

# DIAL Inside Look

## What is a Center for Independent Living

By Johnesia McKenzie, Community Support Specialist

**DIAL -**  
Center for Independent Living

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Open Monday—Friday  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

### What Is A Center For Independent Living?

Centers for Independent Living (CIL) are consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, non-residential private non-profit agencies designed and operated within local communities by individuals with disabilities. As a CIL, at least 51% of staff and Board of Directors are persons with disabilities.

The first CIL was founded by disability activists in Berkeley, California in 1972. It was created to provide peer support and role modeling to others with disabilities and promote independence, empowerment and productivity of individuals with disabilities. Since then, hundreds of CILs have been established over the years. These CILs are located across the United States and much of the rest of the world providing services to hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities each year.

Centers for Independent Living are required to provide five core services:

- Information and Referral
- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- Peer Counseling
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Transition Services

CILs may provide additional services as appropriate in an attempt to address the specific needs of individuals with disabilities in their local geographic area.

CILs promote the Independent Living Philosophy which is the belief that people with disabilities are the best experts on their needs and should have the freedom to make choices and the ability to live and work in the community in a life of their choosing. Its goals for individuals with disabilities are empowerment and self-determination. Its goals for communities are achieving equal access through reducing and removing barriers. CILs help provide the disability community with the tools needed to achieve those goals.

DIAL- Center for Independent Living fully promotes the Independent Living Philosophy and has provided services to people with disabilities living in Passaic and Essex Counties for over 38 years.

*We know what we  
are, but know not  
what we may be.*

-William Shakespeare



## What's New

### Free School Supplies—Passaic County Residents

CUMAC is giving out backpacks/school supplies to families in need in Passaic County.

Please visit CUMAC during the week of August 28th at 223 Ellison Street, Paterson, NJ 07505. Parents should come in with the child/children (K-12th grade) to provide the correct backpack/supplies. Backpacks are packed by grade level and supplies needed so it's important to have the students attend to provide details. Also, CUMAC, would like to get permission to take pictures of people coming in receiving bags for the website/future backpack promotions. If you have any questions please call Jennifer at 973-742-5518 ext. 16.

### Scholarships for College

Have you been thinking of going to college? There are scholarship opportunities for consumers with disabilities to help with the cost of college tuition. Go to **Scholarships.com** to view the different scholarships and see if you qualify. The deadlines are fast approaching. Check this out today!

### Back-to-School Immunizations and Physicals—Essex County

Receive a Free back- pack when you are seen by one of their providers  
(While supplies last)

Saturday, August 25, 2018  
741 Broadway  
Newark, NJ 07104  
12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Saturday, September 1, 2018  
444 William Street  
East Orange, NJ 07114  
12:00 pm to 5 pm

Call to make an appointment today: 1-800-994-6242

### Did You Know?

Sixteen (16) million people with disabilities voted in the 2016 election. The registration rate for people with disabilities is two percent (2%) lower than people without disabilities. If people with disabilities voted at the same rate as people without disabilities, there would be 2.2 million more votes! With this many more votes, the results of election might had a different outcome! Register today!



Voting Information & Assistance  
1-877-NJ-VOTER (1-877-658-6837)  
TTY/TDD 609-292-0034

*"So many of our dreams  
at first seem impossible,  
then they seem  
improbable, and then,  
when we summon the will,  
they soon become  
inevitable."*

- Christopher Reeve

*“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”*  
**-Francis of Assisi**



**NJPAC coming soon!**

Look in future mailers for information on the NJPAC performances for the 2018-2019 season. Tickets are still \$6.00. Get ready for another exciting year with NJPAC!

## Consumer of the Month—Myles Williams

Myles Williams who lives in Paterson, NJ has been a consumer of DIAL since 2005. Myles is an active advocate for people with disabilities. He is a member of the NJ Commission for the Blind, graduated from Partners in Policy Making and was part of the Monday Morning Project in Trenton, NJ. He also ran his own support group in Paterson, NJ for people with various disabilities. Myles has participated in many community outreach activities to support people with disabilities.

In 2017, Myles received his Associates of Science degree from Bergen Community College.

Myles has once again made a commitment to be a member of the DIAL Advisory Council. It is his hope that everyone on the council will make a strong commitment so they can come together to help make a difference in people’s lives.

Myles is a source of encouragement and inspiration to others!



**Myles receiving his Associates of Science degree from Bergen Community College**

## New Jersey Disability Pride Parade & Celebration

**Save this date!**

**The 8th Annual New Jersey Disability Pride Parade & Celebration will take place on Friday, October 5, 2018 in Trenton, New Jersey.**

**Hundreds of people and organizations representing a wide variety of disabilities will march and roll from the NJ State House Annex to the celebration site at East Lafayette Street.**

**Watch next months flyers for more information on the parade.**

**Be part of the movement!**



**2017 Parade Grand Marshal — Ryan Roy**

## What is DIAL

DIAL—Center for Independent Living is a non-residential, non-profit agency that services individuals with disabilities in Passaic and Essex Counties.

DIAL promotes the Independent Living Philosophy which states that people with disabilities should have the same civil rights, options and control over choices in their own lives as do people without disabilities.

DIAL provides an array of programs and services that inform and support individuals with disabilities. The purpose being to achieve the maximum level in independence and control of the decisions and direction of their own lives and promote their full inclusion in society. Those services include:

- Information and Referral
- Advocacy
- Peer Support
- Independent Living Skills Programs
- Deaf Outreach Service
- Student Transition Services
- Employment Access Services
- NJ Transit Access Link Assessment Site
- Recreation Program
- Community Transition Services

**DIAL Picnic  
Deadline August  
28th!**

It is not too late to get tickets for the annual DIAL picnic. Use the form in this month's mailer and get your tickets today! Transportation is available.

Great fun for everyone!

**Join DIAL today**

## DIAL Recreation Program

Did you know that DIAL has a Therapeutic Recreation Program?

DIAL's Therapeutic Recreation Program is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 am to 1:30 am at St. Brendan's Church in Clifton, New Jersey. You must be a Passaic County resident to participate in this program. There is transportation provided, if needed. The program has lots of different activities to keep you busy. Some of the activities are:

- Arts & Crafts
- Baking
- Bus Trips
- Horticulture
- and much more!



If you are interested in finding out more about this program, call the DIAL office at (973) 470-8090, extension 306.