passaic County. This program is customized to each consumers needs. If you are interested in finding out more about the program, please contact Susan Kramer the Program Coordinator at (973) 470-8090 or email skramer@dial-cil.org.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Since April of 2020, DIAL—Center for Independent Living Center has distributed hundreds of (PPE) Personal Protective Equipment packages for consumers with disabilities throughout Passaic & Essex County.



DIAL Vaccine Support Program

Do you need a ride to get your COVID-19 Booster? Do you need help scheduling an appointment? Are you confused about when you need to get your vaccination? DIAL's Vaccine Support Program can help you. Don't wait until it is too late, call 973-470-8090.



DIAL also has a small supply of instant COVID-19 test kits for consumers of the agency. Please call and let us know how we can help you.

Peer Support Groups—Independent Living Programs

Just a reminder that Passaic and Essex County Peer Support Groups are being held via ZOOM monthly. These peer counseling groups are based upon interaction with others who have similar disabilities and life experiences. This can help you gain insight into strategies which have been used successfully to cope with challenges to various independent living goals. Plus it is good to stay in contact with your friends.

Independent Living Program Meetings are held the last Tuesday of every month. Topics vary from COVID-19 information, Dating with a Disability, Financial Planning, Eating Right and more. Many of the meetings have knowledgeable guest speakers. The Independent Living Program helps you to develop the skills, specific plans and self-confidence to achieve your goals. We want to see you. Call the office to register.



Are you registered to Vote?

Are you registered to vote? Did you know that if everyone with a disability voted, we could change the outcome of an election!? It is important to vote in the elections and you still have until October 18, 2022 to get registered. You can register to vote by going online to: nj.gov/register or call the DIAL office and we can help you register.



Be a part of change, vote today!



DIAL Welcomes New Staff Members

DIAL—Center for Independent Living has welcomed several new staff members in recent months. We would like to introduce them to you.

Kaitlyn Cataldi is working as a Program Attendant for the DIAL Recreation Program. She is helping with remote services by making Wellness Calls to consumers via telephone and helping to put together projects to be sent out in the mail. Kaitlyn is also in school and is working towards becoming an RN. She is an enthusiastic addition to the DIAL Recreation Program. Welcome Kaitlyn!

Leo Biscaia is a new Independent Living Specialist at the agency, but he is not new to independent living. Leo has lived independently for over ten years after suffering from an injury which left him a quadriplegic. Before coming to DIAL, Leo worked for a Center for Independent Living in Maryland. He now lives in North Jersey, with his family. He is an avid fisherman and enjoys participating in wheelchair rugby. We all welcome him to DIAL.

Lisa Zablocki is our new Community Support Specialist. Lisa is from Long Island, New York and recently moved to New Jersey. At a young age, Lisa's family opened up their home to individuals with disabilities by being a family care provider for the Pilgrim State Program. Lisa previously worked for a mental health agency as a Quality Improvement Specialist. Lisa is very excited to be a part of DIAL to help consumers reach their goals to live independently in the community.

DIAL CARES Program

The DIAL CARES Program came to an end on September 30, 2022. This tremendously important program benefited many of our consumers in Passaic and Essex County who were directly affected by COVID-19 Pandemic. The agency was able to provide many consumers with technology devices such as laptops and iPhones. These devices were crucial for consumers to stay in touch with their families and to access programs, doctor's appointments and other online services. The program was able to help many consumers with Housing Resources and Home Supports. During the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic, DIAL has sent out hundreds of packages of (PPE) Personal Protective Equipment and hundreds of Food Security cards. This program made a big impact on people who were at highest risk of contracting COVID-19. The staff worked really hard to make sure everyone had everything they needed to get through one of the most trying times in our nation's history. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to help make this program such a success.



DIAL - Center for Independent Living
2 Prospect Village Plaza, Floor 1
Clifton, New Jersey 07013

973-470-8090 Voice
866-277-1733 Toll Free
973-470-2521 TTY