



The Next DD Community Forum Will Be March 21

Tuesday, March 21

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

Join BHDDH for the Spring DD Community Forum on Tuesday, March 21st from 3:00-4:30 PM to get the latest news from the BHDDH Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Everyone must register in advance. After you register, you will receive a confirmation email with your unique login details to join the forum.

When you register, you can enter your questions or comments about the RI DD System. Director Kevin Savage and the DD team will answer questions and share other information and updates at this quarterly online event.



The forum will be hosted by Advocates in Action and will be held on Zoom. You will also be able to call in. If you can't join us, the forum will be recorded to watch later.

An ASL interpreter will be present at this event. For other accommodation requests, please email MichelleWhite@AdvocatesinAction.org. If you have any questions or need assistance registering, call Advocates in Action toll-free: 1-877-532-5543, or email aina@AdvocatesinAction.org.

The Technology Fund Round 4 Requests

Due by February 28th

From spring 2022 through spring 2023, people receiving services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) will be able to purchase technology using a one-time Technology Fund. This fund will be a grant separate from an individual's current funding.

The Technology Fund is meant to help people receiving services get technology (hardware or software) that will assist, improve, increase and/or maintain their ability to meet the goals in their Individual Support Plan (ISP). For more information see the [Technology Fund Guidance](#).

[Click here for the Technology Request Form](#), available in English and Spanish.

BHDDH Director Charest Reconfirmed

Congratulations to Director Charest, who was re-confirmed by the State Senate as the Director of BHDDH. He appeared before the State Senate Health & Human Services Committee for his Advice and Consent hearing on January 31st. The committee gave its unanimous Advice and Consent to his nomination. The Health & Human Services Committee hearing can be [viewed here](#).

In his remarks to the Committee, Director Charest said,

“Having now served as Director of the Department since June of 2021, I can tell you that there have been many long days and nights, and while challenging, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve our fellow Rhode Islanders in a meaningful manner.

I appreciate the committed leadership and oversight of Governor McKee and his staff and the collaborative relationships we share with our sister state agencies. We value the widespread support that our elected officials in the General Assembly continually provide to us. Our community partners deliver needed services in a caring and thoughtful manner and do yeoman’s work in making sure the needs of all Rhode Islanders are met.

Yet, none of the success we have achieved this year would have been possible without the dedicated staff at BHDDH. They are hardworking, committed to mission, and strive every day to help lighten the load for those we serve. Each division works to meet the needs of vulnerable populations with programs that are highly responsive, person-centered, and improve the quality of life for those who need us. In addition, we administer funds which support a statewide network of prevention, and mental health promotion initiatives, as well as recovery-support services and activities. We work to make sure that our system is data driven, outcome focused, recovery oriented, and community based.”



Congratulations to Director Charest on his re-confirmation!

US Department of Labor Webinar **on Workplace Leave for Family Caregivers** **Thursday, February 23, 2023, 2:00-3:00 PM** **[Click Here to Register](#)**

In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Wage and Hour Division is joining with the Women’s Bureau, the Office of Disability Employment Policy, and Veterans’ Employment and Training Service for a conversation with stakeholders around barriers to workplace leave for family caregivers. This will be a virtual event.

If you require an accommodation or language interpretation in order to attend this event, please email WHD-Events@dol.gov at least 5 business days prior to the event. If you have questions, please email WHD-Events@dol.gov.

State Workforce Initiative (SWI) Summit

On January 31st, about 75 stakeholders attended the second State Workforce Summit at Rhode Island College. Stakeholders included individuals who self-direct and family members, DD agency providers, Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) with self-directed and agency-based employers, state agency representatives, and community partners. The goal of this summit was to build on and prioritize the areas and activities identified in December.

During the morning, state agencies and partner organizations including CPNRI and Skills for RI's Future provided high-level overviews of their ongoing workforce initiatives to give more context to the role of the State Workforce Initiative. During the afternoon small groups of participants discussed and ranked the priority areas identified during the December Summit. The input from this Summit will now go to the Coordinating Council to update the SWI Plan and direct the work for 2023. Preliminary planning for a June follow-up Summit is underway.

The goal of the SWI is to bring stakeholders together to address the DSP workforce shortage.

Caring Careers

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), as part of ongoing efforts to support home and community-based services providers, launched a paid media campaign to generate awareness and promote jobs and upskilling opportunities for direct care workers. Beginning this week, the campaign will drive audiences to CaringCareers.RI.gov to learn more about training and career opportunities here in Rhode Island. The campaign will run across social media, google search, streaming audio, and Google online banner advertising, and will also include targeted emails to the job seeking and job upskilling audiences in the region. The campaign will be live from mid-February into the summer months.

You can have a look and a listen to samples of the bilingual ads that will be used in the Caring Careers campaign by going to this website: [Video Portal](#)

CaringCareers.RI.gov will direct job seekers to job search tools on the [EmployRI](#) and [Skills for Rhode Island's Future](#) job boards. If you work for an agency that currently has job openings for direct care workers, you are encouraged to post your jobs on these sites.

In addition, CaringCareers.RI.gov will provide links to continuing education, professional development, and advanced certification programs in Rhode Island, particularly at the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and University of Rhode Island. This includes a section for [career advancement for DSPs](#).

While Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are part of the Caring Careers effort, the State Workforce Initiative for DSPs will launch a more targeted campaign for DSPs in the coming months.

COVID Public Health Emergency Ending May 11

The COVID-19 public health emergency declaration will end on May 11.

What is the Public Health Emergency (PHE)?

The PHE was declared in 2020 by the federal government because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The PHE created a “continuous coverage requirement” for Medicaid. This means that people who receive Medicaid were not required to renew their eligibility, as they were required to do in the past to maintain coverage. Since the PHE was declared in 2020, the State has been working to protect benefits by not terminating Medicaid coverage (with just a few exceptions) and meet the needs of nearly a third of our residents who depend on Medicaid for their health care and DD services.

What happens to DD services when the PHE ends?

- Flexibilities for parents to serve as paid employees through self-direction will remain for 6 months after the PHE ends, until November 11, 2023. Rhode Island is working to make this permanent.
- Telehealth services will permanently remain. Telehealth is when a provider delivers services by smartphone or computer.

When is the PHE ending, and what does this mean for Medicaid members in Rhode Island?

When the PHE ends, RI Medicaid will be required to renew each member’s eligibility prior to taking any action on a case. [Click here](#) to learn more about renewing your Medicaid or CHIP coverage.

The most important thing you can do right now is to **update your contact information** so that Rhode Island Medicaid can send you the notices and information you need to keep or transition your health insurance and your DD services, which are funded through the Medicaid waiver.

- **Over the phone:** Call **HealthSource RI at 1-855-840-4774** (Monday through Friday, except holidays, from 8am-6pm), or the **Department of Human Services (DHS) Call Center at 1-855-697-4347** (Monday through Friday, except holidays, from 8:30am-3pm).
- **In Person:** Staff at DHS offices can assist customers in person. A list of DHS regional offices is available [here](#).
- **Online or Mobile App:** Visit healthyrhode.ri.gov to access your account online, or download the **HealthyRhode mobile app** on your smartphone to access your account. *Customers can call United Way’s 211 for help accessing their Customer Portal account or to learn more about the technology resources available.*

Access for All Abilities Mini Grants **Deadline to Apply is Friday, March 31, 2023**

The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College is soliciting applications from local businesses and organizations for the 2023 Access for All Abilities Mini Grant cycle. The Sherlock Center will award grants up to \$2,500 with the purpose of increasing access for people with disabilities to social, leisure, recreational, and/or cultural activities.

Businesses and organizations that engage the public in social, leisure, recreational, and/or cultural activities in Rhode Island, or primarily serving Rhode Island communities, are eligible to apply. Eligible entities include non-profit organizations, for-profit businesses, schools, and city or town government agencies. Applicants must demonstrate in their proposals sufficient resources to complete the proposed project within one year of receipt of the grant award.

Entities whose primary missions or client base is disability focused are not eligible for a grant award, however, they are encouraged to support eligible businesses and organizations to develop a proposal that meets the established criteria.

Visit [The Sherlock Center's website](#) for complete details. Applications due by March 31, 2023. Apply online or by mail, fax, or email.

The Sherlock Center will prioritize applications submitted by eligible businesses or organizations (as defined above) that demonstrate a high degree of engagement with minority communities or diverse populations (e.g., veterans, refugees, L.G.B.T.Q.I.A+).



The application and instructions are available in English and Spanish and [can be found here](#). For help or to request materials in other languages, please contact Crystal Cerullo at ccerullo@ric.edu.

A Roadmap for the AAC Journey **Wednesday, March 8, 9:00 – 4:00, Online** [Click Here to Register](#)

In this collaborative and hands on session, participants will begin to explore, build, and refine practical knowledge of the best practices in alternative and augmentative communication (AAC). Participants will explore relevant evidence based practice, resources, tools, and strategies to become better communication partners and facilitators of meaningful and functional communication.

This session is part of The 2023 Assistive Technology Conference of New England. ATCNE 2023 will be a combination of in-person and virtual workshops, in both full and half-day formats.

For full session descriptions of all sessions and to register, visit the [conference website](#).

The in-person ATCNE 2023 will be held on November 16th and 17th at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI.



Virtual Career Fair Connecting Job Seekers with Disabilities with Inclusive Employers

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

1:30 - 3:30 PM

[Click Here to Register To Attend](#)

The Work Without Limits Career Fair for Individuals with Disabilities connects job seekers with disabilities with inclusive employers.

Job Candidates

- Network with leading disability-inclusive employers from [Work Without Limits Business Network](#) and MORE!
- Learn about available internships and job opportunities!
- Attend an optional prep webinar on March 1, 3:00-4:00 PM
- Access a Tip Guide to make the most of your job search
- Share your resume with employers pre-event



Important Registration Information

- The email you use to register must be the same one you use to attend the virtual Career Fair.
- After your register you will receive an email confirmation. Scroll down to "IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS". Click on the link to fill out your **job seeker profile** and **upload your resume**.
- If you do not receive a confirmation email within 24 hours of registering check your spam/junk folder.

The virtual Career Fair will be hosted using Zoom.

For more information and to see the participating recruiters, visit our [event page](#).

Employers interested in recruiting?

Visit our [event page](#) to learn more and register to recruit.

Sponsored by:



Training on Mindfulness and Yoga Capsules from The National Paralysis Resource Center

[Click Here to Apply](#)

The National Paralysis Resource Center, operated by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, is announcing a free virtual series that equips caregivers and health professionals who serve persons with paralysis with sets of 1- to 5-minute mindfulness and yoga techniques ("yoga capsules").

A yoga capsule is a 1-5 minute yoga/mindfulness technique to help fortify resilience in the body, the breath and/or the mind. Learn up to 33 seated therapeutic "yoga capsules" and receive three gifts!

Each session is provided live and online using Zoom on a Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time. Attend one or all three parts of the series, as follows:

BODY: Saturday, 3/4/2023, 11:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Focus on your physical resilience.

Includes a care package with a free "RxRelax Seated Therapeutic Yoga DVD."

BREATH: Saturday, 3/18/2023, 11:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Focus on your emotional resilience and regulation.

Includes a care package with a free "Relaxation Capsules" CD.

MIND: Saturday, 4/1/2023, 11:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Focus on your thought patterns, mind states, restorative rest, mitigating age-related and neurodegenerative decline, reducing PTSD symptomology with comparable effectiveness to psychotherapeutic and psychopharmacologic approaches, building epigenetic resilience.

Includes a care package with a free 2-CD set "RxRelax for Insomnia".

Each session provides 6.0 continuing education credits (18.0 total) for: physicians (AMA PRA category 1 CME), nurses (NE-MSD/ANCCC), certified therapeutic recreation specialists, registered yoga teachers, and some social workers and mental health counselors. Licensed occupational therapists may also receive professional development credits.

Join Chief of Faculty, Jay Gupta, RPh, 340B ACE, MTM Specialist, C-IAYT for a powerfully restorative educational experience! He is recognized by Cardinal Health, the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations and Next Generation Pharmacists/Pharmacy Times for excellence in integrative methods and reducing problematic polypharmacy.

Space is limited to maintain a quality small group experience. Email RxRelax@live.com or call 603-674-3770 for more information or with any questions.

Operated by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, the Administration on Community Living (ACL)-funded [Paralysis Resource Center](#) strives to improve the quality of life for people living with paralysis and their support networks through grants, information, and advocacy.

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

For Information on the Consent Decree

For information on the Consent Decree and BHDDH, see <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/consent-decree>.

COVID-19 Information

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/>
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

Division of Developmental Disabilities - All Staff Contacts

Main Phone #: (401) 462-3421 **TDD:** (401) 462-3226 **Website:** <https://bhddh.ri.gov/>
Fax: (401) 462-2775 **Spanish Line:** (401) 462-3014 **BH Link:** 401-414-5465

To report abuse/neglect:
(401) 462-2629

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
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, Community Services	462-2459	Melissa.Greenlief@bhddh.ri.gov
Susan Hayward	Administrator, Youth in Transition	462-2519	Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov
Anne LeClerc	Associate Director, Program Performance	462-0192	Anne.LeClerc@bhddh.ri.gov
Tracy Levesque	Clinical Administrator	462-0209	Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov
Gerard (Jay) MacKay	Associate Administrator, Employment	462-5279	Gerard.Mackay@bhddh.ri.gov
Erin Perron	Associate Director, RICLAS	462-2180	Erin.Perron@bhddh.ri.gov
Jacqueline Reilly	Programming Services Officer	462-0126	Jacqueline.Reilly@bhddh.ri.gov
Vacant	Administrator, Employment	462-3857	

Case Management Units

East Providence/Pawtucket/Central Falls region

Marguerite Belisle	Casework Supervisor II	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 II	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 II	462-1329	Meredith.Macdonald@bhddh.ri.gov
Marisa Abbruzzi	Social Caseworker II (RICLAS)	462-6099	Marisa.Abbuzzi@bhddh.ri.gov
Timothy Cronin	Social Caseworker II	462-1721	Timothy.Cronin@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 Sousa	Social Caseworker II	462-1834	Lena.Sousa@bhddh.ri.gov
Joseph Tevyaw	Social Caseworker II	462-2474	Joseph.Tevyaw@bhddh.ri.gov

Providence/West Bay/Kent Region

Kelly Petersen	Casework Supervisor II	462-3402	Kelly.Petersen@bhddh.ri.gov
Lauree Champagne	Social Caseworker II	462-2728	Lauree.Champagne@bhddh.ri.gov
JoAnn DiMuccio	Social Caseworker II	462-2523	JoAnn.DiMuccio@bhddh.ri.gov
Souphalak Muriel	Social Caseworker II	462-2512	Souphalak.Muriel@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	Casework Supervisor II	462-2209	Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov
Christine Harding	Social Caseworker II	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	Casework Supervisor II	462-2628	Donna.Standish@bhddh.ri.gov
Wendy Cormier	Social Caseworker II	462-1302	Wendy.Cormier@bhddh.ri.gov
Kristen Miga	Social Caseworker II	462-0449	Kristen.Miga@bhddh.ri.gov
Jamie Fitzgibbons	Social Caseworker II	462-2510	Jamie.Fitzgibbons@bhddh.ri.gov
Meaghan Jencks	Social Caseworker II	462-2113	Meaghan.Jencks@bhddh.ri.gov

Transition Unit

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

Support Staff

Stephanie Andreozzi	Implementation Aide	462-1859	Stephanie.Andreozzi@bhddh.ri.gov
Laurie Rossi	Implementation Aide	462-2563	Laurie.Rossi@bhddh.ri.gov
Lori Vandall	Clerk Typist	462-6086	Lori.Vandall@bhddh.ri.gov

LUNCH AND LEARN: Working While Disabled—Work Incentives Sessions

Working with Benefits - Yes, You Can!

February 23, 2023, 12-1 pm

SSDI Overview:

March 15, 2023, 12-1 pm

SSI Overview:

April 26, 2023, 12-1 pm

Work Pays! An Introduction to YOUTH

April 20, 2023, 6:00-7:00 pm



ALL SESSIONS will be offered on Zoom with subtitles in English.

REGISTER ONLINE at <https://bit.ly/2KkUCVQ>

The Sherlock Center provides Work Incentive Information and Benefits Counseling services to SSI and SSDI beneficiaries and those that support them (family, guardian, rep payee, professionals). These sessions will be of value to anyone looking for a basic introduction to disability-related work incentives and/or has related questions. The Work and Benefits Introduction is for those starting to think about working and have general questions. The SSI or SSDI sessions provide details about the specific work incentives and other related information. All sessions provide an opportunity for you to ask questions about the following topics:

- Ticket to Work
- SSI or SSDI Work Incentives
- Resources about Work Incentive Information
- Access to Benefits Counseling
- Working and Impact on Health Insurance Medicaid/Medicare
- Other questions related to benefits and working

Upon registration please share your questions.

NOTE: These sessions will not address how to apply for SSI or SSDI benefits.

TIP: Unsure if you receive SSI or SSDI? You can confirm which benefit you have at <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/>

Presented by Certified Work Incentives Counselors.

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED! Advance registration is required. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the session. You can access the session by computer, mobile device or listen using a cell or landline phone.

Accommodation requests or registration questions: Contact Elaine Sollecito at esollecito@ric.edu, 401-456-2764.

Session questions: Contact Vicki Ferrara at vferrara@ric.edu, 401-456-8092 or Joshua Hughes at jhughes@ric.edu, 401-456-4734.



SELF-EMPLOYMENT ONLINE Classes for People with Disabilities, Families and Community Agencies

NEXT CLASS STARTING March 7, 2023



Do you know a person with a disability who has a hobby or idea for a possible business or who needs more support for an existing small business? If so, our **FREE ONLINE ZOOM Business Classes** can help the person to learn all about self-employment and available resources for their business idea and financial future!

Traditional employment in jobs may not be the best option for some people with disabilities. Small business ownership is another option and great choice to do work that has *real meaning* for the person. It is something people can control themselves, and to sell a product or a service they really love. There are over 100 people with disabilities in RI who have started their own businesses in the last few years. Here's what Michael Coyne, business owner of "Red, White and Brew Café" in Warwick, RI has to say:

WHY CHOOSE SELF-EMPLOYMENT?

1. I love being my own "BOSS", meeting new people and spending my time working on something I really enjoy every day!
2. I decide my own flexible work schedule and hours.
3. The Business Classes helped me to learn skills for problem solving, communication, marketing, and self-advocacy. I met other great people with disabilities who also own their own businesses. I also received a grant to buy the materials/supplies I needed for my business.
4. I have assistance through my personal support network, my Business Team and RIDDC who are there to help me with my business.
5. I am no longer "volunteering" my time at a job, but instead I have my own business making money and I now have an income!



The RI Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC), in partnership with CWE and others a FREE Business Development Series of 8 Classes, ONLINE through ZOOM Meetings. The first Class is **Tuesday, March 7, 2023 from 12:45 pm-2:30 pm** and others scheduled every week. We want to assist people to learn the right business skills and access resources to become profitable RI small business owners!

The Classes provide business advice, resources and ongoing peer and staff support to participants, families and staff and contact with experienced Business Advisors. They know how to work with people to develop good business plans, marketing ideas, and set goals the person can achieve in the industry he/she launches.

The Series includes the following Classes: 1. Is Entrepreneurship (Self-Employment) Right for You?, 2. Steps to Start a Small Business, 3. Identifying Your Target Market, 4. Developing an Effective "Elevator Speech" about Your Service/Product(s), 5. How to Write a Good Business Plan, 6. Finances, Bookkeeping, and Community Resources, 7. Marketing Your Business Idea, and 8. Using Social Media to Promote your Business.

To Register for this Class or For More Information Call Claudia Lowe at 738-3960 or Sue Babin at 523-2300. (Participation Is Limited!)



This project is funded by DLT's and the Governor's Workforce Board's "Real Jobs RI" initiative.

Are You Interested in a FREE Speakers' Program?



We have a Speakers' Bureau available to talk with students and adults with disabilities, families, staff, etc. on topics that are important to know about. Our speakers want to share their personal experiences & knowledge at no charge to you!

TOPICS:

- Person-Centered Planning 
- Employment Can WORK for YOU! 
- Owning your Own Business...I am the Boss! (Self-Employment) 
- Building Social Skills and Self-Esteem for Living the BEST Life 
- Understanding the Adult DD System of Services/Supports 
- Let's Talk about Money Management 
- Developing Good Relationships 
- Sexual Abuse Awareness



Email: RISpeakersBureau@RIDDC.org or

Contact Us [Tanja Blicher-Ucran](mailto:Tanja.Blicker-Ucran@riddc.org) tanja@riddc.org 401-737-1238

"The Coalition is for individuals with any type of disability to connect and talk about what is important in our lives and what we can do together to improve quality for all people! It is an opportunity to become familiar with community activities, how to make informed decisions, and take control of our lives by using self-directed supports and services available from RI agencies."

an initiative of the RI Developmental Disabilities Council

Do You Need Help?

RI Minority Elder Task Force Presents

Direct Application Assistance
Help and Resources for ALL

FREE WALK-IN HELP APPLYING FOR:

- SNAP
- HEATING ASSISTANCE
- HOUSING APPLICATION ASSISTANCE
- SECTION 8
- MEDICAID
- LONG TERM CARE ADVICE
- MEDICARE PREMIUM PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

**OUR
ASSISTANCE
DOES NOT
GUARANTEE
ELIGIBILITY**

SERVICES PROVIDED IN CREOLE, PORTUGUESE,
SPANISH, AND KHMER

LIMITED TRANSPORTATION MAY BE PROVIDED*

Free continental breakfast

First 30 Applicants Will Receive a Gift Card

Saturday, March 25th 9am to 1pm

Cape Verdean Progressive Center
329 Grosvenor Ave, East Providence

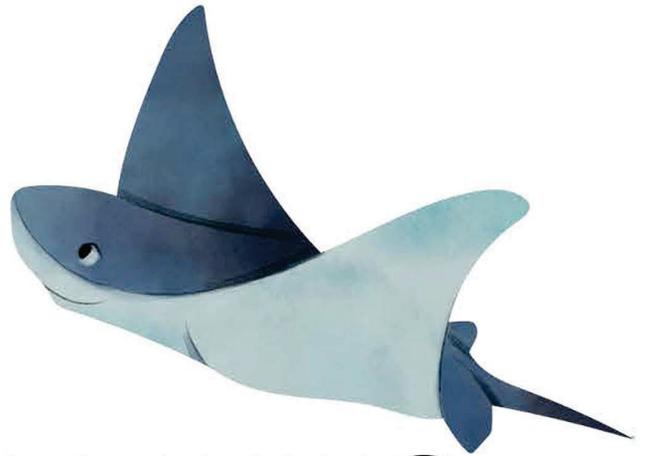
More information 401-497-1287 or riminorityeldertaskforce@gmail.com

BRING YOUR PAPERWORK AND DOCUMENTS



*Cape Verdean
Cultural and Education
Program*

RI-CART Adolescent-Young Adult Study



RAYS

You may be eligible to participate if you:

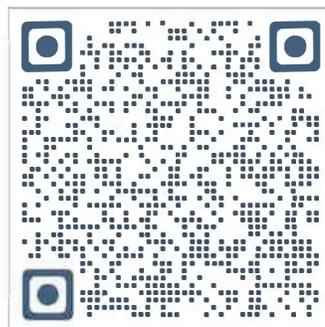
- Have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder or registered in RI-CART
- Are 12-24 years old (or are the parent/guardian of a 12-24 year old)
- Are verbally fluent in English or Spanish

Eligible youth/young adults can earn up to \$395 for completing the entire study and parents/guardians of eligible youth/young adults who participate can earn up to \$225.

Contact the RAYS research team at 401.444.1913 or RAYS@brown.edu to confirm if you are eligible to participate.

Brown University researchers are conducting a study examining the challenges and problems that adolescents and young adults experience over the course of adolescence and young adulthood.

The study consists mainly of interviews and filling out questionnaires on your mood, behavior, alcohol and other drug use, and relationships with family and friends. The study has 4 visits, each one year apart. The study lasts 3 years.



BROWN

Scan here to enter information for our team to contact you

2023 College Planning Forum

Date: March 4, 2023

For: RI high school students, family, educator or service provider

Location: University of Rhode Island

Multicultural Student Service Center /Hardge Forum

Time: 10:00 am -2:00 pm

9:30 am registration - 10:00 am Opening remarks



Come join us for a free daylong conference designed for families, educators, service providers and high school students who will like to hear about disability support services as youth transition to college. Whether you plan to attend college locally or out of state, now is the time to gather information to prepare for your college success. Come hear from youth speakers, technology and accommodation experts, disability support services, college admissions, and more. Free resources will be provided. A light lunch will be served.

Registration is now open: please click [here](#)

Sponsored by:

RI Regional Transition Centers
RI Department of Education Office of Student, Community, and Academic Support
RI Office of Rehabilitation Services
University of Rhode Island Office of Disability Access and Inclusion

For more information feel free to reach out to kcollins@westbaycollaborative.org

NCI®-IDD State of the Workforce in 2021: REPORT RELEASE

2/15/2023

Press Contact:
Carrie McGraw
cmcgraw@nasddds.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALEXANDRIA, VA- The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), are pleased to release the final NCI®-IDD State of the Workforce in 2021 Survey Report. Each year, National Core Indicators Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (NCI®-IDD), along with participating state developmental disabilities agencies, works with member states to implement the State of the Workforce Survey. The NCI-IDD State of the Workforce Survey collects comprehensive data on provider agencies and the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce providing direct supports to adults (age 18 and over) with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The goal of the survey and the resulting data is to help states examine workforce challenges; identify areas for further investigation; benchmark their workforce data; measure improvements made through policy or programmatic changes; and, compare their state data to those of other states and the NCI-IDD average.

States across the country have used NCI-IDD State of the Workforce Survey data to demonstrate the critical nature of the DSP workforce crisis to legislators and policymakers. States are also engaging in deeper examinations of the data to determine the impetuses and drivers of workforce challenges. Advocates and researchers are analyzing the data to inform research into the workforce crisis and determine strategies to address the issues.

The release of the 2021 State of the Workforce Survey data marks a new opportunity for state developmental disabilities agencies, advocates, and researchers to work together to determine the best strategies to address the DSP workforce crisis. Moreover, data from the COVID-19 survey supplement can allow states to examine gaps and strengths in emergency responses and gain a better understanding of how providers experienced the pandemic. A total of 29 states including the District of Columbia administered the 2021 NCI-IDD State of the Workforce Survey. All told, data from 3,838 provider agencies are included in this report.

You can access the report, report summaries, and state data at the below links:

- [NCI®-IDD State of the Workforce in 2021 Survey Report](#)
- [NCI®-IDD State of the Workforce in 2021 Survey Infographic](#)
- [NCI®-IDD Website](#)

2021 STATE OF THE WORKFORCE DATA HIGHLIGHTS



3,838 provider agencies responded from 29 states



\$14.50 median hourly wage for DSPs across all service types



Turnover ratios among participating states for DSPs in 2021 ranged from 28.5% to 59.0%



73.7% of responding agencies offered PTO of some type

National Core Indicators®- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (NCI®-IDD), is a collaboration between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). The purpose of the program is to support states to gather a standard set of performance and outcome measures that can be used to track their own performance over time, to compare results across states, and to establish national benchmarks.

For information on the NCI -IDD State of the Workforce Survey or the Survey Report, please contact: Dorothy Hiersteiner dhiersteiner@hsri.org or Laura Vegas Ivegaz cmcgraw@nasddds.org. For more information, please visit idd.nationalcoreindicators.org.