



dis**ABILITY**
LINK
the center for rights & resources

**Annual Report
FY 2019**



Board Members



Picture Description: Left to right: Danny Housley, Tracey Strokes, Dave Zilles, Stacey Ramirez, Shikha Desai, Kevin Stringfellow, Gary English, Kim Gibson, Katherine Seelman, Leisa Williams, Rosemary Graham, Bridgette Suttle

Who We Are

We are the Center for Independent Living that serves the Metro Atlanta Area. We provide services to people in the following counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dekalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton and Rockdale.

Our Mission

disABILITY LINK is an organization led by and for people with disabilities and promotes choice and full participation in community life.

Board of Directors Executive Officers

Board Chair

Danny Housley

Vice Chairman

Katherine D. Seelman, PhD

Treasurer -Kevin Stringfellow

Secretary- Rosemary Graham

Members at Large

Gary English

Terresa Ford

Stacey Ramirez

Vernitia Shannon

Tracey Stokes

Bridgette Suttle

Fast Facts

We partnered with AAPD and the Coca-Cola Foundation to provide 6 internships to college students with disabilities

We provided Information and Referral Services to over 5862 people

We supported 146 individuals in achieving increased independence in community based living

We provided 11,418 services to people with disabilities

We provided Vocational and Employment Services to over 924 individuals

We provided services to over 100 youth with disabilities through our summer and in-school "Empowering Our Youth" programs

Fast Facts

We partnered with GCDD to host leadership training and Advocacy Days at the Capital.

Staff

Executive Director – Kim Gibson
Assistant Director – Ken Mitchell

Program Managers/Supervisors

AT & Deaf/Blind IL Program Supervisor - Angela Williams
Contracted CPA- Larry Brown
Employment & Training Program Manager – Miriam DeJesus
Nursing Home Transition Program Manager – Renee Shakir
Office and I&R Lead Supervisor- Darnell Johnson
Personnel and Finance Director- Angelia White
Public Relations and Market Specialist -Lisa Parks

Staff (cont)

Computer Lab & Housing IL Specialist – Travis Evans
Custodial & Maintenance Specialist-Vibert Lawson
Disability Rights & Housing IL Lead Specialist – Margo Waters
Disability Rights & Peer Support Training Advocate-Linda Pogue
Disability Rights and Peer Support Trainer –Dustin Gibson
Employment & Training Specialist – Michelle Watkins
Health & Wellness/Resource Specialist – Juanita Anderson
ICWP Case Manager & Community IL Specialist – Demetrius Lemon
ICWP Case Manager & Community IL Specialist – Felix Eziakor
ICWP Case Manager & Employment Specialist – Katrina Parsons
Social Media Specialist – William Daniels
Volunteer & Administrative Specialist – James Turner
Youth Transitional Independent Living Specialist– Garrick Scott

We have had many interns and hosted many individuals from AARP that contribute to the success of our organization



Picture Description:
Katrina Parsons,
Miriam DeJesus &
Shikha Desai
standing next to each
other at
our annual job fair.

We participated in many events in the community. Some highlights include our Annual Job fair, Doggie Day events & providing outreach and support at the Atlanta Pride Festival.



Picture Description:
Georgia State University
students posing with a dog
At Doggie Day



Picture Description:
disABILITY LINK's GSU
Social Work intern Ava
Cotliar standing behind
disABILITY LINK's Display
table at the Atlanta
Pride Festival.



Picture Description: Dany Menard hosting our quarterly FREE CPR Training with staff and consumers

We were proud to host over 600 events at our office including peer support training classes, peer support groups, educational workshops, voting registrations, board trainings, volunteer trainings, and much, much more.



Picture Description: James Turner and consumers at a volunteer workshop



Picture Descriptions: photo of our Certified Peer Support Training Class



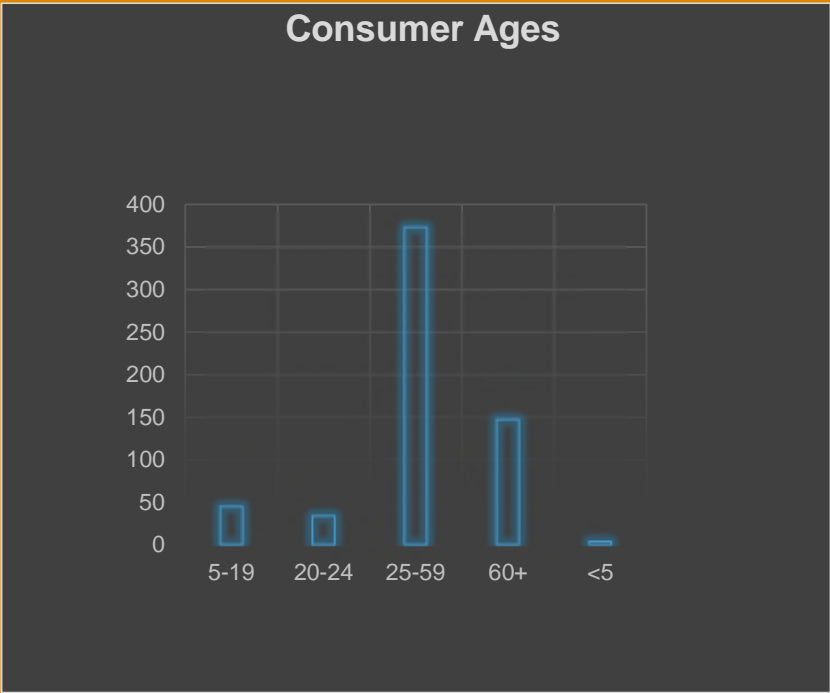
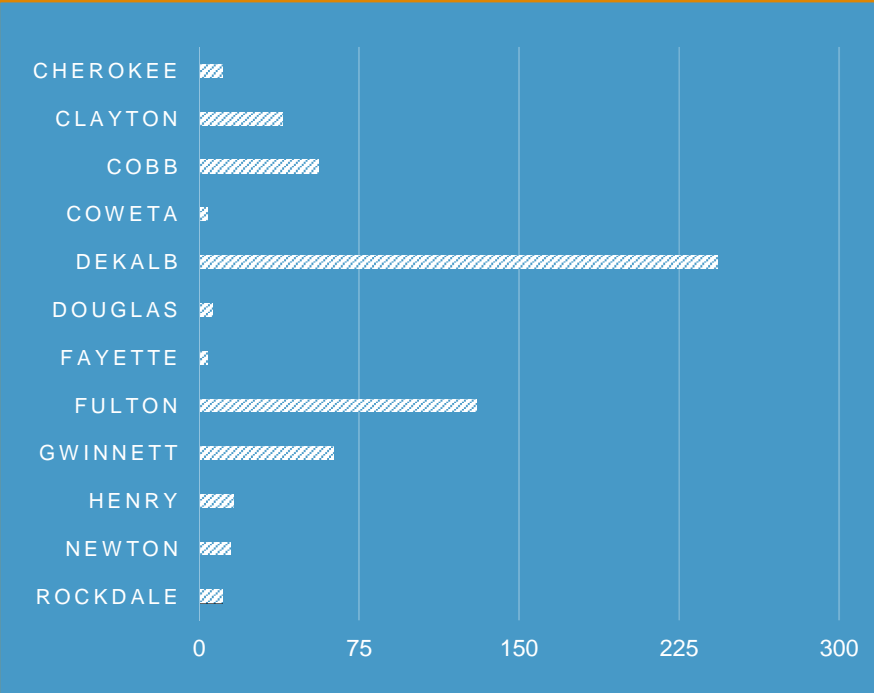
Picture Description: Angela Williams with her representative Michele Henson during legislative visits

FY 2019 Accomplishments

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| <p>Assisted more than 10 consumers in applying for home modifications and collaborated with partner organizations.</p> | <p>We were recognized as one of the leaders in Disability, Diversity, and Intersectionality for Centers for Independent Living</p> | <p>We hosted three interns from GSU-School of Social Work to working on their BSW and one working on their MSW.</p> |
| <p>We provided voter workshops and registration days to "REV UP" the Vote with over 100 individuals registering to vote.</p> | <p>Provide HUD 811, home buying classes, successfully integrated more than 25 people into the community</p> | <p>Our summer "Empowering our Youth" (EOY) Locating avenues of employment through peer support (LEAPS) graduated 19 students</p> |

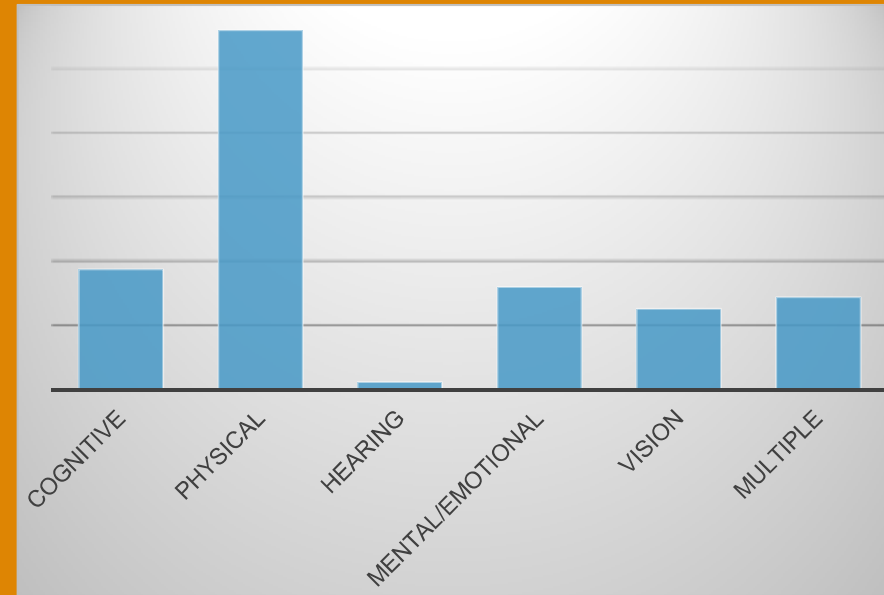
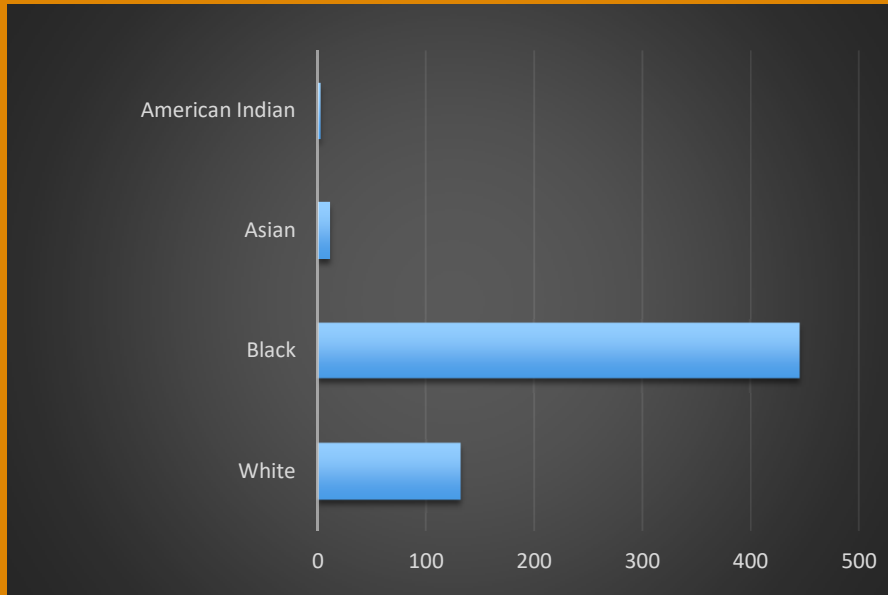
Consumers Served

disABILITY LINK serves twelve counties in the Metro Atlanta Area. We serve populations that range from young adults to senior citizens. We work to ensure that people with disabilities are in charge of their lives regardless of age or location in the region.



Consumers Served

Consumers are from a variety of cultural and disability backgrounds. We are always expanding our consumer base and increasing the diversity to ensure that all people in our area can receive services in the most accessible environment possible.



Disability Type

Success Story #1

A young adult had been having difficulty getting supports in order to do things in the community. He had applied for waiver services and attempted to obtain the services for a long time. The consumer began working with an IL Specialist. Through advocacy and peer support, the consumer was able to obtain the waiver services. Once he received the services, he was able to use the supports to go to school. He has been able to attend and recently, he received the highest grade in the class on a paper, and wrote an article for the school newspaper on Inclusive Post- Secondary Education. He reports all of this couldn't have been done without the support he received.

Success Story #2

One consumer has expressed her excitement and appreciation to disability LINK as she had her home modifications completed during the month of July. She had been placed on the waitlist a few years ago when she first started having trouble getting in/out of her shower as well as trouble getting up/down from her toilet. What started as discomfort and minor struggles to do daily hygiene task turned into a constant bout with pain. She turned to disABILITY LINK who helped her to navigate through the entire process while giving her encouragement not to lose hope. She learned different aspects through peer support, advocacy, and IL skills training on ADA compliance, how to fill out applications, advocating for herself with construction workers and other agencies. She stated that she was happy with her new bathroom design and is most of all happy she "can finally use it."

Our Community Partners

- AARP
- AMS vans
- Aging And Disability Resource Center
- Association of Program for Rural Independent Living
- Atlanta Housing Authority
- Atlanta Regional Commission
- National ADAPT
- Best For Less
- Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association
- Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund
- The CDC
- Center For Financial Independence And Innovation
- Center For Leadership In Disability
- Center For The Visually Impaired
- Christopher & Dana Reeves Foundation
- Coca-Cola Foundation
- Decatur Business Association
- DeKalb Chamber Of Commerce
- Disability Resource Group
- Disabled American Veterans
- Dress for Success
- EEOC
- FEMA
- Frazer Center
- Georgia Advocacy Office
- Georgia Council For The Blind
- Georgia DHS
- Georgia Department Of Labor
- GA Council on Developmental Disabilities

Our Community Partners

- GA Department of Community Affairs
- GLASS Library
- GA Mental Health Consumer Network
- GARRS
- Georgia State University
- GVRA
- Independent Living Research Utilization(ILRU)
- Just Us Blind Girls
- Kroger
- Metro Fair Housing Georgia
- MARTA
- Metropolitan Employment Network Of Atlanta
- National Council on Independent Living
- National Association Of Blind Veterans
- National Federation of the Blind of GA
- National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
- Pedestrians Educating Drivers
- People First Of Georgia
- RESPECT Institute
- Shepherd Center
- Social Security Administration
- The Georgia Department Of Community Health
- The Georgia Statewide Independent Living Council
- Toastmasters International
- Tools For Life
- University of Kansas
- Workforce Development

Contact Us

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Fax- 404-687-8298

Social Media



@disABILITY LINK

We are excited to announce that all of our classes held by disABILITY LINK are available through zoom.

Join by going to zoom.us and click on join meeting.

Meeting ID is 404-687-8890

