

February 7, 2025



Empowering Independence

CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.

WHAT'S UP?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

FRONTLINE Produces Its First ASL-Interpreted Podcast

In October 2023, a gunman entered a bowling alley and a bar in Lewiston, Maine, and carried out one of the United States' deadliest mass shootings in recent history. Of the 18 people killed, four had been attending an event that included people who were deaf or hard of hearing, making this possibly the largest shooting event in the Deaf community. FRONTLINE, along with their Local Journalism Initiative partners, The Portland Press Herald and Maine Public, developed a documentary about the tragedy, Breakdown in Maine. They continued reporting about the event, the related failures, and the aftermath, in a six-part podcast, "Breakdown: Turning Anguish into Action." But there was still something missing. Read the full story at: www.wgbh.org/foundation/highlights/2024-12-18/frontline-produces-its-first-asl-interpreted-podcast

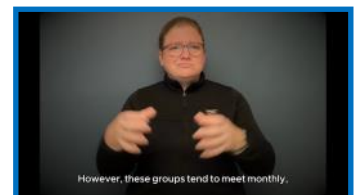


Watch the *Breakdown in Maine* documentary here: www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/breakdown-in-maine/

Feedback Requested: Supportive Social Day Program

Are you a Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened or Hearing person aged 55 or over?

Are you a caregiver of a senior citizen who is Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened or Hearing?



Watch this vlog! www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvrbBb9AgRc

What would a Supportive Social Day Program (SSDP) look like for Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened senior citizens in MA? SSDPs offer support with health management, caregiver support, and recreational opportunities, especially for people with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD).

Please share your thoughts! Link to the survey: www.bit.ly/deafssdp

A transcript is available in the notes of the vlog.

Immigration: *Know Your Rights*



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!



Eng

We all have rights in the United States!

Basic Rights

- Right to remain silent
 - Right to speak with a legal representative
 - Right to see a warrant
- Carry a Know Your Rights card!**

Rights if Immigration Comes to your Home

- Do not open the door unless ICE has a warrant signed by a judge
- Do not answer any questions. You have the right to remain silent.
- Do not sign anything without consulting a legal representative.

Family Preparedness

- Gather important documents
- Make plans for who will care for your children
- Register your child's birth with your country's government and apply for a passport for your child
- Update school contacts

Getting Legal Help

- Only lawyers and accredited representatives can give you legal advice
- Notaries (notarios) are not authorized to give legal advice

Rights when driving

- Stay in the car and place your hands on steering wheel
- Drivers must provide name and address, but do not need to answer questions about immigration status
- In MA, immigration status is not required to get a driver's license!
- **Never present false documents**

Rights if Immigration Comes to your Work

- Right to remain silent
- Do not answer any questions or give officials any information about yourself
- You have the right to not line up

Rights in Detention

- Right to remain silent
- Do not sign anything without consulting a legal representative
- Right to request release on bond.

More Resources



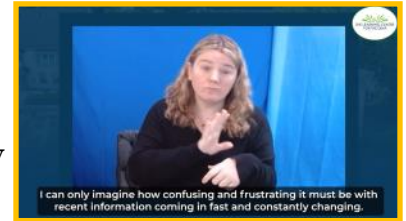
MIRA

Resources for Protection of Immigrants

Message from Walden Community Services (WCS).

Watch vlog here: youtu.be/nyNKbaqfYrw?si=A6GstnzDuux3N8kX

To find more information or to find support, look at the **Guidance and Support for the Protection of Immigrants** section of WCS's Family Resources webpage: www.tlcdeaf.org/family-resources



Find more information at National Immigration Law Center including:

- Know Your Rights: What to Do if You Are Arrested or Detained by Immigration
- Warrants & Subpoenas: What to Look Out for and How to Respond
- Healthcare and Health Insurance for Immigrants



Resources webpage: www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-what-to-do-if-arrested-detained-immigration/

Step-by-Step Family Preparedness Plan

How can immigrant families prepare ahead of time for immigration emergencies? A guide is available online and includes:

- Make a child care plan.
- Find out about your immigration options.
- Know your rights.
- Other documents and checklists that will help your family be ready

Webpage: www.ilrc.org/resources/step-step-family-preparedness-plan



Know Your Rights red card

Keep this card on you and by your door! This card explains your rights and that you don't have to open the door. You can slide it under the door, show it, or read the English side of the card to ICE. Have children/family members practice reading it, or sliding it under the door.

Find print-at-home red cards in 14 languages at ilrc.org/red-cards

More resources: miracoalition.org/news/know-your-rights/#KYR-cards

IF ICE AGENTS SHOW UP AT YOUR DOOR

1. You do not have to open the door. If you do, stay calm—you have rights.
2. Ask what they are there for (and ask for an interpreter if you need one).
3. If they ask to enter, ask if they have a warrant signed by a judge and if so, ask to see it (through a window or slipped under the door).
4. If they do not have a warrant **signed by a judge**, you may refuse to let them in. Ask them to leave any information at your door.
5. If they force their way in, do not resist. Tell everyone in the residence to remain silent.
6. If you are arrested, you have the right to remain silent. Do not sign anything until you speak with a lawyer.

KNOW
YOUR
RIGHTS

ACLU

IF YOU INTERACT WITH ICE AGENTS AT WORK

1. Ask if you are free to leave. If so, you may calmly walk out.
2. You have the right to refuse consent to a search.
3. You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to discuss your immigration status with anyone, such as about where you were born, whether you are a citizen, or how you entered the country.
4. If you have valid immigration documents, you should show them. Never provide fake documents.
5. If you are arrested, say that you wish to remain silent until speaking with a lawyer.
6. You have the right to record your interaction with immigration agents as long as you do not interfere.

KNOW
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ACLU

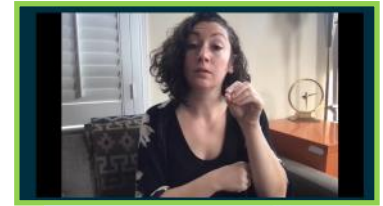
Deaf Yes!: *Signs of Safety*

Summarized from <https://deafyes.org/signs-of-safety/>


The U.S. Deaf community – a group of more than 500,000 Americans who communicate using American Sign Language (ASL) – experiences nearly triple the rate of lifetime problem drinking and twice the rate of trauma exposure compared to the general population.

Although there are several treatments for alcohol use disorder (AUD) and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in hearing populations, none have been developed for or tested with Deaf clients. To address these barriers, our team developed Signs of Safety, a Deaf-accessible therapy toolkit for treating AUD and PTSD.

We are conducting a nationwide, virtual clinical trial to compare (1) Signs of Safety with (2) treatment as usual and (3) a no treatment control, to collect data on clinical outcomes, and to explore potential mediators and moderators of outcome. *See below for more information!*



Research Opportunity!

 <p>Center for Deaf Empowerment and Recovery</p>	 <p>UMass Chan MEDICAL SCHOOL</p>	<p>IRB STUD00001149</p>
<p>In the past month, have you experienced <u>trauma-related stress</u> and <u>alcohol use</u>?</p> <p><i>If YES, this study may be right for you!</i></p>  		
<p><u>Who can join?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing • Fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) • 18 years and older • Alcohol use in the past month • Trauma-related stress in the past month 	<p><u>Possible benefits may include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 virtual counseling sessions at no cost • Learn skills to manage trauma and addiction • Earn \$\$ for completing 5 online surveys throughout the course of the study 	
<p>Interested? Contact: signsofsafety@umassmed.edu</p>		



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services



Join our team as our: DEAF SKILLS TRAINER

\$18.35/hour | 40 hours/week | Monday-Friday | Hybrid/2-3 office days

Apply now if you love to:

- ✓ Do intakes with Deaf consumers.
- ✓ Provide skills training & peer counseling.
- ✓ Develop/review Independent Living Plans with consumers.
- ✓ Provide information and referral.
- ✓ Support/advocate for consumers & DHILS.
- ✓ Provide emergency intervention.
- ✓ Learn from in-service trainings and conferences.
- ✓ Work independently & as a team.
- ✓ Work with individuals with diverse disabilities & cultures.
- ✓ Complete consumer and service reports.
- ✓ Lead workshops/presentations.

Qualifications:

- ✓ High School/equivalent (GED)
- ✓ Bachelor Degree in health/human services, preferred; years of relevant experience may substitute.
- ✓ Able to drive within our service area.

Experience Required:

- ✓ ASL Fluency
- ✓ Minimum 2 years Deaf/Hard of Hearing services relevant work experience, OR Deaf/Hard of Hearing community involvement.
- ✓ Computer skills: Microsoft Office & database reporting.

BENEFITS

Sign-on Bonus: *\$250
(*after 90-day probationary period)

403(b) Retirement

PAID:

- Health & Dental Insurance
- Vacation & Sick Time; & 13 Holidays
- Parking & Mileage Reimbursement
- Life Insurance
- Long Term Disability

APPLY NOW



Apply and See More Info Here:

Full-Time DHILS Deaf Skills Trainer Position



Interested or Have Questions?

Email Emily Patton at:
epatton@centerlw.org

Center for Living & Working, Inc.
18 Chestnut Street Suite 540
Worcester, MA 01608
Website: www.centerlw.org

VP: (508) 762-1164
Voice: (508) 798-0350
TTY: (508) 755-1003

<https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking>



Celebrate

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Honors the contributions of all Black people from U.S. history, from enslaved people brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today.



1926: started in the United States as *Negro History Week*.



Why is it Celebrated in February?

Two people who helped end slavery have birthdays in February: **Frederick Douglass**, an abolitionist (someone who wanted to end slavery), and former U.S. president **Abraham Lincoln**.

What do the different colors mean?



- **Black** - Represents the people.
- **Red** - Symbolizes the blood of innocent Black lives that has been shed throughout history.
- **Yellow** - Stands for optimism, justice and equality for everyone.
- **Green** - Symbolizes Africa's rich greenery and other natural resources.

Looking to share information with your d/D/HH child?

See link for more about: National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA), Black ASL content in social media, Black Lives Matter, and recent stories, accomplishments and recognitions.

<https://dcmp.org/learn/366-black-deaf-culture-through-the-lens-of-history>



Get Ready for the 2025 Tax Filing Season



Do these things *now* to get ready to file your 2024 taxes:

Go to [IRS.gov/account](https://www.irs.gov/account):

- Setup an account *or* open your account.
- Check your most recent tax return.
- Get transcripts with wage and income records.
- Make payments or change payment plans.
- Check the status of your refund while it's processed.



Find and organize your tax records:

- 1099 forms [from banks, unemployment, pension, retirement plans, dividends, annuities]
- W-2 forms [if working] and any IRS or other agency letters

Make sure you've withheld enough tax

- Change how much money is taken out of your pay.
 - *Fill out a new W-4 with your employer.*
- You might avoid a tax bill and/or keep more money each payday.



Use direct deposit to get your tax refund faster

- Get your routing and account number by signing into your online banking account or contacting your bank.



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

FEBRUARY Awareness

2/8

NATIONAL KITE FLYING DAY

- Explore kite flying and making - fly a kite or attend a festival.
- Kites date back to China in 470 B.C.
- Early kites were made out of bamboo, or sturdy reeds with leaves, silk, or paper as sails. Vines or braided fibers were used as lines or strings.
- First used as tools but later for ceremonial reasons as well - sending messages to heaven or lifting offerings to the gods, and more.

2/14

VALENTINE'S DAY

- First connected with romantic love during the High Middle Ages (1000 - 1300).
- Later it became an occasion for people to express their love for each other with flowers, candy, and Valentine cards.
- **Esther Howland** was the 1st to design and manufacture valentine cards in **Worcester, Massachusetts**.

2/17

PRESIDENT'S DAY

- A federal holiday celebrated the 3rd Monday in February.
- February is the birth month of the country's 2 most famous presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.



2/27

NATIONAL POLAR BEAR DAY

- Polar bears can grow up to 9 feet tall and weigh 1400 pounds.
- They have large, slightly webbed front paws to paddle as they swim.
- They can swim hundreds of miles from land. Sometimes floating on ice sheets.
- A polar bear's skin is actually black!



2/28

NATIONAL CHOCOLATE SOUFFLÉ DAY

- Soufflé comes from the French verb "souffler", which means "to puff up".
- It's a lightly baked cake made with egg yolks and beaten egg whites combined with other ingredients to make either a savory main dish or a sweet dessert.



Research Internship for Deaf or Hard of Hearing College Students

Application

Deadline:

April 1, 2025

Questions:

audiology.research@childrens.harvard.edu

Through a year-long internship, the Audiology Research Lab at Boston Children's Hospital seeks to spark interest in talented young adults with hearing differences to become actively involved in Deaf and Hard of Hearing research.

Interns will gain exposure to the clinical research process at an academic medical center, contribute meaningfully to active audiological research studies, and have the opportunity to present their collaborative work at an academic research conference.

The internship is full-time (in-person in Waltham, MA) for the first 2-months (June-July) followed by part-time (remote) during the academic year (September-May).

Learn more and apply here:



Made possible by the generous support of

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Boston Children's Hospital

Where the world comes for answers

Worcester Parent Guide to Community Resources

[CLICK HERE FOR ENGLISH GUIDE](#)



UPDATED: Therapists for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Directory

Click here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mRNQIKYYNjM4vYpRX7OECQkiW-PQlu62/view?usp=sharing>



MISSED A *WHAT'S UP* NEWSLETTER?

Past issues of newsletters are on our website!

VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.CENTERLW.ORG/2022/07/WHATS-UP-NEWSLETTER/](https://www.centerlw.org/2022/07/whats-up-newsletter/)

Questions? Contact your Skills Trainer

Joan Philip	DHILS Director	508-762-1165 (VP)
Denise Paro	DHILS Administrative Assistant	508-556-1600 (VP)
Ellen Perkins	DHILS Asst. Manager/Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer	508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP)
Deanna Emberley-Handricken	Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)	508-762-1021 (VP)
Rosemary Moreira	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1166 (VP)
Vacant	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1350 (VP)
Kim White	Staff Interpreter	508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP)

Contact Us!

Center for Living & Working, Inc.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services Department

Videophone: 508-762-1164

TTY: 508-755-1003

www.CenterLW.org



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services



CLW: <https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking>

DHILS Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/469192334303776>