

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

The Alliance News

Issue #128

December 2022



A Message from Adam Wisner, The Alliance's Project Director



As I look back on 2022, I am thankful for many things:

- for self-advocates who speak up and speak out, sharing about the things that are important to them.
- for disability service agencies and others who have welcomed The Alliance's messages and presentations about self-advocacy.
- for The Alliance's Board of Directors who keep us moving in the direction of improving self-advocacy in the disability community.
- for the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD) for their support in growing self-advocacy in new directions throughout Illinois.

I look forward to seeing where 2023 takes us!

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.



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.

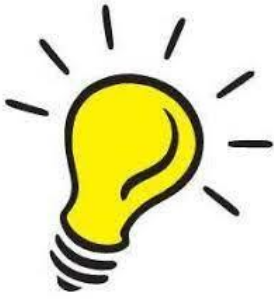
Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

P.O. Box 403 Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034

Email: info@selfadvocacyalliance.org

Website: www.selfadvocacyalliance.org

Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



**Got an idea for a presentation?
We want to know about it!**

Send your idea to info@selfadvocacyalliance.org.

Alliance Membership Webinar!

Interested in starting a self-advocacy group? Wanting to reinvigorate your current group? Join us and learn about joining or re-signing as an Alliance member group chapter!

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

10am Central Time

Click [here](#) to join.

Membership will look a bit different during this grant cycle. During our time together, we will discuss what services The Alliance will offer to self-advocacy groups, what expectations for member group chapters will be and answer your questions!



How Self Advocates Can Welcome People From All Backgrounds

This video is about respect. We want people with disabilities to know that they belong to self-advocacy no matter who they are. We need to look at how we are welcoming people from all backgrounds and who speak any language. This can be hard to discuss. Let's begin by discussing the word culture. Video created by Green Mountain Self-Advocates with funding from the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion at the University of Vermont. Click [here](#) to watch the video.



National Disability Institute (NDI) has prepared new tools to help individuals with disabilities, family members and those who provide support make informed decisions while using financial service products. These resources are available as downloadable and accessible PDFs and sharing is encouraged.

The newest Financial Wellness tools include:

Comparison Chart: *Types of Cards to Use for Purchases*

Lists debit, credit and prepaid card definitions, fees, ATM availability, bill paying and spending limits.

Decision Tree (Illustrated): *What Card Should I Use?*

Provides guidance on debit or credit card options when purchasing gifts, appliances, gas, etc.

Comparison Chart: *Checking, Savings and ABLE Accounts* –

Lists where to open; who can open; fees; deposit limits; annual maximum deposit limits; maximum balance limits; deposit hold time; FDIC status; Medicaid Payback; countable resource status for SSI, FAFSA, HUD, SNAP, Medicaid; countable income status; and options for trust, 529 college savings and rollover accounts.

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Decision Tree (Illustrated): [Types of Accounts](#)

Provides guidance on how checking, savings and ABLE accounts can best meet financial needs.

Quick Reference Guide: [The Path to Financial Wellness for People with Disabilities](#)

Provides an overview on how financial wellness and employment programs such as customized employment and guided group discovery are interconnected to support an individual in achieving their financial goals.

Additional resources of interest related to this project include:

- **Comparison Chart: [Comparison of Social Security Administration Programs \(SSI and SSDI\)](#)**
- **Comparison Chart: [Employment at a Glance – Customized, Supported, Competitive employment](#)**
- **[Webinar Archives and Corresponding Blogs](#)** – Includes topics on an array of financial education, financial capability and financial stability strategies featuring collaboration with partners and disability organizations.



in partnership with

**Get weekly financial wellness tips on your phone!**

Sign up today for the Illinois Money Wellness text message campaign to get helpful money tips.

Use the [sign-up form](#) or text MONEY to 833-313-0298.



National Disability Institute (NDI) is excited to announce a new series of video stories about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their individual journeys towards financial health and wellbeing.

The series is part of the Financial Wellness for People with Disabilities investment from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. Over the last three years, more than 10,000 individuals with disabilities and family members have participated in at least one hour of financial wellness training in basic money topics, housing, ABLE accounts, benefits planning, guardianship, credit and more.

Meet [William Bedford](#) of Chicago. When his mom told him about the Financial Wellness classes, and how he could start building his own credit, they worked together to do just that. Today he's the proud owner of his own car. Purchasing a car is just the beginning of William's Financial Wellness journey.

Meet [Tyson Bedford](#) of Geneseo, Illinois. Tyson is a self-advocate who not only attended a training but became a financial wellness trainer himself. Hear his story and how far he's come in his financial wellness journey.

Meet [Caroline O'Hara](#), an outgoing young entrepreneur from Clarendon Hills, Illinois, who's not afraid of anything – including making her own money. She took the financial wellness classes to learn skills for operating her micro-business and managing her own money, including how to spend it on things she really enjoys.

The Alliance is on YouTube!
Find and subscribe by searching for
Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance





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

[Click Here](#) for handouts shared during Meetings



Thursday, December 15 – Internet Scams

What are the Top Scams to watch out for online? What can you do if someone is scamming you on the internet? Don't let them ruin your life.



Thursday, December 22 – New Rules for Provider Agencies

The rules agencies need to follow are called the HCBS Settings Rules. The deadline for states to comply with these federal rules is March 2023. Learn how you can teach self-advocates about these rules.



Thursday, December 29 - Self-Advocacy New Year Resolutions

Tell us about your self-advocacy group's biggest accomplishments in 2022. Then let's share our dreams and goals for self-advocacy for 2023. We could all use a fresh start! Let's support each other.

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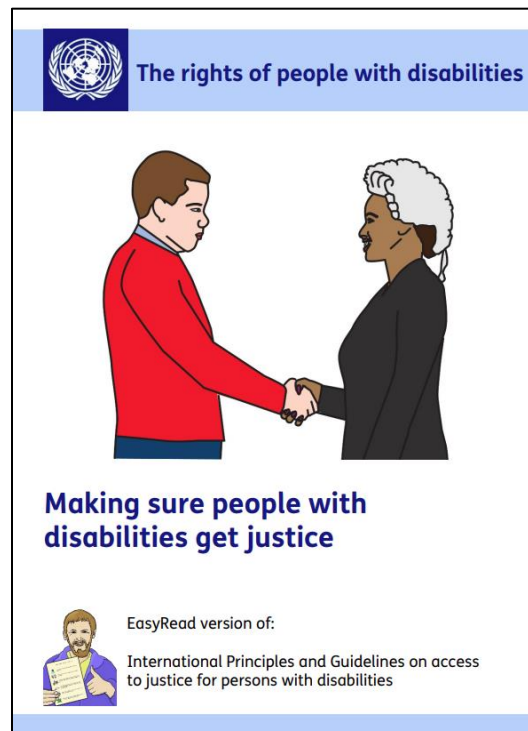


Thursday, January 12 - What is Leadership?

Leadership is about what we do. It's not about the role we are in. For example, our groups have presidents and chairs. Leadership is not about your title but really about what actions you take when you are in that job to create change.

Making Sure People with Disabilities Get Justice

Check out this [EasyRead version of the International Principles and Guidelines on access to justice for persons with disabilities](#)



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 send an article, a poem, a piece of artwork, photography, write a column, or ask a question. Send your content to info@selfadvocacyalliance.org.



Volunteers Needed to help plan LGBTQ+ Support Group curriculum

Looking for LGBTQ+ individuals to help plan curriculum for two new virtual empowerment groups! One group will focus on support for autistic and neurodiverse LGBTQ+ adults. The second will focus on LGBTQ+ adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities.



Volunteer Requirements

- Must be a member of the LGBTQ+ community
- Identifying as neurodiverse, autistic or having an intellectual/developmental disability is preferred, but not required
- Volunteers will need to be available for group meetings through zoom twice a month and complete an additional 1-2 hours of work per week outside of meetings
- Project will start mid-January, 2023



Interested in helping? Have questions?

Contact Hannah Sheets: 217-418-8359 or hannah@communitychoicesinc.org

