



disABILITY
LINK
the center for rights & resources

Annual Report
FY 2020



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Board Members



Picture Description: Executive Director and Board Members on Zoom. Top row: Kim Gibson, Katherine Seelman, Dave Zilles. Middle Row: Kevin Stringfellow, Etienne Davis, Stacey Ramirez. Bottom Row: Gary English, Vernitia Shannon, Danny Housley.

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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: Tracey Stokes

Treasurer: Kevin Stringfellow

Secretary: Rosemary Graham

Members at Large

Gary English

Katherine D. Seelman, PhD

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Fast Facts

We created a COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team (CPRT) in March to address areas impacted from COVID-19 assisting more than 149 individuals

Assisted over 900 individuals with disabilities in marginalized communities to register to vote, get to the polls, request absentee ballots, and check their voting status

We held youth transitional virtual classes using Zoom technology for youth who were suddenly isolated due to shelter at home. This impacted well over 150 students

We provided 13,053 services to people with disabilities

Relocated 13 individuals from an institution and nursing homes back into the community of their choice.

Provided over 1000 services related to the impact of COVID-19 including transportation, advocacy, IL skills training, Assistive technology, youth services and much more.

Fast Facts

Held our EOY LEAPS summer program and youth disABILITY LINK/AAPD summer internships with 11 graduates

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Staff

Executive Director – Kim Gibson
Assistant Director – Ken Mitchell
Finance Director-Joseph Bryant

Program Managers/Supervisors
Community IL Specialist – Renee Shakir
Employment & Training Program Manager – Miriam DeJesus
Independent Living Program Supervisor - Angela Williams
Office and I&R Lead Supervisor- Darnell Johnson
Marketing and Outreach IL Specialist-Lisa Parks
Youth and Diversity IL Lead Specialist-William Thomas

Note: IL=Independent Living

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Administrative Support Specialist- Kip Slade
Custodial & Maintenance Specialist-Vibert Lawson
Disability Rights, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion IL Specialist- Nina Colman
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 – Felix Eziakor
ICWP Case Manager & Employment Specialist – Katrina Parsons
Personnel Office and Finance- Felicia Banks
Social Media Specialist – William Daniels
Volunteer & Administrative Specialist – James Turner
Youth Transitional Independent Living Specialist- Garrick Scott

COVID Pandemic Response Team

Assistive Technology and Deaf-Blind IL Specialist- Jacqueline Lopez
Community Connector IL Specialist- Margaux Officer & Amanda French
Community Connector Independent Living Specialist and ICWP - Shikha Desai
Internet and Technology Specialist - Derrick Barnes
Voting and Inclusion Independent Living Specialist - Jamilah Shepard

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We participated and held many events in the community. Some highlights include our Annual Job fair, Doggie Day events & providing our Neighborhood outreach to distribute Face Masks, Personal care supplies, Voting information, and hand sanitizer



Picture Description: Nina Colman & Francis Ejezie sitting outside of disABILITY LINK's office with flyers & Free PPE supplies on a table for our Neighborhood Outreach

Picture Description: Picture of our Home Buyer Educational Workshop in disABILITY LINK's activity room with some participants on zoom



Picture Description: Two individuals from Enabledlives holding a disABILITY LINK backpack they won from a raffle at the Doggie Day event.

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Picture Description: James Turner at our Annual Family & Friends Picnic

We were proud to host over 800 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: Garrick Scott & Jamilah Shepard handing a student Assistive Technology needed for his classes



Picture Descriptions: Group photo of disABILITY LINK/AAPD Summer Interns Graduates



Picture Description: Staff and Consumers at our Cross-disABILITY Leadership Training and Advocacy at the Georgia Capitol



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FY 2020 Accomplishments

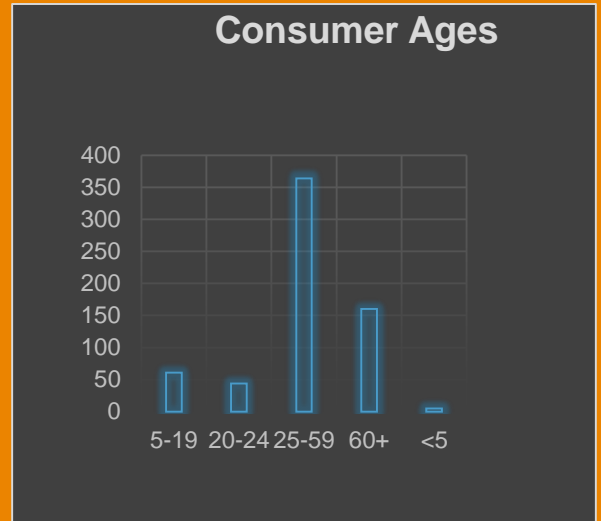
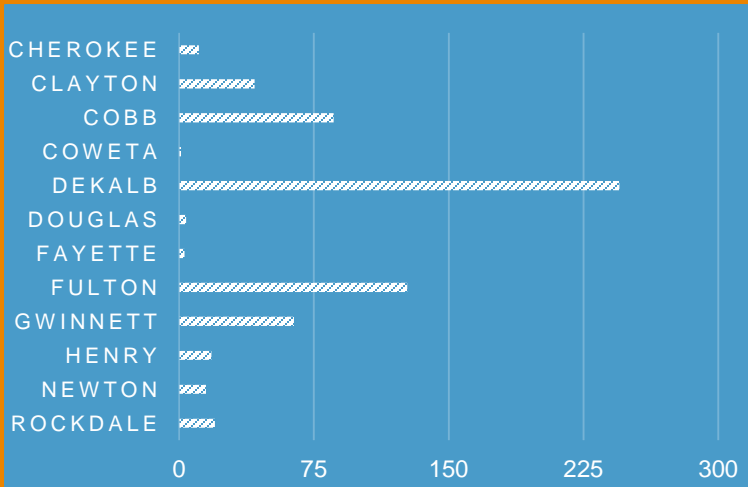
<p>We host peer support groups focused on disability, intersectionality and diversity including "Just Us Blind Girls", "Us Protecting Us", and LGBTQIAP++disability</p>	<p>We held our first Days of Advocacy-"Our Voices, Our Vote" leadership and advocacy training to take to different legislative days.</p>	<p>Hosted an in-person and virtual job fair for people with disabilities. Over 20 employers were present and several individuals offered jobs on the spot</p>
<p>We developed a Parent support group due to a collaboration between disABILITY LINK, Georgia Parent Support Network (CPT4Families), and Georgia State University Intern's project.</p>	<p>We were able to provide successful and substantial home modifications to 3 people and assistance with increased access in the home and community to over 35 people</p>	<p>We are a field site for social work, OT, and Education students with a primary selection of students interning are people with disabilities. This year we hosted 4 students</p>

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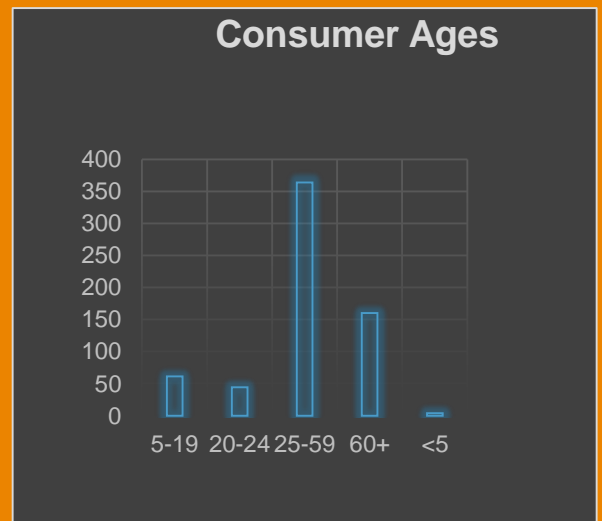
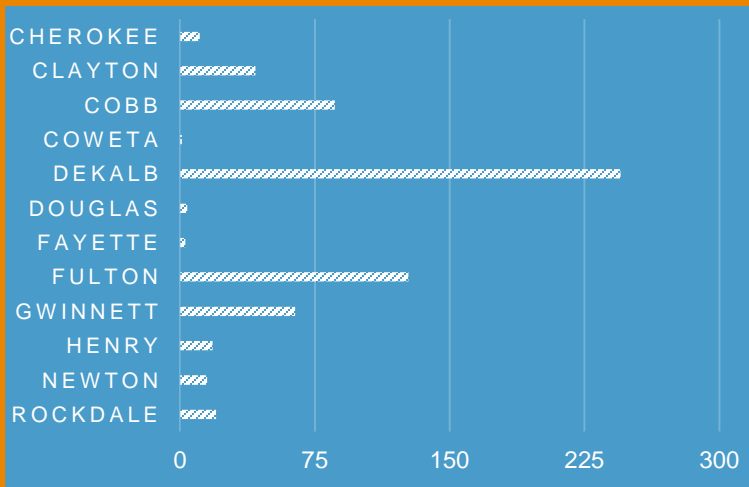
Consumers Served

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.



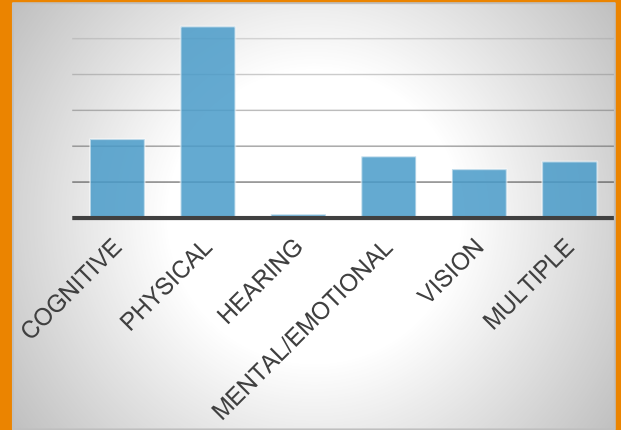
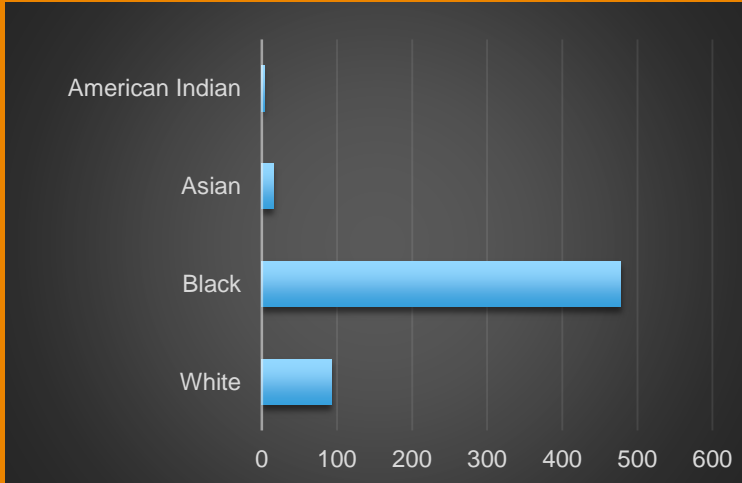
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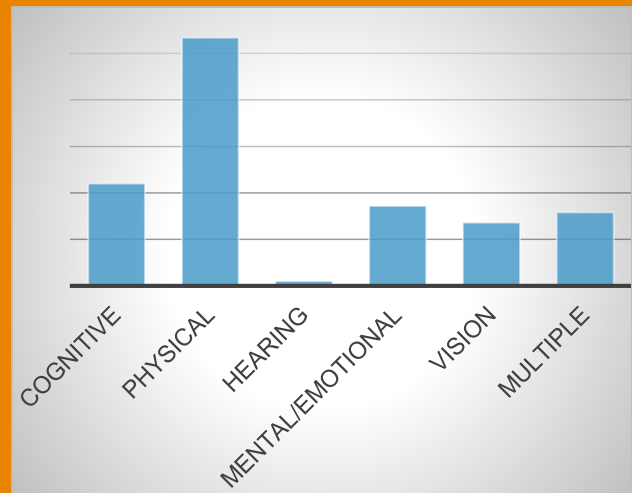
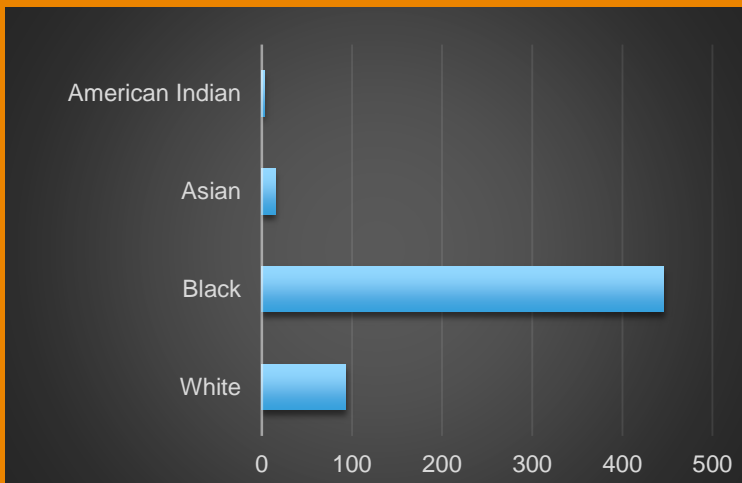
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Disability Type

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Disability Type

Success Story #1

A consumer came to the center looking for assistance with employment, specifically, the consumer wanted a vocation that could not just utilize their specific skillset but, provide 100% of the accommodations that would be required in order for him/her to succeed within the workforce. The consumer was provided with a number of resources that are available in house (Leaps, PC training, assistive technology) as well as those within the community and online. One worth mentioning that the consumer noted as extremely useful to them was, JAN (The Job Accommodation Network). The consumer reports that he/she is gainfully employed, is happy to be a contributing member within society and is now able to provide for their family.

Success Story #2

A consumer reached out because they were facing being homeless due to COVID-19 and the loss of household jobs. Working with the ILS on immediate impacts of obtaining rental assistance, the individual was able to pay their rent for two months. The individual reports being relieved, but will continue to work on goals to look at options in regards to housing.

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Success Story #3

disABILITY LINK provided supports to a consumer that was in the nursing home for a year. The consumer had several diagnosis and disabilities which forced them into the nursing home. Prior to going into the nursing home the consumer was homeless and had no supports in the community. Through the support of the ILS the consumer was able to move back into the community with supports including a mobile doctor to come to their home.

The consumer reports that with the support system in place, they have been doing extremely well. The consumer reports being able to meet with their mental health provider and mobile doctor regularly. Meeting with their doctor regularly helps the consumer to be monitor with taking their medication and getting medical care they need to stay healthy in the community and out of the nursing home.

The Consumer reports feeling very positive about life and looking to move forward with starting a support group for individuals that has mental health.

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- AARP
- ABC Law Centers
- Accessibility.com
- 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
- Enabled Living
- Faith Medical Services
- FEMA
- Frazer Center
- Georgia Advocacy Office
- Georgia DHS
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Our Community Partners

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- Georgia Parent Support Network (CPT4Families)
- GLASS Library
- GA Mental Health Consumer Network
- GARRS
- Georgia State University
- GVRA
- Independent Living Research Utilization(ILRU)
- Just Us Blind Girls
- Kennesaw State University
- Kroger
- Metro Fair Housing Georgia
- MARTA
- 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
- SHOWAbility
- Student Occupational Therapy Association (GSU)
- Social Security Administration
- The Georgia Department Of Community Health
- The Georgia Statewide Independent Living Council
- Tools For Life
- University of Kansas
- Waste Management Talent Acquisition
- Workforce Development

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1901 Montreal Road
Suite 102
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Voice- 404-687-8890
Video- 404-381-8117
GA Relay- 711
Fax- 404-687-8298

Social Media



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Join by going to zoom.us and click on join meeting.
Meeting ID is 404-687-8890 & Password is 1901



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