



disABILITY
LINK
the center for rights & resources

Annual Report FY 2021



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.

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

Etienne Davis

Gary English

Katherine D. Seelman, PhD

Stacey Ramirez

Vernitia Shannon

Bridgette Suttle

Leisa Williams

Dave Zilles

Fast Facts

Provided 1459 employment and vocational services to support individuals in gaining career skills to achieve successful employment outcomes

Assisted over 800 individuals with disabilities in marginalized communities to register to vote, get to the polls, request absentee ballots, and check their voting status

Provided 264 Youth Transition services to students in school and through our summer EOY LEAPS Program

We provided 25,298 services to people with disabilities

Assisted 12 plus consumers with visual impairments with learning keystrokes and bettering computer knowledge throughout the year

Provided over 2500 services related to the impact of COVID-19 including transportation, advocacy, IL skills training, Assistive technology, youth services and much more.

Fast Facts

Had 11 graduates from our EOY LEAPS summer program and 4 graduates through the disABILITY LINK/AAPD summer internship

Staff

Executive Director - Kim Gibson

Finance Director - Joseph Bryant

Program Managers/Supervisors

CPRT Operations Supervisor – Shikha Desai

Employment & ICWP Case Manager - Katrina Parsons

IL Program Coordinator - Tawanda Cargile

IL 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

Staff

Administrative Support Specialist- Bosede Yasin

Assistive Technology Deaf/Blind IL Specialist – Erica Chatman

Custodial & Maintenance Specialist - Vibert Lawson & Albert Gibson

Disability Rights, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion IL Specialist- Nina Colman

Disability Rights & Peer Support Training Advocate-Linda Pogue, Ken Mitchell

Disability Rights and Peer Support Trainer –Dustin Gibson

Employment and Career IL Specialist – Paloma Childs

Employment and Training Coordinator – Fran Durbin

Health & Wellness/Resource Specialist – Juanita Anderson

ICWP Case Manager & Community IL Specialist – Felix Eziakor

ICWP Case Manager & Employment Specialist – Katrina Parsons

Informational Technologies and Social Media Specialist – Jake Key, William Daniels

Personnel Office and Finance- Felicia Banks

Volunteer & Administrative Specialist – James Turner

Youth Transitional Independent Living Specialist– Garrick Scott

COVID Pandemic Response Team

Community Connector IL Specialist- Diane McKenna

Community Connector IL Specialist and MFP/NHT – Amanda French

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



Picture Description: Bosede Yasin and Kebrina Collier running one of our Outreach tables. Here they are distributing flyers, masks, and hand sanitizer

Picture Description: Juanita Anderson surrounded by consumers being honored on Good Morning America



Picture Description: Linda Pogue, Nina Colman, and Vibert Lawson surrounded by consumers at our annual Doggie Day Event

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: Albert Gibson stood next to a Qitek worker administering COVID tests



Picture Description: National Disability Voter Registration Drive, with Nina Colman and Jake Key



Picture Descriptions: Group photo of the CORE workers running the sign-up table for our Vaccine Drive



Picture Description: Photo of our Consumer Appreciation Party with Colleen Reynolds dancing after winning a raffle

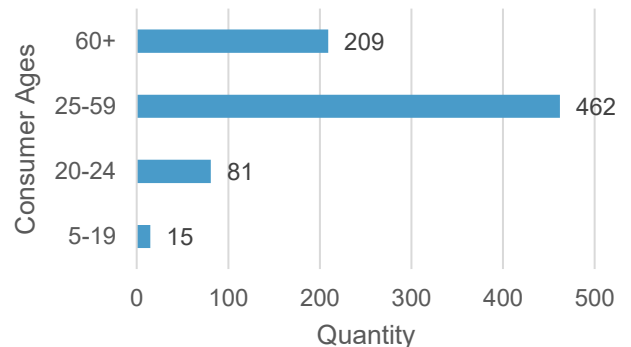
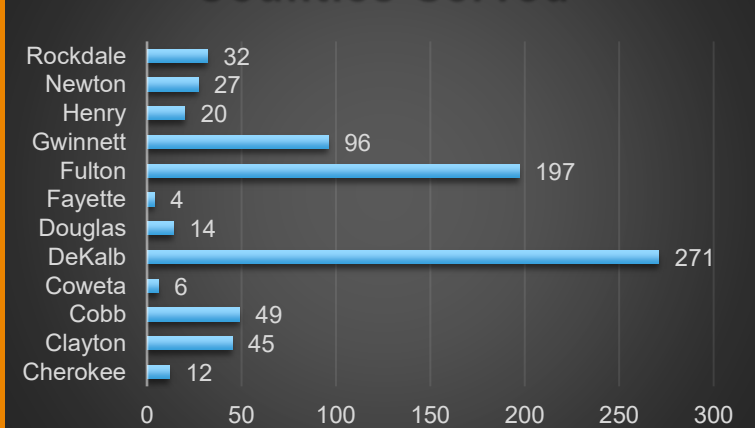
FY 2021 Accomplishments

We host peer support groups focused on disability, intersectionality and diversity including "Nothing About Us Without Us", "Us Protecting Us", and LGBTQIAP++disability	We were featured in the New York Times, Good Morning America, and Georgia Voices on Employment, Diversity, and impact of COVID-19	Hosted an in-person and virtual job fair for people with disabilities. Over 15 employers were present and several individuals were offered jobs on the spot
We provided 125 services to support individuals with disabilities to develop skills and gaining assistive technology	We were able to provide successful and substantial home modifications to 12 people and assistance with increased access in the home and community to over 30 people	When doors were shut for internships we stepped up and supported 4 summer paid youth internships, 4 Social Work un-paid Internships and Occupational Therapy Student Internships for GSU, University of Kentucky, and Kennesaw University

Consumers Served

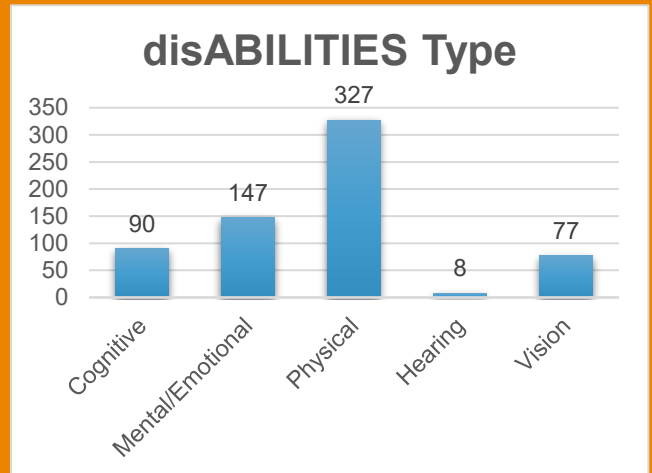
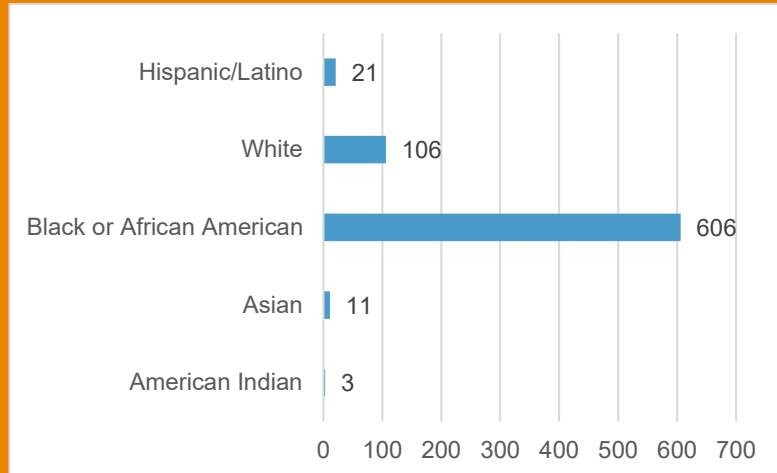
disABILITY LINK serves twelve counties in the Metro Atlanta Area. We serve populations that range from young adults to senior citizens. We work to ensure that people with disabilities are in charge of their lives regardless of age or location in the region.

Counties Served



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

After the summer program, one parent shared, "The programs teach students how to develop and practice communication, pre-vocational, and life skills that allow them to prepare for full community participation. Each student is able to develop and practice these skills at their individual level with guidance from individuals that are patient and encouraging". The student reports that they learned so much and feels more prepared for their future.

Success Story #2

An individual came into our office looking for support to locate housing. He was at risk of being homeless. He reported living at an extended stay hotel and financially was not going to be able to afford it. With the support of the ILS, the consumer was able complete housing applications, research options, and gain referrals to programs and eventually locate an apartment that was affordable and accessible. He reports that he is excited to be in his own place and doing his own thing. He said that this would never have happened without the support he received.

Success Story #3

An individual reported that they had attempted to call different organizations to receive information and support and could not get hold of anyone. When they called disABILITY LINK, they received the information, referral, and assistance needed. They stated: In an environment where the system is broken, the staff provided "superior service."

Success Story #4

A consumer who came into the office wanting to learn how to seek employment and build her skills. One identified area was that she had an iPhone that she did not know how to use. The ILS worked with her to understand her iPhone which resulted in her becoming more independent and confident in seeking employment. She learned VoiceOver on her iPhone to improve her work skills, updated her resume and attended Computer classes to use the JAWS software to read documents and apply for jobs. She was referred to and placed in a program for employment where she received a job. She states that the services she has received and continues to receive have improved her confidence and life.

Our Community Partners

- AARP
- AMS vans
- Aging And Disability Resource Center
- Association of Program for Rural Independent Living
- Atlanta Housing Authority
- Atlanta Pride
- Atlanta Regional Commission
- American Association on Health and Disability
- Best For Less
- Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association
- Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund
- The CDC
- Center For Leadership In Disability
- Center For The Visually Impaired
- Christopher & Dana Reeves Foundation
- Coca-Cola Foundation
- DeKalb Chamber of Commerce
- Disabled American Veterans
- Dress for Success
- EEOC
- Faith Medical Services
- FEMA
- Fulton County Community Services Board
- Georgia Advocacy Office
- Georgia DHS
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
- GA Department of Community Affairs
- Georgia Parent Support Network (CPT4Families)
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Our Community Partners

- GLASS Library
- GA Mental Health Consumer Network
- GARRS
- Georgia State University
- GVRA
- HUD 811
- Independent Living Research Utilization(ILRU)
- Just Us Blind Girls
- Kansas Research Center
- 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
- Schwartz & Rollins
- SHOWAbility
- Social Security Administration
- Student Occupational Therapy Association (GSU)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- The Georgia Department Of Community Health
- The Georgia Statewide Independent Living Council
- Tools For Life
- Waste Management Talent Acquisition
- Workforce Development

Contact Us

Physical Address:
1901 Montreal Road
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Tucker, GA 30084

Voice-	404-687-8890
Video-	404-381-8117
GA Relay-	711
Fax-	404-687-8298

Social Media



@disABILITYLINK

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 & Password is 1901



