



DD Community Forum

Monday, November 1

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

on Zoom

[Register Here](#)

Hosted by Advocates in Action.

Please submit any questions you have

about this event to: MichelleWhite@AdvocatesInAction.org



October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month

“October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month, a chance to spread awareness. During the month of October, we celebrate people with Down syndrome and make people aware of our abilities and accomplishments. It’s not about celebrating disabilities, it’s about celebrating abilities. We can learn all about our history. We have a right to speak out about what it’s like to have Down syndrome and to learn the real story of people like us.”

- National Down Syndrome Society Goodwill Ambassador, Chris Burke



October was first designated as Down Syndrome Awareness Month in the 1980s and has been recognized every October since. It is a time to celebrate people with Down syndrome and make others aware of their abilities and accomplishments.

“Down syndrome does not define us as people. It is a condition that makes it harder for us to learn, but with patience and persistence, we are able to contribute to our society.”

- DAVID EGAN, FORMER SPECIAL OLYMPICS SARGENT SHRIVER INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL MESSENGER

People with Down syndrome are just like everyone else. They have similar dreams and goals, and they want to have successful careers and families. They can drive, go to work, go to college, go on dates, get married, and contribute to society.



Disability Rights RI (DRRI) Offers
Supported Decision Making Webinar Series
With Jonathan Martinis
October 28, 2021 – January 27, 2022
[Zoom Registration Link](#)

DRRI is proud to partner with Jonathan Martinis in offering five dynamic webinars on the practical application of Supported Decision-Making (SDM). The series begins on Thursday, October 28 at 6:00 PM. Each session will be 90 minutes.

All sessions are free and offer direct access to Mr. Martinis via live questions and answers.

The series will be co-sponsored by [The RI Developmental Disabilities Council](#) and the [Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities](#).

By registering for this event you will automatically be enrolled in receiving future communications regarding this series. The Zoom Link to each Webinar will be sent prior to the event.

The event dates and times are as follows:

- Thursday, October 28, 6:00 PM
SDM - From Justice for Jennie to Justice for All
- Tuesday, November 16, 6:00 PM
SDM in Special Education
- Thursday, December 2, 6:00 PM
SDM in Vocational Rehabilitation
- Thursday January 6, 6:00 PM
SDM in Health Care and Life Planning
- Thursday January 27, 6:00 PM
The Culture of Coordinated Support Model

This will be a dynamic, interactive, and live webinar series. Each session will allow time for Questions & Answers from participants. If for any reason you are unable to attend, these sessions will be recorded and available on our website after the event.



Additional updates and information will be available on the DRRI website and social media channels.

Please feel free to share this invitation and contact DRRI with any questions regarding this event at (401) 831-3150.



Presidential Proclamation on National Disability Employment Awareness Month

When we passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 31 years ago, our Nation moved closer to fulfilling its foundational promise of liberty, justice, dignity, and equality for all. I was enormously proud to co-sponsor the ADA as a member of the United States Senate — a truly bipartisan effort that was personal to millions of families. For more than 60 million disabled Americans, the ADA is much more than just a law. It provides a vital source of opportunity and self-sufficiency, allows for increased economic participation, and serves as a powerful shield against discrimination in the workplace. National Disability Employment Awareness Month is a chance for us to celebrate workers with disabilities and recommit ourselves to dismantling barriers to access and inclusion in the workplace.

This year, the Office of Disability Employment Policy in the Department of Labor celebrates 20 years of helping advance opportunity for workers with disabilities across the Nation. As part of its mission, the agency remains at the forefront of emerging challenges in the workplace, such as developing comprehensive resources to ensure that workers grappling with the long-term effects of COVID-19 have access to the rights and resources they are due under disability law — including flexibilities, tools, and accommodations in the workplace.

Despite the progress our Nation has made in recent decades, people with disabilities are still too often marginalized and denied access to the American dream. Americans with disabilities — particularly women and people of color — have faced long-standing gaps in employment, advancement, and income. The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded these inequities, as people with disabilities have faced heightened risks — particularly the disproportionate share of people with disabilities employed in the hardest-hit industries. Our Nation will never fully recover and rebuild unless every single community — including disabled Americans — is fully included.

My Administration remains focused on ensuring that every single American has the chance to thrive, succeed, and contribute their talents. That is why I have issued Executive Orders to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility to bolster career paths and promote economic stability for Americans with disabilities. I have proposed eliminating outdated, discriminatory provisions in the Fair Labor Standards Act that allow employers to pay disabled workers less than the minimum wage. Young people with disabilities in particular must be part of an inclusive economic recovery so that they can find the fulfilling careers, apprenticeships, and futures they deserve in every industry; to that end, we must promote the technologies and tools, as well as the attitudes, that foster welcoming work environments for young Americans. Our Nation's future will be brighter and more secure when everyone is dealt into the economy we build together.

All Americans should be proud that we have made substantial progress since the days before the ADA — when an employer could refuse to hire you because of a disability, when a person using a wheelchair could not take a bus or a train to work, and when a person with a disability could be denied service in a restaurant or grocery store. Now, 31 years later, it is the shared responsibility of all of us to tear down the barriers that remain for people with disabilities and to ensure that all Americans have the chance to find good jobs and build good lives — for themselves and for the good of our entire Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2021 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to embrace the talents and skills that workers with disabilities bring to the national recovery and to promote the right to equal employment opportunity for all people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

MTM Medicaid Transportation

MTM is the state of Rhode Island's non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) manager. They arrange rides for eligible Rhode Island residents who fall into one of these groups:

- Medicaid recipients
 - Trip Purpose: rides to appointments with Medicaid-covered health care providers if you have no other way to get there
- People who qualify for the Elderly Transportation Program (ETP)
 - Trip Purpose: rides to medical services
- Participants in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program/RI Works
 - Trip Purpose: can receive monthly bus passes to pursue employment opportunities.

DD participants are Medicaid recipients and can use MTM for medical trips only. MTM cannot be used for day or employment related activities.

To schedule transportation with MTM

You can book a ride online through [MTM Link](#) or call MTM at **1-855-330-9131 (TTY: 711)**. You must call at least 48 business hours before your appointment, unless your trip is urgent.

MTM schedules routine trips Monday through Friday from 5:00 AM until 6:00 PM.

You can schedule urgent trips 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To file a complaint

Contact the MTM complaint line at 1-866-436-0457 (TTY – 711) or use the [online form](#).

Complaints are logged, tracked and reported to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) monthly.

If the visit is one of a critical nature, such as a dialysis or cancer treatment, in addition to calling the complaint line, you may also securely email the EOHHS Transportation lead at mario.olivieri@ohhs.ri.gov.



Celebrate Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Awareness Month!



International AAC Awareness Month is celebrated around the world each October. The goal is to raise awareness of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and to inform the public about the many different ways in which people communicate using communication devices.

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) includes all forms of communication (other than oral speech) that are used to express thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas. We all use AAC when we make facial expressions or gestures, use symbols or pictures, or write.

The current pandemic fueled by COVID-19 has created a greater reliance on technology for everyone, and it brought on new ways to work. Communicating with the assistance of technology for many social interactions has changed the way people value alternative forms of communication. Using a combination of video, text chat, and audio voice calls simultaneously in one conversation has become commonplace in today's society. Quickly making accommodations for people's available mode of communication often occurs without much interruption of the conversation. Many people now use apps and non-spontaneous communication to interact with businesses for basic daily tasks such as ordering food and shopping for goods.

Using AAC to Access Smart Home Technology

From TechAccess

<https://www.techaccess-ri.org/>

Smart home technology offers many benefits to individuals who have a disability, especially those who are unable to utilize their voice.

Smart speakers paired with other technologies offer a wide range of

environmental control that an individual may have not had previously, such as turning on smart lights or controlling their TV. Individuals who are using an AAC device to communicate can work with their therapist/caregiver to program smart home commands into their device. This will grant the individual access to a wide variety of commands that they can use to help increase their independence while navigating their home environment. Grouping commands together into "routines" allows a user to complete more than one action with a single command.

Smart home technology can also be programmed to set routines that can help an individual stay on track with their ADLs, IADL, as well as leisure activities. Smart home technology can give caregivers the ability to monitor and check in on the individual, through voice or video calling.



Accessibility
Includes
Communication

Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Communicating through the use of

- Gestures
- Body Language
- Sign Language
- Pictures & Symbols
- Communication Apps and Speech Generating Devices



For more information visit www.usaac.org

Smart home technology can also offer individuals the ability to feel safe and secure within their own home, using technology such as smart locks and video door bells.

All of this technology can be accessed through speech output, which means that an individual who uses an AAC device can have access to all of these amazing technologies. Working closely with a trained clinician can help individuals reach the maximum amount of independence through these technologies, through hands-on training and education.

This is Not About Me

What is it like to be autistic and non-speaking in a world that has already made up its mind about you?

[This Is Not About Me](#) tells the story of Jordyn Zimmerman. Jordyn started out eager to learn at school, but she was soon separated from the other children. Unable to communicate, teachers thought she was also unable to understand or learn. Year after year, her behavior worsened. She was restrained and placed in seclusion. Jordyn found herself caught in a system that unintentionally turned her life into a living nightmare. Finally, at the age of 18, with the help of educators who saw her differently, she managed to turn her fate and flourish. This Is Not About Me shows us what happens when we judge someone based on what they can or can't say, and what can happen with an inclusive culture that presumes competence.



[Watch the film](#)

This documentary includes conversations about and references to restraint and topics such as disability-based discrimination and harassment. We acknowledge that this content may be difficult to view, so we encourage you to prepare emotionally before proceeding. Take care of your safety and well-being. If purchasing the movie for someone other than yourself, please share this message with them.

Proceeds from *This is Not About Me* will be donated to the [Autistic Self-Advocacy Network \(ASAN\)](#), [CommunicationFIRST](#), and [Thinking Person's Guide to Autism](#) to support them in their missions.

“ This groundbreaking film shatters the myth that autistic people who can't speak have nothing to say.

– Steve Silberman, author, *NeuroTribes*



Jordyn Zimmerman – the subject of the documentary, does not speak but has a lot to say. She communicates with her iPad using an AAC app. Challenging at times, as is her autism, this doesn't stop her from aspiring to change the education system for the better.

[Learn more about Jordyn and the film here.](#)

You can also listen to an episode of [LOMAH Disability Podcast](#) featuring Jordyn.

Working with People with Complex Communication Needs

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Who has complex communication needs? People who experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty expressing themselves verbally, due to a variety of communicative disorders• Anxiety in socially interacting with others, causing difficulty with the communication process• Difficulty with comprehending what is being relayed to them | Ways to support people with complex communication needs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be patient with the communication process• Respect the methods in which people choose to communicate• Offer a wide array of ways people can communicate• Learn about new technologies available for interaction• Focus on peoples' abilities• Ask people how to support them• Provide reasonable accommodations to policies, procedures, and practices | Common mistakes made working with people with complex communication needs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making assumptions about peoples' level of independence• Assuming incompetence rather than competence• Denying access to communication techniques that work for them |
|---|---|---|

Handout created by Tracy Rackensperger, Ph.D. for the 2020 National Disability Rights Network Conference.

Disability Language Study

<https://mili2nd.co/oy3b>

The Disability Language Study is a collaboration between the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL), the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

The study's goal is to gain insight into the power of words and how they impact people with disabilities and the field. They want to hear from people (18+) who work with people with disabilities.

A computer, laptop, or tablet must be used to complete this study; smart phones cannot be used. Press control Q (command Q on mac) to quit at any time. Contact Carli at cfried6@uic.edu if you experience any technical issues or questions.

Disability Professionals Needed!

Survey About Language

We are conducting research with people working in the disability field about language related to disability and disability attitudes. If interested, copy/paste the following link:
<https://mili2nd.co/oy3b>
Questions? Email Carli: cfried6@uic.edu

Principal Investigator: Dr. Carli Friedman,
Department of Disability and Human Development,
University of Illinois at Chicago (#2021-0943)

Disability Language Study recruitment, version 2, 9/14/21

Contacting DD Staff

See the full Division Contact List attached to this newsletter.

Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00
for questions or support

(401) 462-3421

Para español, llame

(401) 462-3014

Send general questions to the
AskDD email address.

BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

Please do not email critical issues.

Sign Up for Our Email List

If you aren't receiving email updates
and newsletters from BHDDH, you can
[sign up here](#) or on our website. Go to

<https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmentaldisabilities/events/newsandupdates/> to sign up or to see
past quarterly newsletters and issues of DD News.



SIGN UP FOR THE BHDDH NEWSLETTER

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

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

Developmental Disabilities Services - All Staff Contacts

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------|---|
| Main Phone #: | (401) 462-3421 | Website: | https://bhddh.ri.gov/ |
| To report abuse/neglect: | (401) 462-2629 | | |
| Fax: | (401) 462-2775 | | |
| TDD: | (401) 462-3226 | | |
| Spanish Line: | (401) 462-3014 | | |

| Name | Title | Phone | Email |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------|--|
| Kevin Savage | Director | 462-0581 | Kevin.Savage@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Heather Mincey | Assistant Director | 462-1218 | Heather.Mincey@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Christine Botts | Deputy Administrator | 462-2766 | Christine.Botts@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Tracey Cunningham | Associate Director, Employment | 462-3857 | Tracey.Cunningham@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Brenda DuHamel | Associate Director, Admin Services | 462-3010 | Brenda.DuHamel@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Cindy Fusco | Chief Implementation Aide | 462-3016 | Cynthia.Fusco@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Melissa Greenlief | Administrator, Comm Services | 462-2459 | Melissa.Greenlief@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Anne LeClerc | Associate Director, Prgm Perf | 462-0192 | Anne.LeClerc@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Tracy Levesque | Clinical Administrator | 462-0209 | Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Gerard (Jay) MacKay | Assoc. Admin, Comm Services | 462-5279 | gerard.mackay@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Jacqueline Reilly | Programming Services Officer | 462-0126 | Jacqueline.Reilly@bhddh.ri.gov |

Case Management Units

East Providence/Pawtucket/Central Falls region

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------|--|
| Marguerite Belisle | Casework Supervisor | 462-0714 | Marguerite.Belisle@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Amie Adams | Social Caseworker II | 462-2480 | Amie.Adams@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Carl Desjarlais | Social Caseworker II | 462-1555 | Carl.Desjarlais@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Stacey Perry | Social Caseworker II | 462-2418 | Stacey.Perry@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Suzanne Porter | Social Caseworker II | 462-1972 | Suzanne.Porter@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Mary Beth Silveria | Social Caseworker II | 462-2438 | Marybeth.Silveria@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Heather Soares | Social Caseworker II | 462-6097 | Heather.Soares@bhddh.ri.gov |

Northern RI/West Bay/Kent Region

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|--|
| Janice Bijesse | Casework Supervisor | 462-4290 | Janice.Bijesse@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Mary Cameron | Social Caseworker II | 462-1307 | Mary.Cameron@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Jackie Camilloni | Social Caseworker II | 462-3022 | Jackie.Camilloni@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Megan Gilbert | Social Caseworker II | 462-2524 | Megan.Gilbert@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Dayna Hansen | Social Caseworker II | 462-2505 | Dayna.Hansen@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Natalie Sam | Social Caseworker II | 462-2529 | Natalie.Sam@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Erin Simonelli | Social Caseworker II | 462-2502 | Erin.Simonelli@bhddh.ri.gov |

South County/West Bay/Kent Region

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------|--|
| Meredith MacDonald | Casework Supervisor | 462-1329 | Meredith.Macdonald@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Lauree Champagne | Social Caseworker II | 462-2728 | Lauree.Champagne@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Jennifer Gouveia | Social Caseworker II | 462-0098 | Jennifer.Gouveia@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Jill Murphy | Social Caseworker II | 462-2409 | Jill.Murphy@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Lena Almeida | Social Caseworker II | 462-1834 | |
| Joseph Tevyaw | Social Caseworker II | 462-2474 | Joseph.Tevyaw@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Timothy Cronin | Social Caseworker II | 462-1721 | |

Providence/West Bay/Kent Region

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|--|
| Vacancy | Casework Supervisor | 462-2563 | |
| JoAnn DiMuccio | Social Caseworker II | 462-2523 | JoAnn.DiMuccio@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Meaghan Jencks | Social Caseworker II | 462-2113 | Meaghan.Jencks@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Souphalak Muriel | Social Caseworker II | 462-2512 | Souphalak.Muriel@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Kelly Petersen | Social Caseworker II | 462-3402 | Kelly.Petersen@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Yolande Ramos | Social Caseworker II | 462-1059 | Yolande.Ramos@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Judy Smith | Social Caseworker II | 462-1327 | Judith.Smith@bhddh.ri.gov |

Eligibility Unit

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------|--|
| Karen Lowell | Eligibility Supervisor | 462-2209 | Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Christine Harding | Eligibility Caseworker | 462-3233 | Christine.Harding@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Lori Lombardi, RN | PASRR | 462-0089 | Lori.Lombardiburns@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Kim Wright | Information Aide | 462-2584 | Kimberly.Wright@bhddh.ri.gov |

SIS Unit

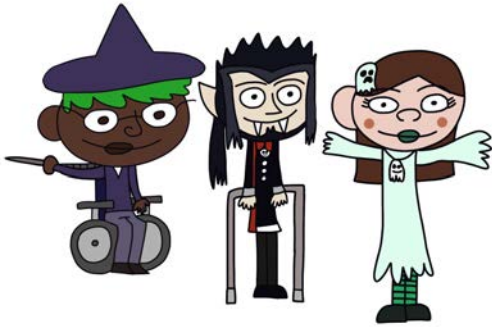
| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------|--|
| Donna Standish | SIS Supervisor | 462-2628 | Donna.Standish@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Wendy Cormier | SIS Caseworker | 462-1302 | Wendy.Cormier@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Kristen Miga | SIS Caseworker | 462-0449 | Kristen.Miga@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Gail Reynolds | SIS Caseworker | 462-2510 | Gail.Reynolds@bhddh.ri.gov |

Transition Unit

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------|--|
| Susan Hayward | Administrator, YIT | 462-2519 | Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Carolee Leach | Prof. Services Coordinator | 462-1723 | Carolee.Leach@bhddh.ri.gov |

Support Staff

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------|--|
| Stephanie Andreozzi | Implementation Aide | 462-1859 | Stephanie.Andreozzi@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Lori Vandall | Clerk Typist - medical leave | 462-6086 | Lori.Vandall@bhddh.ri.gov |



Come have some virtual
fun on Zoom with
Advocates in Action!

2nd Annual Funtastic Cos-Zoom Dance Party!

Day: Friday, October 29, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register For **FREE**: www.tinyurl.com/CostumeOct29

Fun Stuff We'll Be Doing:

- * **A Costume Parade Starring YOU!** (Costume is optional but there will be a raffle drawing for those who show up in costume!)
- * **Raffles/ Wheel of Prizes!**
- * **Games**
- * **Dancing with AinA's own DJ Denise Flynn!**

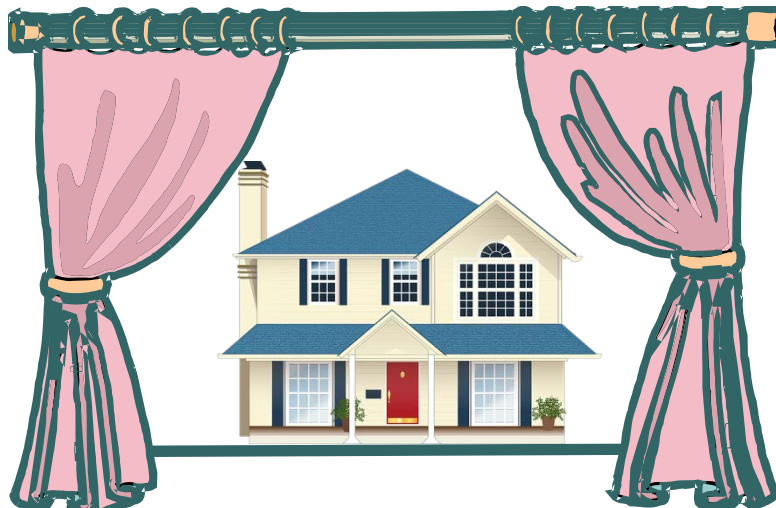


Personal Lifetime Advocacy Networks of RI

Housing Alternatives Information Service

*Are you a parent of a person with a disability,
wondering where your son or daughter will live
when it is time to move out of your home?*

**Find a new window on the world
of creative housing options**



Please contact one of our housing information and referral consultants:

- Deb Langevin at (401) 317-0200 or dlangevinplanri@gmail.com. She is actively working to assure a customized community living option for her son
- Iraida Williams at (401) 317-0212 or iwilliamsplanri@gmail.com, a Spanish-speaking parent, who has proactively sought out a variety of person-centered outcomes for her loved one
- Heidi Showstead at (401) 317-0217 or heidishowstead@verizon.net, a woman with disabilities who has lived independently throughout her adult life

*PLAN RI is grateful for the support of the John E.
Fogarty Foundation, RIFORCE & the Carpcionato Group*



Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and Stimulus Checks: What You Need to Know

Updated August 2021

Medicaid home and community based services (HCBS) assist a person in living at home or in a residence like an assisted living facility. Under recent COVID-19 legislation, most people receiving Medicaid HCBS have received multiple stimulus payments.

This money belongs to you and will NOT affect your Medicaid eligibility!

Do Stimulus Payments Count as Income for Medicaid?

No. Under federal rules, a stimulus payment (also called an “economic impact” payment) is not counted as income. Therefore, receiving a stimulus payment will not affect your eligibility for Medicaid services. If you currently have to “spend down” some of your income in order to qualify for Medicaid, your monthly spend-down amount will remain the same.

In addition, the stimulus payments do not count as a Medicaid resource. This means that holding on to the payments cannot cause you to have “too much” savings.

EXAMPLE

Mary receives \$1,100 per month in Social Security benefits deposited to her checking account. On April 30, 2021, the IRS deposited her third \$1,400 stimulus payment into her account.

Mary qualifies for home-based Medicaid services through an HCBS waiver in her state, and has a \$35 per month spend-down. After receiving the stimulus payment, her monthly spend-down amount remains \$35.

Mary also has \$1,000 in savings in a bank account. After receiving the third stimulus payment, her savings will increase to \$2,400. Her state has a \$2,000 resource limit for Medicaid. She can hold on to her stimulus payment and retain her Medicaid eligibility, but once she spends down her savings to under \$2,000, she must stay under that resource limit.

Are There Restrictions on How I Can Spend the Stimulus Money?

In general, you can spend the stimulus money as you wish. This is also true for people who live in a residential setting such as an assisted living facility; the money belongs to you, not the facility.

Do I Need to File a Tax Return to Receive a Check?

Most people will not need to do anything to get their stimulus payments. Action is only required if you do NOT receive Social Security (including retirement, survivors, disability, and SSI), Veterans Administration, or Railroad Retirement benefits AND did not file a tax return for 2018, 2019, or 2020.

What if I don't receive federal benefits and didn't file a tax return?

If you are not required to file a 2020 tax return, didn't file a return and don't plan to, you can use the new IRS [Non-Filer Sign-Up](#) tool to provide your information to the IRS to receive any of the three stimulus payments.

If you are required to file a 2020 tax return and have not filed yet, you can use the [IRS Free File](#) program or contact your [local VITA program](#) for assistance.

Where Can I Find More Information About the Stimulus Check?

- IRS:
 - » [Q&A About First EIP](#)
 - » [Q&A About Second EIP](#)
 - » [Q&A About 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit](#)
 - » [Q&A About Third EIP](#)

Who Else Can I Contact?

People who receive Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services, their family, or caregivers can contact the [Elder Care Locator](#), 1-800-677-1116 for more information. They can ask for a referral to legal aid offices or to their state's Protection and Advocacy System (often known as Disability Rights), or Center for Independent Living.

People who live in a residential setting, such as an assisted living facility, personal care home or similar can contact the [Long-Term Care Ombudsman](#) if they have questions or issues, or the Elder Care Locator for information or a referral to help get a problem resolved. You can also find more information here: [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) for State Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) Agencies](#).

Please contact ConsultNCLER@acl.hhs.gov for free case consultation assistance, available for professionals assisting older adults. Sign up for our email list and access more resources at [NCLER.acl.gov](https://www.ncler.acl.gov).



All Avaz Apps
 Avaz AAC, Avaz AAC Lifetime Edition, MDA Avaz Reader for Dyslexia, Free Speech
 50% off reg. prices
 (Avaz LE reg. \$199.99)
 October 1 - 15, 2021
 iOS & Android
 W
 Includes all Avaz apps in all languages

AAC Awareness Month October 2021 AAC & Educational App Sales



CoughDrop
 50% off lifetime acct.
 \$100 (reg. \$200.00)
 October 4 - 8, 2021
 W
 iOS, Android, Windows, Kindle, Web
 Must purchase through mycoughdrop.com



Choiceworks \$6.99 (reg. \$14.99)
Choiceworks Calendar \$4.99 (reg. \$9.99)
Choiceworks Bundle \$9.99 (reg. \$20.99)
 October 5 - 9, 2021
 VPP, W
 iOS only

Not all companies/developers participate in this sale.



Create switch accessible collections of music, books, videos, or YouTube videos

GoTalk Now \$10.00 (reg. \$99.99)
 One day only!
 October 10, 2021
 to celebrate GTN's 10th anniversary
 VPP, W
 iPad only
 Purchase from App Store or Attainment website



WordToob: Language Learning Video Modeling App \$6.99 (reg. \$13.99)
 October 1 - 15, 2021
 VPP, W
 iPad only

Click on app icons for US app store links to purchase apps during sale period



Predictable, Scene & Heard, ChatAble, and VocaTempo
 50% off reg. prices
 (Predictable reg. \$159.99)
 October 1 - 8, 2021
 VPP, W (English version only), iOS



Speak for Yourself!
 50% off
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LAMP Words for Life® TouchChat HD with WordPower® Dialogue™ AAC
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 VPP, W, iOS only
 Does not include in-app purchases

VPP = Additional 50% off purchase of 20 copies or more on iOS apps through Apple's Volume Purchase Program for schools or educational organizations (75% off total!)
W = Worldwide (Sale prices based on the U.S. dollar and may vary in other countries)



Alexicom Tech Elements AAC Apps
 50% off reg. prices
 October 1 - 8, 2021
 VPP, W, iOS only



Talk Suite Pro
 50% off reg. price
 (reg. \$199.99)
 September 28, 2021 - November 1, 2021
 W, VPP
 iPad only



iOS: Proloquo2Go, Proloquo4Text, Pictello, Keeble, Gateway®
 Mac: Proloquo2Go, Proloquo4Text
 Also included: On-Demand AAC Training Videos
 All apps on sale 50% off reg. prices
 (Proloquo2Go reg. \$249.99; Proloquo4Text reg. \$119.99)
 October 5 - 9, 2021
 VPP, W

Watch for post updates.

Some companies may still release sale dates.



Lauren S. Enders, MA, CCC-SLP

TechACCESS of RI

Providing Assistive Technology

Services for Individuals

with Disabilities

Assistive technology is technology used by individuals with disabilities or age-related health conditions to perform tasks that might otherwise be difficult or impossible.

Assistive technologies allow people to communicate, learn, navigate their environment, accomplish daily living tasks, perform functional work tasks and achieve independence.



www.techaccess-ri.org



161 Comstock Parkway
Cranston, RI 02921

Adult Services available:

- **Evaluation/Consultation**
 - Workplace Accommodations
 - Workplace Ergonomics
 - Higher Education Curriculum Access
 - Home/Independent Living
 - Communication
 - ADA/Physical Access
 - Smart Home Technology

- **Training**
 - Equipment
 - Hardware
 - Software
 - Devices
 - Disability Awareness
 - Professional Development

- **Assistive Technology Tech Support**
 - Hardware
 - Software
 - Devices
 - Custom Fabrication
 - Device Modification

For additional information,
contact
TechACCESS of RI
(401) 463-0202

techaccess@techaccess-ri.org