

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

## The Alliance News

Issue #106

February 2021



### Highlighting African-Americans With Disabilities In Honor Of Black History Month

Harriet Tubman

Fannie Lou Hamer

Maya Angelou

Johnnie Lacey

Wilma Rudolph

Harry Belafonte

Whoopi Goldberg

Haben Girma

Learn more about famous African-Americans with disabilities [here](#) and [here](#).

### Our Vision

Our vision is for self-advocates to work together to get the support we need and to live the life we want in the community.

### Our Mission

Our mission is to speak up for ourselves and each other while working together to make changes in our communities and in Illinois.



Illinois Council on  
Developmental  
Disabilities

In partnership with the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. This communication is supported in part by grant number CFDA 93.630 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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Website: [www.selfadvocacyalliance.org](http://www.selfadvocacyalliance.org)

Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

## WE NEED YOU! TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Contribute to The Alliance newsletter each month. Share your ideas, hopes, dreams, success stories and challenges with The Alliance. You can submit an article, a poem, a piece of artwork, photography, write a column, or ask a question.

Let us know if you have any questions. Submit your content to [info@selfadvocacyalliance.org](mailto:info@selfadvocacyalliance.org).

### ICDD Seeks Public Comment on 2022-2026 State Plan



The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD) is seeking public comment on the draft goals and objectives for its 2022-2026 State Plan. This is an opportunity for the public to provide input on the activities and policy work that we will conduct over the next five years. Anyone interested in disability issues in Illinois — including self-advocates, family members of people with developmental disabilities (DD), service providers, and others — can participate and share their ideas. **The deadline to provide comments is March 29, 2021.**

#### About the State Plan

Every five years, DD Councils develop a state plan with public input and in accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. The state plan guides our work in funding initiatives and engaging in public policy to help communities across Illinois build their capacity to support and include people with DD in all areas of life. The draft goals and objectives are the culmination of ICDD input session and survey feedback.

Continued on next page

## How to Provide Comments

You can provide comments on the draft goals and objectives by completing our online public comment form. When providing comments, you can respond to just one goal or objective, you can respond to several of them, or all of them. Your feedback is important to us.

Here are a few questions to consider for each goal and objective:

1. How do the issues in the goal or objective impact your daily life?
2. Is there an issue in the goal or objective that you would like to see rioritized over other issues?
3. Is there an issue that is missing from these goals and objectives?

Public comments on the state plan are anonymous, and individual responses will not be shared publicly.

**Click Here >>>>[VISIT THE ICDD 2022 - 2026 STATE PLAN & SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENT](#)**

**NOTE: If you need support in submitting a public comment, please let The Alliance know.**



What Does Deaf Mean?

Watch [this video](#) to learn more!

Know someone who wants to learn more about Deaf people? ASL students, teachers or coworkers of Deaf people, or anyone who is curious can learn what it means to be Deaf and how to interact with Deaf people with [Deaf 101](#) – a free, online course offered by NDC (National Deaf Center).



## Join Our First-Ever Anti-Racism Training!

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

1 - 2:30pm Central Time

Register by clicking [here](#).

The Arc of Illinois and Going Home Coalition will lead a plain language presentation about what is racism, how we can make sure we are doing our part to practice anti-racism and what it means to be an ally.

Speaker: Timotheus "T.J." Gordon, Jr. is a Research Assistant at UIC's Institute of Disability and Human Development, writer, and Autistic self-advocate in Chicago. He is also a co-founder of Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition, a group consisting of people of color with disabilities in the Chicagoland area who promote disability acceptance and self-advocacy in marginalized communities.

### Staying Safe: Self-Advocacy



This video is part 3 of 17 in the VALID 'Staying Safe' Freedom from Abuse & Neglect Project. It has information about Empowerment and Self Advocacy. Learn about the project [here](#).

Check out the video [here](#).



## SARTAC Zoom Meetings

12noon Central Time (in Illinois)

Join on computer, tablet or smartphone

<https://zoom.us/j/324815633> or call 1-929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 324 815 633



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February 15 - Monday

**Marriage Penalty**

**How do we get other disability groups to CARE about this issue?**



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February 18 - Thursday

**Our work to pass a new law: the Sex Education Act for People with DD**



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February 22 - Monday

**Speak Up! Tell us ways to Address Unfair Treatment in health Care**



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February 25 - Thursday

**Legislative Work by Self-Advocates in Washington State**



## **“Let’s Learn About the AALP (Alliance Ambassador Leadership Program)” Webinar Recording**

Recorded Live on Wednesday, January 27, 2021

View the recording [here](#)

Want to know how you can support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in learning self-advocacy, leadership, and public speaking skills? Learn about the AALP!

Developed in 2016, the AALP is a six (6) section format of small group training, one-on-one mentoring, and independent study. It can be done at an agency/organization or in the community. The sections include Introduction to the AALP; Ambassador 101; Research and Using Technology; Planning Meetings and Events; Public Speaking; Community, State, and Federal Advocacy; and Graduation.

If you are interested in signing up for the AALP Facilitator Training, please email Tara Ahern, The Alliance's Project Director, at [tara.advocacy@gmail.com](mailto:tara.advocacy@gmail.com).



**SelfAdvocateNet**

**Our Voice. Our Strength**

The Self Advocate Net website’s was made by self-advocates with DiversAbilities for self-advocates and their supporters worldwide. The purpose of our site is to help Self Advocates to “learn about their rights to equality opportunities” to inclusion in our local communities and around the world. We want the website to be a voice for what is important and collective resource’s for everything a Self Advocate may want. Our vision is to break down barriers that affect “self advocates to voice” their concerns and show society “our strength”. Check us out [here](#).



February 16 and 18, 2021 at 2pm  
Topic: WOW's Got Talent!  
Share your talents with us

February 23 and 25, 2021 at 2pm  
Topic: Arts of Life  
Speakers: Meet Artists from the Arts of Life Studios

March 2 and 4, 2021 at 2pm  
Topic: Learn tips and tricks for Zoom Facebook and Messenger  
Speakers: WOW team tech guys Richard, Chuy and Da Wen

March 9 and 11, 2021 at 2pm  
Topic: Vision Board Activity  
Speakers: NDI money presenters

March 16 and 18, 2021 at 2pm  
Topic: Self Advocacy at the state, local and federal level  
Speakers: Going Home Coalition leaders

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81069446373>

Dial by your location  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
Meeting ID: 810 6944 6373



## **Purchase of Assistive Technology Consumer Stipend Program**

The Arc of Illinois, through a grant from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, administers the Consumer Stipend Program and distributes consumer stipend funds to enable people with developmental disabilities and their family members to attend conferences of their choice that are directly related to developmental disability issues.

Due to the pandemic, there is a need for trainings, important meetings and conferences to be virtual. This program will now allow stipends to pay for the assistive technology needed to attend virtual events.

The application is for individuals with developmental disabilities and families to apply for technology needed to stay connected in these difficult and unprecedented times.

Learn more by clicking [here](#).

## **Illinois Department of Human Services' (IDHS) Sex Education Curriculum Webpage**

Check out the IDHS Sex Education Curriculum webpage [here](#). It contains information about Public Act 101-0506, reviewed curriculum, fact sheets, and much more! The Alliance and self-advocates have been very involved in this process.





## **Save the Date for Going Home Coalition Virtual Regional Meetings!**

The Arc of Illinois and The Going Home Coalition are hosting Virtual Regional Meetings for Quad-Cities and Central Illinois area self-advocates, families, community service providers and other allies to discuss community living.

We will be talking about what we're advocating for in this spring session & sharing stories about what living in the community means.

Speakers will include advocates from KCCDD, Community Choices, Individual Advocacy Group (IAG), Mosaic and more!

Quad-Cities Regional Meeting  
Thursday, February 25: 12 - 1:30 PM

[Register Here!](#)

Rockford Regional Meeting  
Friday, February 26: 5-6 PM

[Register Here!](#)

Central Illinois Regional Meeting  
Wednesday, March 3: 2-3:30 PM

[Register Here!](#)

The Going Home Advocacy Day is developed under an investment from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD)