



disABILITY
LINK
the center for rights & resources

Annual Report FY 2022



Picture Description: Shown is the disABILITY LINK staff stood in front of a decorative mirror

Board Members



Picture Description: From left to right, Leisa Williams stood holding her volunteer of the year award, Etienne Davis cooking hotdogs at Doggie Day 2022, Dave Zilles and Danny Housley shown smiling in a zoom meeting.

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: Jennifer Adamson

Treasurer: Dave Zilles

Secretary: Rosemary Graham

Members at Large

Etienne Davis

Gary English

Daniel Farr

Stacey Ramirez

Katherine D. Seelman, PhD

Vernitia Shannon

Leisa Williams

Fast Facts

Our COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team (CPRT) supporting individuals in receiving weekly COVID-19 tests and hosted monthly vaccination clinics.

We provided 1433 employment and vocational services to support individuals in seeking and gaining employment.

Assisted 25 plus consumers with visual impairments with learning keystrokes and bettering computer knowledge throughout the year.

We continued the Empowering Our Youth program and providing 564 services, including classes and activities for young adults with disabilities to live independently in their life.

Fast Facts

Assisted over 750 individuals with disabilities in marginalized communities to register to vote, get to the polls, request absentee ballots, and check their voting status.

We provided 13,808 information and referral services about information & available local, state & federal resources that promote choice, quality of life, and independent living.

We conducted presentations on peer support for TASH, APRIL, and local agencies such as the CDC and Emory University Epilepsy Project.

Administration

Executive Director - Kim Gibson

Finance Director - Joseph Bryant

Program Managers/Supervisors

Employment & ICWP Case Manager - Katrina Parsons

Employment and Training Program Lead IL Specialist – Stephany Knight

IL Program Coordinator - Tawanda Cargile

IL Program Supervisor - Angela Williams

Marketing and Outreach IL Specialist - Lisa Parks

Office and I&R Lead Supervisor – Darnell Johnson

Youth Program Director - William Thomas

Volunteer & Administrative Lead Specialist – James Turner

Disability Rights & Peer Support Training Advocate

Linda Pogue, Ken Mitchell, Dustin Gibson

Note: IL=Independent Living

Staff

Assistive Technology Deaf/Blind IL Specialist – Shuronda Dixon

Custodial & Maintenance Specialist - Vibert Lawson

Community Health IL Lead Casual - Renee Shakir

Disability Rights, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion IL Specialist - Christina Humphrey

Employment and Career Specialist - Nathan Baker

Employment and Training Coordinator – Fran Durbin

Health & Wellness/Resource Specialist – Juanita Anderson

ICWP Case Manager & Community IL Specialist – Felix Eziakor

Informational Technologies and Social Media Specialist – Jake Key

Personnel Office and Finance - Felicia Banks

Youth Transitional Independent Living Specialist – Kevin Turner

Youth Transitional Independent Living Specialist – Janae Nelson

Youth Transitional Independent Living Specialist – Kirsten Magda

COVID Pandemic Response Team

Community Health/ICWP IL Specialist – Shikha Desai

Community Connector IL Specialist - Diane McKenna

Community Connector IL Specialist and MFP/NHT – Amanda French

Employment and Community Health ILS - Bosede Yasin

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: Group photo of Tawanda Cargile, Amanda French, and many consumers spreading breast cancer awareness through releasing pink balloons.



Picture Description: Etienne Davis grilling hotdogs, Kim Gibson and Bosede Yasin looking through boxes at Doggie Day 2022



Picture Description: Alexi Lopez stood next to Nathan Baker at Atlanta Pride 2022 holding the LGBTQIAP++ disABILITY LINK banner

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: Etienne Davis sat next to a CORE worker administering a COVID vaccine



Picture Description: Rhonda Robinson at the front of the line for eating at the 2022 Picnic



Picture Descriptions: Consumers waiting in the food line at our Consumer Appreciation Party



Picture Description: Consumers and coworkers dancing at the 2022 GALA

FY 2022 Accomplishments

We participated in the Atlanta Pride Festival and Parade; there we connected with, and distributed resources/flyers to 500+ attendees

We provided 28,463 services to individuals designed to support choice, autonomy, education, employment, social connections, and independence.

We conducted ADA compliance surveys for 21 local health organizations.

We hosted a total of 16 students for their internship requirements in their different programs (Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Rehabilitation, Education)

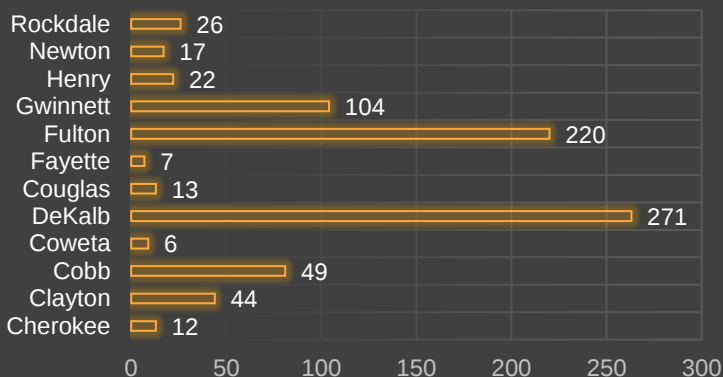
We held our second Days of Advocacy-"Our Voices, Our Vote" leadership and advocacy days with topics focused on transportation, housing, and employment.

We provided 264 youth and transition services to promote self-help, advocacy, and self-determination

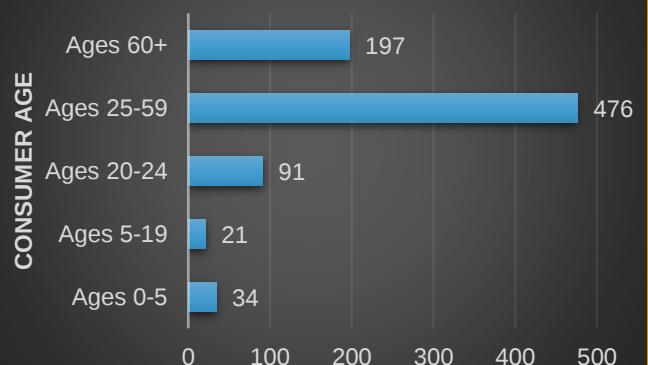
Consumers Served

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

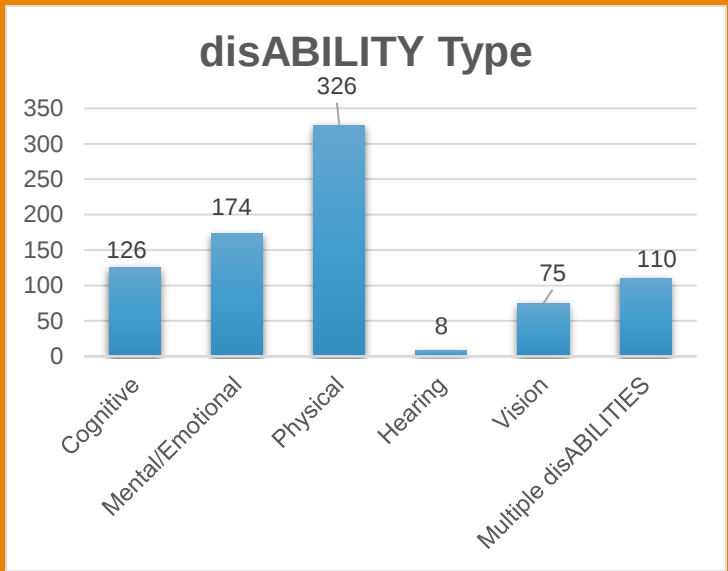
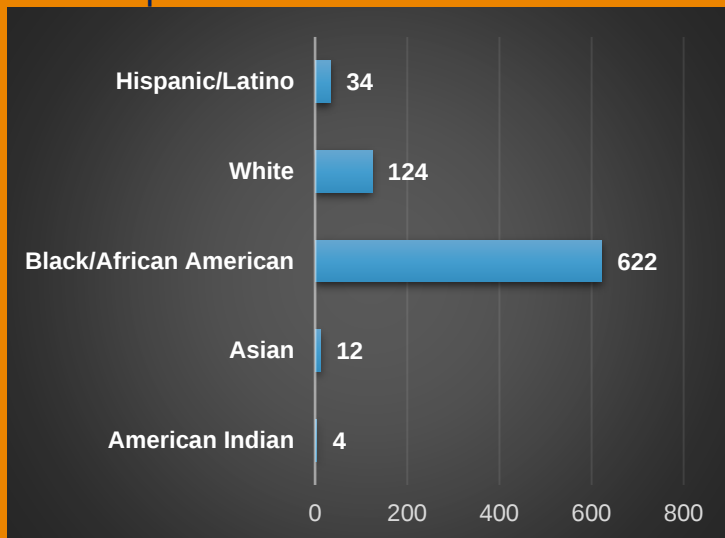


of Consumers



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.



Success Story #1

An individual who had been exploring returning to work came into the office. He had worked with other agencies and had little movement. He began participating in the LEAPS workshop at disABILITY LINK and opened a case file to explore employment opportunities. He received peer support from the ILS on his resume, cover letter, and interviewing skills. During the process, he became eligible for a paid internship. After the internship, he was hired in a permanent position. He reports that it had been a long ride with so many changes, and he was about to give up until he found disABILITY LINK. He states that he is happy to use his employment skills in something he likes to do.

Success Story #2

A young adult came into the office because they had difficulty getting to wherever they needed to go because of being dependent on others. With peer support from the ILS, the young adult successfully applied for and was approved for MARTA mobility paratransit. As a result, the young adult took their first solo trip, and they used that trip to participate in the Saturday E.O.Y. Youth Group. They reported how free it felt to be so independent and move around like they wanted to.

Success Story #3

An individual living came into the office. She was living in her car because she could not locate affordable and accessible housing. She worked with the ILS, who provided her with resources for housing and waiting lists. With the peer support and skills training from the ILS, she was able to gather materials, locate a property, and apply for the process to be put on the list. Less than two weeks later, she received notification that she was accepted and could move in. She reported, "I can now sleep peacefully- I don't have to worry about someone approaching my car and trying to do me harm! I can finally make a home-cooked meal for my family! Thank you!"

Our Community Partners

- 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
- Decatur Business Association
- DeKalb Chamber Of Commerce
- DeKalb WorkForce
- Disability Resource Group
- Disabled American Veterans
- Dress for Success
- EEOC
- Enabled Living
- Faith Medical Services
- FEMA
- Frazer Center
- Fulton County
- Georgia Advocacy Office
- Georgia DHS
- Georgia Department Of Labor
- GA Council on Developmental Disabilities

Contact Us
Physical Address:
1901 Montreal Road
Suite 102
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

