



Recording of the July 1st **DD Community Forum**

In case you missed the DD Community Forum on July 1st, a recording of it is now available at <https://www.advocatesinaction.org/DDCommunityForums.php> [[advocatesinaction.org](https://www.advocatesinaction.org)]

COVID Updates and Reopening RI

Continue to look for updates from the RI Department of Health (RIDOH), or go to the RIDOH website at <https://covid.ri.gov/>.

If you're fully vaccinated

- **You can go back to doing most of the things you did before the pandemic.**
- **You only need to wear a mask:**
 - If a business requires it
 - Indoors in schools and child care settings
 - In healthcare settings like hospitals, doctors' offices, home-based healthcare, nursing homes
 - [On public transportation like planes, buses, and trains](#)
 - In enclosed and semi-enclosed transit stops and waiting areas
 - [In transportation hubs like airports and stations](#)
 - When required by other applicable state or federal laws or regulations

What does it mean to be fully vaccinated?

Fully vaccinated means you've gotten all the required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and more than 14 days have passed since the final dose.

What if I'm not fully vaccinated?

You must continue to wear a mask indoors in public. To best protect others, the RI Department of Health (DOH) recommends when you are indoors to stay at least three feet away from people you don't live with even while wearing a mask.

Can I still catch and transmit COVID-19 if I'm fully vaccinated?

If you're fully vaccinated, there's a very small chance you can still catch COVID-19 and an even smaller chance you can transmit it.

If you have a medical condition or are taking medications that weaken the immune system, talk to your healthcare provider about your activities. You may need to keep protecting yourself from COVID-19 by following the unvaccinated guidance below.

If you're not fully vaccinated

- [Get vaccinated](#). COVID-19 vaccines are safe, highly effective against serious illness, and reduce the risk of infecting others. Vaccination helps protect against [COVID-19 variants](#) by reducing their spread.
- With [COVID-19 variants of concern](#) in Rhode Island, it's even more important to [wear a mask](#) and watch your distance indoors near anyone you don't live with.
- Outdoors, continue to wear a mask in crowded places or during activities where you are in close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.
- [Choose safer activities](#) and continue to take it outside. **See the attachment on safer activities at the end of the newsletter.**
- [Get tested](#) every week. Sign up for a free test at portal.ri.gov.
- If you have [symptoms of COVID-19](#), [isolate](#) at home, call your healthcare provider, and [get a COVID-19 test](#).
- Stay home and apart from others if you have any symptoms, if you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or if you are in [quarantine or isolation](#).
- [Get treatment](#) if you're eligible. If you've tested positive for COVID-19, ask your doctor right away about MABS.



Public Transportation

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has [extended the face mask requirement](#) for all transportation networks, including public transportation, through September 13, 2021. This applies to RIPTA and The Ride Program. Even if you are vaccinated, you will have to wear a face mask if you are using RIPTA or The Ride Program.

If you are unable to wear a mask due to a disability or medical condition, you MUST call RIPTA at 784-9500 x2012 to request an exemption prior to traveling on board any RIPTA vehicle.



For more information, visit RIPTA's COVID page at <https://www.ripta.com/covid-19/>.

The 2021 DSP Survey Report: Job Satisfaction, Supervision, Career Advancement, and Appreciation

The second edition of the DSP Survey Report has been released through a partnership of the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) and Relias. The 2021 DSP Survey Report dives deeper into themes uncovered in the 2019 survey, while also taking into consideration the impacts COVID-19 has had on DSPs and IDD services.

[The 2021 DSP Survey Report](#) highlights feedback from 679 DSPs across 43 states on job satisfaction, supervision, career advancement opportunities, and appreciation and recognition.

[Download the report here.](#) You can also read a blog post from Relias about the survey [here.](#)

July 20 is Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day

July 20th is an annual celebration of the life of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and a global call for people to commit actions of inclusion, acceptance, and unity for and with people with intellectual disabilities. Eunice Kennedy Shriver was a founder of Special Olympics and a pioneer in the worldwide struggle for rights and acceptance for people with intellectual disabilities. She believed that if people with intellectual disabilities were given the same opportunities and experiences as everyone else, they could accomplish far more than anyone ever thought possible. For more about her life and the Special Olympics, see <https://www.specialolympics.org/eunice-kennedy-shriver>

Inclusion Revolution



The Inclusion Revolution movement is rooted in the spirit of the Special Olympics founder, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who took a rebellious stand against the injustices faced by people with Intellectual Disabilities. More than 50 years ago, Special Olympics launched a global movement to break down barriers and end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities. Since then, this peaceful revolution has been changing lives all around the world. Join "The

Revolution Is Inclusion" and be part of a powerful new generation that celebrates all differences, all abilities! For more information, see <https://www.jointherevolution.org/>

Happy National Ice Cream Month!



ADA 31



Americans with Disabilities Act
Celebrate the ADA! July 26, 2021

July 26 is the ADA Anniversary

On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities. This legislation established a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities. On July 26, we celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the ADA.

The ADA prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. The ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

Accessibility is Beautiful

Saturday, September 18, 2021

3:00 PM – 8:00 PM

The Steel Yard, 27 Sims Avenue, Providence, RI 02909



RI's first event on the importance of accessibility and inclusion. This event will help business learn how to become affordably accessible, include individuals of all abilities, and benefit the bottom line. It will feature a market place, accessible tours, entertainment, artists and so much more. Hear from fellow business owners, legislators, and community advocates on ways to improve your businesses and get ready for the future. Don't miss out on this Free Event!

To learn more go to www.RAMPinclusion.com and join the mailing list to stay informed and get your free pass to the event.

Self-Employment Webcasts

[The National Center on Self-Employment, Business Ownership, and Telecommuting](#) is funded by a grant awarded to The Center for Social Capital, Inc. to provide training to increase skills, knowledge, and competence in the area of assisting and supporting individuals with disabilities pursuing self-employment, business ownership, and telecommuting.

- **Stories from the Field: Iowa VR Services (Part 1)**
Tuesday, 7/20/2021
2:00pm - 2:45pm
- **Stories from the Field: Iowa VR Services (Part 2)**
Tuesday, 8/17/2021
2:00pm - 2:45pm
- **Reviewing State Vocational Rehabilitation Self-Employment Policy**
Tuesday, 9/21/2021
2:00pm - 2:45pm
- **Why Self-Employment is a Good Option**
Tuesday, 10/19/2021
2:00pm - 2:45pm
- **Navigating Systems**
Tuesday, 11/16/2021
2:00pm - 2:45pm

Register for courses online at: <https://centeronselfemployment.org/training/webcasts/>

Also see archived webinars, such as:

- [Employment Provider Certification in Self Employment](#)
- [Social Security Disability Benefits and Self Employment Work Incentives](#)
- [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) and Self-Employment](#)
- [Understanding Social Security Disability Benefits: A Guide to Beneficiaries Who Want to Work](#)
- [Understanding Plans to Achieve Self-Support \(PASS\)](#)
- [The Financial Side of Self-Employment](#)
- [The Customized Self-Employment Model](#)
- [Medicaid Waivers: A Tool for Self-Employment](#)



Center on Self-Employment

National Center on Self-Employment, Business Ownership, and Telecommuting

Prepared4ALL Online Training

The Prepared4ALL initiative is offered by the new Technical Assistance and Training Center of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). It aims to mobilize disability organizations and their networks to foster connections with emergency and public health professionals to build trust, create sustainable relationships, and get a seat at the emergency planning table.

A free self-paced online training is now being offered called **Prepared4ALL: Whole Community Inclusive Emergency Planning**. It aims to help disability organizations increase their knowledge about emergency planning so they can begin or continue to get involved in these efforts in their local community while also building sustainable partnerships with their local emergency and public health professionals. This training is centered around the Prepared4ALL process, a strength-based model which helps organizations creatively and flexibly navigate inclusion and accessibility issues.



[Watch video overviews for the online training lessons here on YouTube.](#)

The full course is [available here](#) for free on the University of Kentucky Human Development Institute website.

- Lesson 1: Welcome to Disasterville: The Prepared4ALL Process and COVID-19 Testing
- Lesson 2: The Prepared4ALL Process in Action
- Lesson 3: The Effects of Disasters and COVID-19 on People with Disabilities
- Lesson 4: The American Emergency Planning System & Taking Action
- Lesson 5: Disability Demographics, Community Living, Communication and Accessible Meetings
- Lesson 6: Americans with Disabilities Act Rights in Emergencies and Pandemics
- Lesson 7: Whole Community Emergency Planning
- Lesson 8: The Active Planning Process and How to Hold Community Stakeholder Meetings

For more information on preparedness, visit

[The National Center on Disability in Public Health](#)

[The Association of University Centers on Disabilities \(AUCD\)](#)

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, BH Link is here for you

BH Link's mission is to ensure all Rhode Islanders experiencing mental health and substance use crises receive the appropriate services they need as quickly as possible in an environment that supports their recovery. Call 911 if there is risk of immediate danger. Visit the BH Link website at www.bhlink.org or for confidential support and to get connected to care:

CALL (401) 414-LINK (5465)

If under 18 CALL: (855) KID(543)-LINK(5465)

Visit the 24-HOUR/7-DAY TRIAGE CENTER at 975 Waterman Avenue, East Providence, RI

Stay Informed with Information on COVID-19

Rhode Island Department of Health COVID-19 Resources

Hotline (401) 222-8022 or 211 after hours;

Email RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov

Website <https://health.ri.gov/covid/>

Center for Disease Control COVID-19 Information

Website cdc.gov/coronavirus

Videos <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/videos.html>

Includes a link to ASL videos

BHDDH Information on COVID-19's Impact on DD Services and the DD Community

Website bhddh.ri.gov/COVID

RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

Website <https://ripin.org/covid-19-resources/>

Call Center (401) 270-0101 or email callcenter@ripin.org

Advocates in Action – for videos and easy to read materials

Website <https://www.advocatesinaction.org/>

Website offers BrowseAloud, which will read the website to you

Sign Up for Our Email List

> SIGN UP FOR THE BHDDH NEWSLETTER

If you aren't receiving email updates and newsletters from BHDDH, you can sign up on by clicking the link at left or on our website. Go to <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmentaldisabilities/events/newsandupdates/> to see past quarterly newsletters and issues of DD News.

Contacting DD Staff

DDD has put extended hour phone coverage in place with a central business hour phone number and an on-call number for nights and weekends.

If you have a vital need, please call the numbers on the next page. If you have any general questions or concerns, please email them if you can, in order to try to leave the phone lines free for those who need to call. We will do our best to address your questions directly or through future newsletters.

401-462-3421

8:30 AM → → → → → 4:00 PM

WEEKDAYS DURING BUSINESS HOURS FOR:

- VITAL, NON-MEDICAL SUPPORT NEEDS
- QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR DD SERVICES

During business hours
(Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00),
for questions or support
(401) 462-3421
Para español, llame
(401) 462-3014

401-265-7461

4:00 PM → → → → → 10:00 PM

AFTER HOURS ON WEEKDAYS FOR:

- VITAL, NON-MEDICAL SUPPORT NEEDS

For emerging or imminent care
related questions,
Mon - Fri 4pm-10pm and
weekends 8:30am-10pm
(401) 265-7461

401-265-7461

8:30 AM → → → → → 10:00 PM

ON WEEKENDS FOR:

- VITAL, NON-MEDICAL SUPPORT NEEDS

Send general questions to the
AskDD email address. Please
do not email critical issues.
BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

E-MAIL THE DIVISION

BHDDH.AskDD@BHDDH.RI.GOV

HELP US KEEP THE PHONE LINES OPEN FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLING WITH A VITAL NEED!

WHEN POSSIBLE, PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL FOR:

- NON-CRITICAL CONCERNS about Your Services and Supports
- GENERAL QUESTIONS about Your Services or the RI DD System

911

**FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES
CALL 911
RIGHT AWAY. DON'T WAIT!**

For medical or
healthcare related
emergencies, call
your Primary Care
Physician or 911

CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR



























CALL FOR:

- ROUTINE Healthcare Questions
- NON-EMERGENCY Medical Care

**FOLLOW YOUR DOCTOR'S ADVICE
DON'T go to their office
unless they tell you to!**

Choosing Safer Activities

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

	Unvaccinated People	Examples of Activities	Fully Vaccinated People
		Outdoor	
Safest		Walk, run, wheelchair roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
Least Safe		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		Indoor	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

Get a COVID-19 vaccine



Prevention measures not needed



Take prevention measures

Wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.

- If you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may NOT be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. Talk to your healthcare provider. Even after vaccination, you may need to continue taking all precautions.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORTS NETWORK

A NETWORK OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILY MEMBERS USING SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORTS IN RHODE ISLAND

ONLINE MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2021
7:00 – 8:30 PM

This meeting will take place online using Zoom. When you RSVP, you will receive an email with the directions and a password to join the meeting. You can connect by computer, mobile device or listen using your telephone. You may be prompted to download an app depending on the device you plan to use.

The Self-Directed Supports Network is a resource for individuals and families using self-directed supports through the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Meetings provide an opportunity to share experiences and learn from others.

PLAN TO ATTEND IF YOU ARE:

- A family member or person **considering** self-directed supports.
- A family member or person **new** to self-directed supports.
- A family member or person **experienced** at using self-directed supports.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

- Coming out of COVID.
- Designing a plan to support what you need.
- Recruiting and keeping good staff.

RSVP LINK: <https://bit.ly/2YUamqz>

Please RSVP using the link above. Click the link or cut and paste into your browser. Soon after you RSVP, you will receive an email confirmation with complete details and directions for using Zoom. If you need a reasonable accommodation (e.g. ASL Interpreter, large print) or information in a language other than English, please make your needs known when you RSVP.



For questions, call or email Claire Rosenbaum, Sherlock Center on Disabilities:
Email: crosenbaum@ric.edu Voice: 401-456-4732 TTY: 711

Rhode Island College Certificate of Graduate Study: Transition for Youth with Exceptionalities

NEW PROGRAM BEGINNING FALL 2021!

Overview

Rhode Island College and the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities are pleased to announce a new program beginning this fall 2021 semester. The **Certificate of Graduate Study in Transition for Youth with Exceptionalities** offers effective research-based transition practices to improve transition outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities. The program consists of 4 courses (one per semester for two-years). Program credits will transfer into some RIC M.Ed. programs in Special Education.

Course Requirements

Course	Title	Credits	Offered
DIS 451	Introduction to Transition to Adult Life	3	Fall
DIS 551	Starting the Transition Journey	4	Spring
DIS 552	Transition in the Middle Years	4	Fall
DIS 553	Completing the Transition Journey	4	Spring

Total Credits: 15

Admission Requirements

1. A completed application form accompanied by a \$50 nonrefundable application fee.
2. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate records.
3. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college with a 3.0 G.P.A.
4. Professional references from persons acquainted with the academic aptitude of the applicant.
5. Performance-based evaluation.
6. Professional Goals Essay.
7. Resume.

Program Information and Application:

<https://www.ric.edu/departments-directory/departments-special-education/departments-special-education-graduate-programs/transition-youth-exceptionalities-cgs>

Note - Graduate students can complete one course prior to formal admission into this program.

For More Information:

All graduate students interested in this program should contact Dr. Paul LaCava (placava@ric.edu) for advisement and registration for classes.



National Center on Self-Employment, Business Ownership, & Telecommuting

The National Center on Self-Employment, Business Ownership, and Telecommuting is a national project funded in 2020 to develop and provide training for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselors and VR professionals. The goal is to increase self-employment and telecommuting access and outcomes by building the knowledge and skills of rehabilitation professionals. Griffin-Hammis Associates (GHA) is honored to be the recipient of this Rehabilitation Service of Administration's Innovative Rehabilitation Training grant.

Some of the Center's activities are to:

1. gather input from VR professionals by conducting focus groups and a national needs assessment;
2. collect information on existing state VR self-employment and telecommuting policies and processes;
3. develop an innovative curriculum in partnership with university rehabilitation counselor programs;
4. provide training and resources. Interested stakeholders can access the Center's resources 24/7 to include training modules, webcasts, topical resource briefs, and an online searchable training and resource database:

www.centeronselfemployment.org.

GHA will collaborate with Vocational Rehabilitation offices throughout the country on this important initiative. Virginia Commonwealth University's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (VCU-RRTC) and The Harkin Institute are contractors to assist with completing project activities.

Ask Us Questions!

Do you have questions on self-employment, business ownership, and telecommuting? You may submit your questions to the project staff on our website or by email. Please allow 24-48 hours during the business week for someone to respond to your question. Submit Questions on the Project's Website:

<https://centeronselfemployment.org/ask/>

Join our Email Listserv for the Latest News!

By joining our email list, you will receive updates on the latest news related to self-employment, business ownership, and telecommuting for individuals with disabilities. This includes notification of training, new resources, research, and other activities from our Center. Your email will never be given or sold to other individuals or organizations.

<https://centeronselfemployment.org/subscribe/>

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National Center on Self-Employment, Business Ownership, and Telecommuting

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Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS)
users dial 711 to be automatically
connected to a TRS operator anywhere in
the United States.

Email:

self-employment@griffinhammis.com

Website:

[http:// www.centeronselfemployment.org](http://www.centeronselfemployment.org)

