

## Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

# The Alliance News

Issue #99

July 2020



Americans with Disabilities Act

### Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the ADA!

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law on July 26, 1990. It is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

Celebrate the ADA in July and throughout the year. Learn more at <https://www.adaanniversary.org/home>.

### 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

This newsletter was developed under an investment of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



**Statement on Racial Justice from the  
Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, Inc.  
June 26, 2020**

We, the board of directors and staff of the Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance, are saddened and outraged with the recent and ongoing senseless deaths of unarmed black men and women. We recognize Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, Ahmaud Arbery, Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, and many others.

We stand by peace and justice. We are all in this together. Let us all call on decision makers to figure out how we got to this point. Change has to start at the top.

Black lives matter. Our lives matter. They didn't have to wrestle George Floyd to the ground and put knees on his neck.

Enough's enough.

We hold the police accountable by speaking up and speaking out and saying 'we demand justice'!

We need justice for black people. Hire black people, advocate for more funding for schools, special education and jobs.

We demand that our voices be heard! We need to voice our needs and wants to legislators and companies. We encourage people with disabilities to learn about the power of self advocacy.

We at the Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance hereby reaffirm our commitment, energy and intent to work in collaboration with our Alliance partners and those we serve to actively fight against racism and oppression. We commit to actively support, empower and include diverse people of color voices in our work to advocate for a more inclusive society.

#BlackLivesMatter, #saytheirnames

In Solidarity,

Tavarus Wesley- Board Chair, Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

James Cansler- Board Vice Chair, Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

Tara Ahern - Project Director, Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



In partnership with the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. This project was supported, in part by grant numbers 19/2001ILSCDD-02, 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.

## **What Self-Advocates Want to Know About the Reopening of Community Day Services (CDS) July 1, 2020**

On June 9, 2020 Division of Developmental Disabilities Director Allison Stark announced that Community Day Services (CDS) programs may reopen September 1, 2020 if Illinois continues to meet identified goals in the Restore Illinois Phase process.

Many self-advocates have shared that they are not receiving information about the reopening of their CDS programs, and they would like to advocate for themselves to learn more. This resource serves as a guide to help self-advocates “speak up and speak out” to ask the questions and get the information that is important to them.

### **Using the resource is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3 ... and 4!**

**1. Pick out the questions that are important to you!** The questions can include those listed in the sections below or come up with your own questions.

#### **Returning to CDS**

- What if I don't want to go back to CDS? Can I do CDS on Zoom or on another form of technology?
- Will all participants come back at the same time?
- Can I come back part time or do I have to attend full time?
- How will transportation work, especially for people who ride vans and busses?
- Will the start and end time change?
- Will the daily schedule at CDS change?

**Staying Safe at CDS**

- What happens if someone at CDS program tests positive for COVID-19?
- Will everyone at CDS be required to wear facemasks?
- Will everyone at CDS have their temperatures taken before entering the building?
- How often will frequently touched surfaces be cleaned and disinfected? Who will do the cleaning?
- How will good handwashing occur? What happens if self-advocates or staff don't comply?

**Social Distancing at CDS**

- How will emergency drills be practiced?
- How will breaks and lunchtime be handled?
- How will social distancing happen in the following areas:
  - Hallways
  - Dining room
  - Break room
  - Classrooms
  - Work areas
  - Restrooms
  - Computer lab
  - Gym area
  - Management offices
  - Smoking area

**Earning Money at CDS**

- Will there be piece work?
- Can I return to my job - food service, custodial, office work, supported employment, etc.?

**Food at CDS**

- Will vending machines be open to use?
- How will breaks and lunchtime be handled?
- Will the kitchen be open to prepare and sell food for lunch?

**2. Decide who you want to ask.** You can ask these questions of

- Agency/Organization Executive Director or President
- CDS Director

**3. Decide how you want to ask the questions.** You can ask these

questions by

- Making a phone call
- Writing and sending a letter
- Sending an email
- Ask for a meeting

**4. Ask how the agency/organization is preparing for CDS re-opening.** You can ask if

- There is a committee or workgroup working on preparing for CDS re-opening.
- There is a self-advocate or self-advocates on the committee or workgroup.
- You can be part of a committee or workgroup to help prepare for CDS re-opening.

**If you are going to plan for us to return to CDS, we need to be part of developing and reviewing the plan. Our voices are important and need to be heard. Remember, Nothing About Us Without Us!**

**A Message of Thanks from the Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, Inc.** Thank you to the self-advocates who participated in the development of this resource. Continue to speak up and speak out!



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**Alliance**



Illinois Council on  
**Developmental  
Disabilities**

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## **ICDD (Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities) 5-Year State Plan Public Survey**

The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD) is looking closely at Illinois and the needs of every person with a developmental disability to be able to live a healthy and happy life in their community. The Council's activities and funding opportunities are guided by our [current 5-Year State Plan](#) (YSP).

We are looking ahead to what should be in our next 5-YSP which begins in the fall of 2021. You are invited to share your thoughts by taking a [short survey](#) (5 minutes).

If you need an alternative format, email us at [ICDDinfo@illinois.gov](mailto:ICDDinfo@illinois.gov) or call 1-217-782-9696.

The Illinois Partners in Policymaking® program is in its 3rd year and Class 3 participants are preparing to graduate in August 2020. The current Partners program is lead by High Impact Mission Based Consulting & Training via a three year grant with ICDD (Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities). ICDD is determined to continue providing this exceptional program and is actively recruiting participants for Class 4 and beyond.



**Illinois Partners  
in Policymaking®**

Are you interested in being part of Class 4? If so, please complete the [IL Partners in Policymaking Class 4 Interest Form](#) and learn more about Partners in Policymaking. By indicating your interest, Council staff will ensure you are contacted once the application for Class 4 opens.

**Voting, Advocacy and YOU!**  
**Spring 2020 Virtual Training with The Arc of Illinois, Equip for Equality, and the Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance**  
**March 15 - 19, 2020**



PowerPoint presentations and recordings can be accessed by clicking the links:

**Monday, June 15, 2020**

"Welcome to Spring 2020 Virtual Training"

"Self-Advocacy 101"

Presented by The Alliance

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

[Recording](#) – Password: 0P\$v0R+.

**Tuesday, June 16, 2020**

"How Voting Fits Into Your Life"

"Voter Rights and Responsibilities"

Presented by The Alliance

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

[Recording](#) – Password: 3j=D!jq4

**Wednesday, June 17, 2020**

"Ways to Learn About Candidates and Issues"

"Census 2020"

Presented by The Arc of Illinois

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

[Recording](#) – Password: 6P\$%?k52



**Thursday, June 18, 2020**

“How Do You Register and Vote”

“How to Get Around Voting Problems”

Presented by Equip for Equality

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

[Recording](#) – Password: 2t#\$2&D+

**Friday, June 19, 2020**

“How a Bill Becomes a Law”

“Spring 2020 Virtual Training Wrap Up”

Presented by The Arc of Illinois

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

[Recording](#) – Password: 6u.^53y5



GREATER > TOGETHER

**ADA 25 Advancing Leadership is seeking new Members to join the Members Network. Apply today to join as a new Member!**

**Applications are now OPEN – check out the [Application Link!](#)**

**LEAD WITH POWER AND INFLUENCE**

Are you ready to lead with power and influence by serving on a nonprofit board, public board, or making change at your company, but just need a platform to move your leadership plans forward? Join ADA 25 Advancing Leadership to access exclusive leadership opportunities and an empowering network of leaders.

Members are positive disrupters who are leading with their disability identity shaping a more inclusive, just, and equitable society.

For questions regarding this opportunity, contact Risa Jaz Rifkind, [rrifkind@ada25advancingleadership.org](mailto:rrifkind@ada25advancingleadership.org) or 312-994-4215.

A PROGRAM BY THE KELSEY

# Raise the Roof:

**A Training Program  
for Leaders with Disabilities to  
Advance Housing**

No previous housing knowledge is necessary.



WWW.THEKELSEY.ORG



## **Raise the Roof: A Training Program for Leaders with Disabilities to Advance Housing**

United States based adult advocates with disabilities to learn and become more effective in changing housing policy, early career professionals that would like to build credentials in housing, or others who are curious about how housing gets built. This program will cover 6 modules via Zoom (video conference), our welcome meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2020 and a closing celebration on November 18, 2020. Application deadline is Sunday, July 26, 2020 at 11:59pm. No previous housing knowledge is necessary.

<https://www.thekelsey.org/raisetherooft>



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