



Volume 4  
March 1  
2024

# DD News and Updates

# Newsletter

## Developmental Disabilities Month 2024



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### Developmental Disabilities Month

Each March, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities ([NACDD](#)) highlight the many ways in which people with and without disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities.



### We want to learn from you!

We want to continue to learn from the community. Share your feedback about our newsletter by completing our [online newsletter survey](#). We will keep the survey open to make sure we keep getting your feedback.

# DDD Updates

## March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is DD Awareness Month. People with I/DD have diverse backgrounds. They have many strengths and gifts that improve the Rhode Island community. The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) sees the value in these differences. DDD serves adults with I/DD so they can focus on the things that matter most to them. DDD commits to:

- Plan, fund, and oversee adult I/DD services and supports.
- Ensure people have the supports they need to live their lives.
- Ensure people are able to find and keep a job if they want.
- Ensure people have the chance to be involved in their community.
- Provide information to adults with I/DD to help them make decisions about what services and supports they want and need.

To learn more about DDD and DD Awareness Month go to:

- [Rhode Island Division of Developmental Disabilities \(website\)](#)
- [Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council \(website\)](#)

## March is Social Work Month



People become social workers because they truly want to help others. They go through years of education and training so they can do the important work of meeting people where they are and helping them achieve their goals. Our DD social case workers work hard every day to

improve people's quality of life and to advocate on their behalf. We want to take time this month to recognize the DD social caseworkers and the great things they do.

There are many changes happening at the Division. The DD social caseworkers have a key role in helping to make the changes as smooth as possible. They keep the needs of the people we serve at the forefront and help make a positive impact on each individual.

Please take a moment to help celebrate and thank our DD social caseworkers for all they do!

# DDD Updates

## DDD Community Forum Dates

The next DDD Community Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2024!

**Event Date:** Tuesday, March 19, 2024

**Event Time:** 3:00-4:30 pm

**Event Location:** Online using Zoom

**Event Registration:** <https://tinyurl.com/DDForumMar2024>



Join BHDDH for the Spring DD Community Forum to get the latest news from Director Kevin Savage and the DD team.

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. 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](mailto: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](mailto:aina@AdvocatesinAction.org).

## BHDDH Your Life, Your Rights Program

Welcome to the second month of the BHDDH's Your Life, Your Rights Program!

This month's focus is your Safety and Freedom in Life. Safety rights you will learn about include:



1. Personal space and boundaries
2. Safety in the community
3. Health and medical safety
4. Freedom from abuse

Everyone deserves to be treated well and feel safe. Start exploring your right to Safety and Freedom in Life on the next page of this newsletter.



# Your Life, Your Rights

## Safety and Freedom in Life

### Personal Space and Boundaries



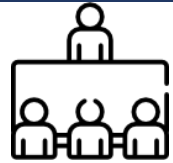
You can take breaks when needed to relax



You decide when you need help and from who



You have safe places you can go



You have people you trust to talk to

### Safety in the Community



You can ask for space when you need it



Your personal boundaries will be respected



You will have information about travelling safely



You will have information about safe places to go to for help

### Health and Medical Safety



You can make decisions about your health



You can make an appointment with your doctor when you need to



You can talk to your doctor about starting or stopping treatment



You can go to the emergency room for serious injuries

### Freedom from Abuse



You will not be harmed physically



You will not be harmed sexually



You will not be harmed verbally



You will not be taken advantage of



You will be treated with dignity and respect



You will get the correct treatment you need



You will get help living a safe and healthy life

**To report abuse and serious events call the BHDDH Quality Assurance (QA) Unit hotline at (401) 462-2629. The hotline is open 24-hours a day, seven days per week, 365 days per year.**

**Website:** [www.bhddh.ri.gov](http://www.bhddh.ri.gov)

**Email:** [BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov](mailto:BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov)

**Phone:** 401.462.3421

**ESPAÑOL:** 401.462.3014

# Community News

## TechACCESS News

**Event:** Executive Functioning Supports for Today's Students

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, March 6, 2024, from 8:30-3:30 PM

**Location:** Save The Bay Center, 100 Save The Bay Drive, Providence, R.I. 02905

**To Register:** [ATCNE website](#)

The session will focus on techniques and tools to help support students in the areas of attention, memory, time management, and organization.



## Disability Employment Technical Assistance (TA) Center



Join the Disability Employment TA Center for an online learning event. The event will focus on removing barriers to employment.

**Event:** Strategies to Support People with Developmental Disabilities and Brain Injury to Achieve Employment Goals Through Small Business Ownership

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024, from 3:00-4:30 PM

**Location:** Online

**To Register:** [Disability Employment TA Center webinar registration webpage](#)

## The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID)

The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) is hosting a virtual public meeting. The meeting will focus on home and community-based services (HCBS). The Committee invites the community to join the event to share feedback. You must register for this event by Thursday, March 7.

**Event:** Meeting of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities

**Date and Time:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 from 12:00-5:00 PM

**Location:** Online

**To Register:** [PCPID Committee meeting registration webpage](#)

# Community News

## ATAP Assistive Technology Awareness Day Event

This spring, the Warwick Public Library is hosting an assistive technology awareness day event. The event will share information about different assistive technologies. Demonstrations, or tutorials, of different assistive technologies will take place at the event.

**Event:** ATAP Assistive Technology Awareness Day Celebration 2024

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024, from 2:30-4:30 PM

**Location:** Warwick Public Library

**To Register:** [ATAP Assistive Technology Awareness Day Celebration 2024 Eventbrite webpage](#)



## The Rhode Island Direct Support Professional Workforce Public Comment Period Open Now Through April 23, 2024



### State of Rhode Island State Workforce Initiative

*A public-private partnership supporting those who support  
adults with intellectual & developmental disabilities*

[The Rhode Island State Workforce Initiative \(RISWI; website\)](#) is an initiative to advance and sustain the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce.

RISW has been working to create a DSP training and onboarding template to use in different service settings. Before taking any further action, RISWI would like community comments and feedback on the "Draft Training and Onboarding Template." The public comment period is open now through **April 23, 2024**. The template and instructions for public comment are below:

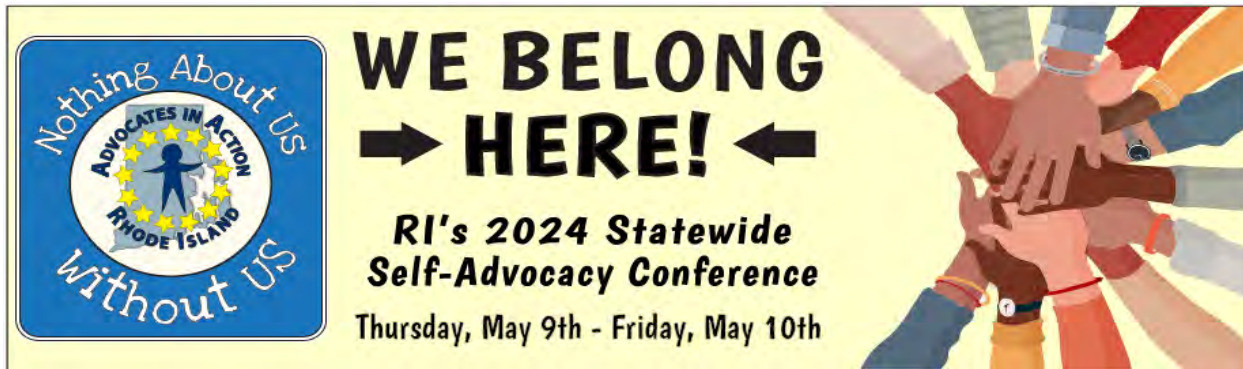
- [Direct Support Professional Training and Onboarding Template \(PDF\)](#)
- [Instructions for Public Comment \(PDF\)](#)

You can visit the [RISWI Public Feedback Requested webpage](#) to learn more and to submit feedback.



# Community News

## Rhode Island's 2024 Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference



Rhode Island's 2024 Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference is a yearly event hosted by Advocates in Action. The conference theme this year is "We Belong Here."

The **Conference Day** is **Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM**. It will take place online using Zoom. It is free, but you must register to attend. **Register at** [www.tinyurl.com/SAConf2024](http://www.tinyurl.com/SAConf2024).

Day 2 is a **Dinner Dance Party on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-10:30 PM** at the Providence Marriott Downtown. You must buy a ticket for the dance party. Tickets are \$30 per person. Tickets are [available on-line](#) and must be purchased no later than Friday, May 3rd.

Visit the [Advocates in Action website](#) for the latest updates about the Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference. You can also learn about last year's event and catch up on all the other great work Advocates in Action is doing by visiting their website.

## RIPIN's 2024 Annual Breakfast



**Event:** 2024 Annual Breakfast

**Date and Time:** Thursday, May 23, 2024, from 8:00-10:00 AM

**Location:** Crowne Plaza, Warwick

**Register and Learn More:** [RIPIN website](#).

The annual breakfast is an opportunity for families, professionals, advocates, and community leaders to get together to celebrate the community at large. At this event, you can expect awards for individuals making contributions to the community. This is a wonderful opportunity to network and connect with families and professionals.

# Community News

## Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities New Website

The [Sherlock Center has a new website!](#)



The new website "represents much more than a digital upgrade; it's a portal to resources, services and opportunities for individuals with disabilities, their families, professionals and community members.

The new site is designed with accessibility and user experience in mind, ensuring everyone can navigate and access information easily. Key features include:

- Enhanced accessibility
- Comprehensive resource library
- Improved user experience
- Events and training calendar
- Adapted literature and lessons
- Refreshed branding "

## Volunteer Income Tax Preparation Services (VITA)



VITA offers free tax preparation services across RI for those who make less than \$63,398. They offer a list of all the convenient locations offering their free services.

Volunteer prepares are trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Services (IRS). For a complete list and to learn more, please visit [the United Way RI website](#).

## Accessibility Tip

Spending time in the community doing things you enjoy can boost your mood. Yet, transportation can be a barrier. **Barriers** are things that get in the way of achieving something. There are many transportation barriers, like not having a car to drive or living far away from a bus stop.

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) is a local resource that will help you get where you want to go. One RIPTA program for people with disabilities to explore is the [Ride Program \(webpage\)](#). This program offers door to door transportation services to people unable to use fixed-route buses. You can even use your DDD funding to pay for trips using the Ride Program. Visit the [DDD Transportation Services webpage](#) to learn more about your transportation options.



# Community News

## Development and Leadership Opportunities Open for Youth with I/DD



Center for  
Transition to Adult Health Care  
for Youth with Disabilities

[The Center for Transition to Adult Health Care for Youth with Disabilities](#), an ACL grantee, is looking for participants ages 12-26 with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to participate in

development and leadership opportunities. The opportunities will allow participants to grow, build relationships, and impact national work while receiving a **stipend** for their time and work. There are two opportunities available:

- Youth Steering Committee (YSC) Member
- Youth Development Initiative (YDI) Committee Member

To learn more or apply please go to: [SPAN Parent Advocacy Network website](#)

Contact [rshandler@spanadvocacy.org](mailto:rshandler@spanadvocacy.org) with any questions.

## March is DD Awareness Month (DDAM)

### [DDAM 2024 Theme: A World of Opportunities](#)

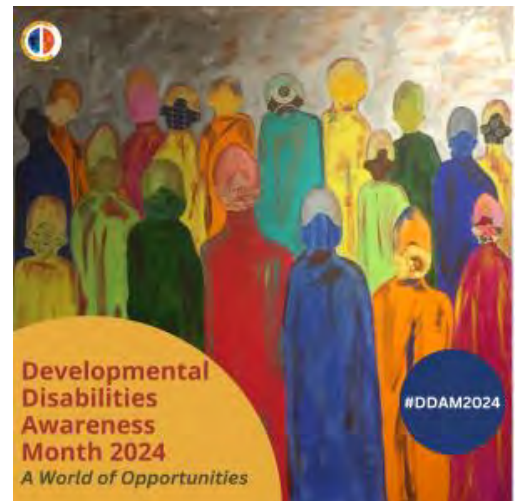
"A World of Opportunities" – celebrating people and working together to remove [challenges]. The goal is to build a community that's committed to creating a world where everyone can do well and succeed. Join us in making a world where all kinds of people have the chance to [grow and do well]."

**Event:** [Monday, March 29th – A Conversation with Lee Waters](#)

**Date & Time:** Monday, March 29, 2024, 3:00 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Description of event:** NACDD sits down with Alaskan artist Lee Waters to close DDAM 2024.

**Link to sign up:** [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)



# Report Suspected Abuse

## QA Hotline 401-462-2629

### Mandated Reporting

Reporting suspected occurrences of abuse, neglect, and mistreatment of individuals with developmental disabilities

To **report abuse and serious incidents** call the BHDDH Quality Assurance (QA) Unit **hotline at (401) 462-2629**. The hotline is open 24-hour hotline, seven days per week, 365 days per year. Staff respond to reported incidents of abuse, neglect, mistreatment, and financial exploitation.

## 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. Visit the BH Link website at [www.bhlink.org](http://www.bhlink.org).

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

**VISIT the 24-HOUR/7-DAY Triage Center at:**

975 Waterman Avenue, East Providence, RI

Call 911 if there is a risk of immediate danger.

If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text **988** or chat [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org)



## For More Information on DD Initiatives

Newsletters: sign up and view old newsletters on our [News and Updates webpage](#)

Consent Decree: <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/consent-decree>

Conflict Free Case Management (CFCM): [EOHHS CFCM website](#) or [DD Initiatives-CFCM](#)

RI DSP State Workforce Initiative: <https://riswi.org/> or [DD Initiatives-SWI](#)

### Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

### Contacting DDD Staff

See the full Division Contact List attached to this newsletter.

Send general questions to [BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov](mailto:BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov).

Please do not email critical issues.

## Division of Developmental Disabilities - All Staff Contacts 2/16/2024

**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**

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RIPIN

# SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT PROGRAM

FISCAL INTERMEDIARY PANEL



**MARCH 5TH**



**6:00 - 7:00 PM**



**VIRTUAL ON ZOOM**

The RIPIN Self-Directed Support Program invites you to an insightful virtual panel focusing on Fiscal Intermediaries.

Delve into the crucial role of fiscal intermediaries in the context of self-directed support in Rhode Island. Learn about their functions, responsibilities, and the impact they have on managing finances and services. Gain insights into navigating services and establishing effective connections with fiscal intermediaries.

**REGISTRATION**



**[CONTA.CC/4BEFDIQ](https://conta.cc/4BEFDIQ)**

SCAN ME







# LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Explore a curated schedule of workshops delivered by RIPIN Peer Professionals, designed for individuals with special health care needs and their caregivers. Click on the topic to register for each event.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

- » Decoding Dyslexia & RIDE Panel Presentation Feb 28 6:00 PM
- » Parental Rights in Special Education Mar 7 6:00 PM
- » Navigating the Transition from Early Intervention Apr 23 6:00 PM



## SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT

- » Self-Directed Support Community Connections Feb 27 6:00 PM
- » Self-Directed Support Fiscal Intermediary Panel Mar 5 6:00 PM
- » "Why I Chose Self-Direction" with Advocates in Action Mar 26 6:00 PM
- » Self-Directed Support Employment Success Apr 30 6:00 PM



## HEALTH CARE

- » Medicaid Options for Families with Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Mar 12 12:30 PM
- » Introduction to Cedar Apr 1 6:00 PM



## COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

- » Public Policy 101 Apr 4 10:30 AM

PERSONAL SUPPORT BUILT ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCE



[info@ripin.org](mailto:info@ripin.org)



401-270-0101

[ripin.org/calendar](https://ripin.org/calendar)





www.oscil.org



Made possible by



JWU

College of  
Health & Wellness

DEPT. OF PHYSICAL THERAPY



# Wheelchair Tennis Clinic

## Open to ages 14+

All abilities and  
experiences welcome!

### Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

### 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

### Johnson and Wales Wildcat Center

### 305 Shipyard St. Providence 02905

All equipment  
will be provided.

Light refreshments  
will be provided.

Transportation  
reimbursement is  
available if needed.

Please contact us if you have any questions.



Amanda Reed  
amanda.reed@oscil.org



401 - 738 - 1013

**Waivers must be signed**

If younger than age 18, waivers must be  
signed by a legal guardian to participate.

Call, email, or use the link to register.



**Volunteer  
Registry Form**



**Participant  
Registry Form**



JOIN OUR

**FREE**

MONTHLY LEARNING SERIES:

# FAMILIES AT THE CENTER

of a  
Connected  
Community



## DISCOVER, CONNECT, AND EMPOWER!

Our engaging **Free** monthly learning series invites you to dive deep into the stories, lessons, and practical wisdom shared by families of children with disabilities. Mark your calendars and join us for an enriching experience where families take center stage in building stronger, more connected communities. Don't miss out—register now to secure your spot!

**SERIES INCLUDES: ALL SESSIONS 6PM-7PM**

**Register for the virtual session here:**

<https://bit.ly/3UnUryc>

**Feb 19**



*Community Asset Mapping*

**Mar 18**



*Interviewing/Listening/Affirming Giftedness*

**Apr 15**



*Avoiding Devaluation and Stereotypes*

**May 20**



*4 Commitments of Community Building*

**Jun 17**



*Planning Healing Experiences*

**Jul 15**



*Planning for Inclusion*

**Aug 19**



*Using Money for Connection*

**Sept 16**



*Planning for Sustainability*



**Need to connect?**



[nithya@starfirecouncil.org](mailto:nithya@starfirecouncil.org)



RHODE ISLAND

Developmental Disabilities Council

Charting a New Course

**starfire**





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## Strategies to Support People with Developmental Disabilities and Brain Injury to Achieve Employment Goals Through Small Business Ownership

**Webinar Date: March 12, 2024 | Time: 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm ET**

In March, we celebrate Developmental Disabilities (DD) and Brain Injury (BI) Awareness month. This webinar will highlight innovative strategies for removing barriers to further advance competitive, integrated employment and economic outcomes for people with DD and BI through small business ownership. Synergies Work, the largest startup hub in the United States for disability-led businesses, will highlight how people with DD and BI have been successful in launching and maintaining their own businesses. The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) will share the latest data and employment trends for people with BI. NASHIA will also discuss current service gaps and proposed solutions to maximize employment opportunities. We'll also hear perspectives from Angad Sahgal, an entrepreneur with DD, and Kymberlee Baker, an entrepreneur with BI, on key elements needed to establish and operate a business.

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### Presenters



**Maria Crowley, MA, CRC**  
Director of Professional Development  
NASHIA



**Jill Ferrington, MC, CRC, CBIS**  
Technical Assistance Advisor  
NASHIA



**Aarti Sahgal**  
Founder and CEO  
Synergies Work



**Angad Sahgal**  
Entrepreneur, Founder of Let Me Do IT



**Kymberlee Baker**  
Entrepreneur, Founder of Kimmie's Heart Cards

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**Registration at:** <https://bit.ly/DETAC-CoP-Mar-12-2024>

## **THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND**

The Housing Authority of the City of Pawtucket, Rhode Island (PHA) is announcing the opening of their waiting list for **all** bedroom sizes at their **Galego Court Development**.

To be eligible your annual income must not exceed the following income limits.

### **MAXIMUM INCOME LIMITS**

<u>Number of Persons</u>	<u>Income Limit</u>
1	\$57,350
2	\$65,550
3	\$73,750
4	\$81,900
5	\$88,500
6	\$95,050
7	\$101,600
8	\$108,150

The waiting list will open on **Monday, February 26, 2024 at 9:00 AM**. To apply you may obtain an application on our website at [www.pawthousing.org](http://www.pawthousing.org). You may also request an application via email to [housingapps@pawthousing.org](mailto:housingapps@pawthousing.org). Applications can also be mailed back to **ATTN: Maria Vega Applications Manager 214 Roosevelt Ave Pawtucket, RI 02860**. For Application Information please contact 401-205-1731.

Any applicant who has a physical/mobility impairment that prevents you from picking up an application, must contact the Housing Authority at 401-205-1731 to make special arrangements or to be mailed an application. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired may also call TTY/TDD: 711 (telecommunications device for the deaf)

The Housing Authority will not on account of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, age, family or marital status, gender identity, handicap or disability deny any family or individual the opportunity to apply for or receive assistance.

Paula McFarland  
Executive Director

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY HOUSING





## **LA AUTORIDAD DE VIVIENDA DE LA CIUDAD DE PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND**

La Autoridad de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Pawtucket, Rhode Island (PHA) está anunciando la apertura de su lista de espera para dormitorios **de todos los tamaños** en su **Galego Court Development**.

Para ser elegible, su ingreso anual no debe exceder los siguientes límites de ingresos.

### **LÍMITES MÁXIMOS DE INGRESOS**

<u>Número de personas</u>	<u>Límite de ingresos</u>
1	\$57,350
2	\$65,550
3	\$73,750
4	\$81,900
5	\$88,500
6	\$95,050
7	\$101,600
8	\$108,150

La lista de espera se abrirá **el lunes 26 de febrero del 2024 a las 9:00 a.m.** Para presentar una solicitud, puede obtener una solicitud en nuestro sitio web en [www.pawthousing.org](http://www.pawthousing.org). También puede solicitar una solicitud por correo electrónico a [housingapps@pawthousing.org](mailto:housingapps@pawthousing.org). Las solicitudes también se pueden enviar por correo a la atención de: Maria Vega Applications Manager 214 Roosevelt Ave Pawtucket, RI 02860. Para obtener información sobre la solicitud, comuníquese al 401-205-1731.

Cualquier solicitante que tenga una discapacidad física o de movilidad que le impida recoger una solicitud debe comunicarse con la Autoridad de Vivienda al 401-205-1731 para hacer arreglos especiales para que se le envíe una solicitud por correo. Las personas que soliciten servicios de interpretación para personas con discapacidad auditiva también pueden llamar a TTY/TDD: 711 (dispositivo de telecomunicaciones para personas sordas)

La Autoridad de Vivienda no negará a ninguna familia o individuo la oportunidad de solicitar o por motivos de raza, color, sexo, orientación sexual, religión, credo, origen nacional o étnico, edad, estado familiar o civil, identidad de género, discapacidad o discapacidad. recibir asistencia.

Paula McFarland  
Directora Ejecutiva

**VIVIENDA CON IGUALDAD DE OPORTUNIDADES**



## **THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND**

The Housing Authority of the City of Pawtucket, Rhode Island (PHA) is announcing the opening of their waiting list for **1 and 2- bedroom** apartments for their **Disabled Developments, Kennedy Manor, and St. Germain Manor.**

**To be eligible, your annual income must not exceed the following income limits and the Head of Household must be disabled.**

### **MAXIMUM INCOME LIMITS**

<u>Number of Persons</u>	<u>Income Limit</u>
1	\$57,350
2	\$65,550
3	\$73,750
4	\$81,900

The waiting list will open on **Monday, February 26, 2024 at 9:00 AM.** To apply you may obtain an application on our website at [www.pawthousing.org](http://www.pawthousing.org). You may also request an application via email to [housingapps@pawthousing.org](mailto:housingapps@pawthousing.org). Applications can also be mailed back to **ATTN: Maria Vega Applications Manager 214 Roosevelt Ave Pawtucket, RI 02860.** For Application Information please contact 401-205-1731.

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Paula McFarland  
Executive Director

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY HOUSING



## **LA AUTORIDAD DE VIVIENDA DE LA CIUDAD DE PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND**

La Autoridad de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Pawtucket, Rhode Island (PHA) está anunciando la apertura de su lista de espera para apartamentos de **1 y 2 habitaciones** para sus **Desarrollos para Discapacitados, Kennedy Manor y St. Germain Manor**.

**Para ser elegible, su ingreso anual no debe exceder los siguientes límites de ingresos y la cabeza de hogar debe estar discapacitado.**

### **LÍMITES MÁXIMOS DE INGRESOS**

<u>Número de personas</u>	<u>Límite de ingresos</u>
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Paula McFarland  
Directora Ejecutiva

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