



disABILITY
LINK
the center for rights & resources

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



Annual Report 2024

Board Members



Picture Description: Brian Gustason, Kim Gibson, and Jennifer Adamson Kelly sitting at a table with many others during our annual GALA event

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, Rockdale Counties and limited services in Butts, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, and Upson Counties.

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: Jennifer Adamson Kelly

Vice Chair: Kevin Stringfellow

Treasurer: Etienne Davis

Secretary: Daniel Farr

Members at Large

Veronica Atkins

Brian Gustason

Ahmed Jama

John Laparco

Stacey Ramirez

Leisa Williams

Staff

Executive Director - Kim Gibson

Finance Director - Joseph Bryant

Deputy Director – William Thomas

ICWP & Community Health Supervisor - Katrina Parsons

IT and ILS Supervisor – Jake Key

Employment and Referral Coordinator – Chrisie Lee

I+R Intake Coordinator – Diane Mckenna

Youth IL Program Supervisor – Robbin Harding

Volunteer & Administrative Lead Specialist – James Turner

Disability Support and Training RighLinda Pogue, Ken Mitchell, Renee Shakir

Note: IL=Independent Living

Administrative Assistant and IL Specialist – Chanel White
 Administrative Support & IL Specialist – Marina Fishman
 Assistive Technology, Deaf-Blind/Community Connector IL Specialist – Shuronda Dixon
 Disability Rights, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion IL Specialist – Christina Humphreys
 Employment and Career IL Specialist - Nathan Baker
 Employment and Career IL Specialist – Helen Lewis
 Employment and Training Coordinator – Fran Durbin
 Health & Wellness & Resource IL Specialist – Juanita Anderson
 Housing and Transportation Specialist – Antionette Allen
 ICWP Case Manager & Community IL Specialist – Felix Eziakor
 ICWP Case Manager & Community Health IL Specialist – Shikha Desai
 Operations and Program Director and Outreach IL Specialist – Tarell Freeney
 IL and Outreach Specialist – Ryan Johnston
 Independent Living Specialist - Bosede Yasin
 Janitorial & Maintenance Specialist - Vibert Lawson
 Personnel and Finance Assistant - Felicia Banks
 Social Media IL Specialist – Keya Mehta
 Intake, Discharge, and Data Management Specialist – Teri Beard
 Youth & Community Health IL Specialist – Christopher Ray
 AARP Host Site Placements: Cindy Clark, Hattie Dove, Alice Smith, Kevin Randle, Dianne Squires

Fast Facts

Our Community Health Team provided weekly testing, bi-monthly vaccination clinics, healthcare information, and resources to over 200 individuals with disabilities.

We provided 339 employment and vocational services to support individuals in seeking and gaining employment.

We provided 178 Assistive Technology services, including assisting over 20 consumers with visual impairments in learning keystrokes and improving computer skills throughout the year.

We provided 681 vocational services to individuals with disabilities and held our annual job and career fair, featuring 28 vendors, attracting over 70 job seekers, and resulting in five consumers receiving job offers.

Fast Facts

Supported over 300 individuals with disabilities in underserved and diverse communities to register to vote, get to the polls, request absentee ballots, and check their voting status.

We provided 39,700 information and referral services, connecting individuals to local, state, and federal resources that promote choice, quality of life, and independent living.

We supported over 300 individuals with voter registration, election engagement, and locating polling places, promoting civic participation for individuals with disabilities.

We participated in and held numerous events, and the pictures highlight our Consumer Appreciation Event, Doggie Day, and Neighborhood Outreach, where we distributed face masks, personal care supplies, voting information, and hand sanitizer.

Picture Description: A photo of Juanita Anderson and Antionette Allen posing in front of our Doggie Day banner while wearing dog masks



Picture Description: Linda Pogue, Katrina Parsons, Marina Fishman, Yvette Pegues, and many more holding up the disability LINK banner during an MLK Parade



Picture Description: Many participants for our Caravan Voting event gathered together for a group photo

"We were proud to hold over 540 workshops, both virtual and in-person, including peer support training, educational workshops, and voting registrations, engaging more than 12,000 individuals with disabilities throughout the year."



Picture Descriptions: Kevin Randle and Elese Mosely embracing during our Consumer Appreciation Party



Picture Description: Consumers and staff gathered during our annual Resource and Career Fair



Picture Description: Consumers and staff members stood at the bottom of the stairs to the Capitol



Picture Description: Juanita Anderson leading our Breast Cancer Awareness Party

FY 2024 Accomplishments

In July, we launched 'Community Connect,' offering weekly outreach in Butts, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Upson, and Lamar counties to boost engagement and provide resources.

We provided 24,486 services to individuals designed to support choice, autonomy, education, employment, social connections, and independence.

We prioritized self-advocacy by providing 672 advocacy services to individuals with disabilities and offering monthly workshops to further engage the community

We successfully hosted nine students for internships in Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Rehabilitation, and Education, with two securing full-time employment as a direct result of their experience.

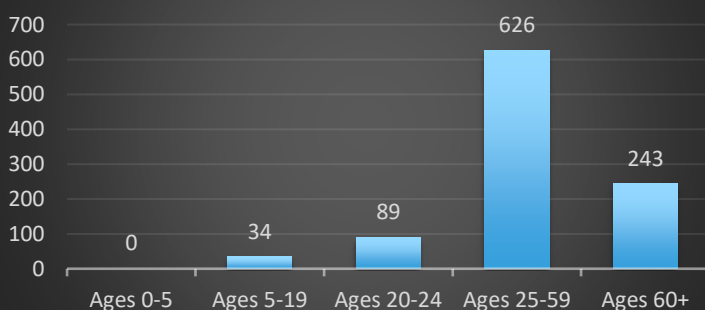
We held our fourth annual 'Days of Advocacy: Our Voices, Our Vote,' with consumers advocating for healthcare, transportation, housing, and employment.

We provided over 407 housing supports and services to individuals with disabilities and hosted quarterly homebuyer events."

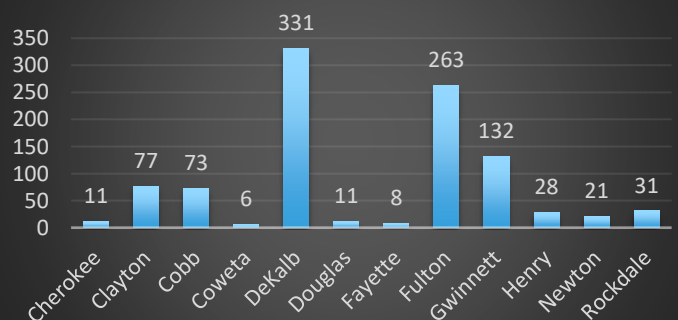
Consumers Served

disABILITY LINK serves 12 counties throughout Metro Atlanta, including Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, and Rockdale Counties. We also provide limited services (information and referral) in six additional counties: Butts, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, and Upson. We strive to empower people with disabilities to take control of their lives, regardless of age or where they live. Below are charts that outline the consumers served in the 12 counties where we offer full services.

Ages of Consumers

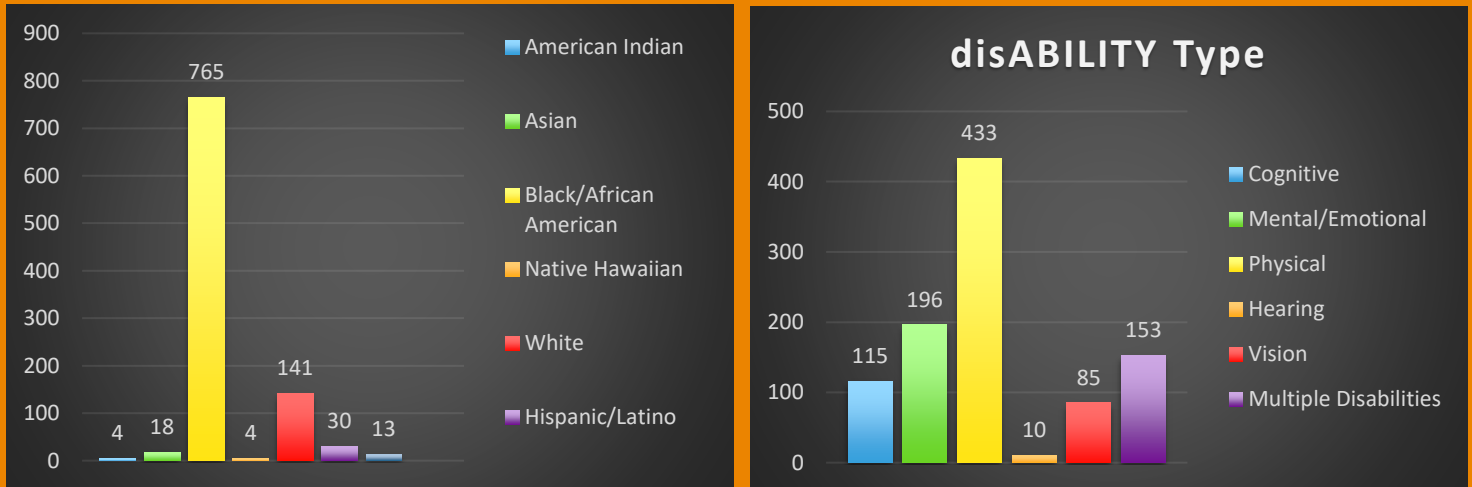


Counties



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. Below are charts that outline the consumer demographics in the 12 counties that we serve.



Success Story #1

A participant in our EOY group shared a powerful story that highlighted our work. Despite a long-held desire to live independently, he was held back by fear. After attending the APRIL Conference with disABILITY LINK's support, he connected with peers facing similar challenges. He shared, 'The conference was a turning point. The people I met and what I learned gave me the confidence to take the next step.' With newfound confidence, he completed and submitted a HUD 811 housing application—a choice he never knew he had. Thanks to peer support and guidance, he successfully transitioned into his own home, demonstrating the profound impact of community and self-advocacy.

Success Story #2

We successfully conducted a pilot for the Diabetes Prevention Program, a CDC-recognized initiative. One consumer shared that before joining our health and wellness classes, they struggled with mobility and daily activities. Since participating, they have lost weight, gained self-care skills, and adopted a healthier lifestyle. The consumer expressed feeling more energetic, confident, and capable in managing daily tasks and their health.

Success Story #3

In early April 2024, a consumer began attending computer classes at disABILITY LINK to build confidence in her computer skills for remote job searches. Struggling with a lack of confidence, she received personalized support from our Independent Living Specialist (ILS), who provided training in software usage and keyboarding. As a result, the consumer reported a significant boost in her computer skills, newfound confidence, and a sense of empowerment in making life decisions. She is now enthusiastic about exploring job opportunities, feeling more in control of her future.

Our Community Partners

- AAHD
- AARP
- Accessibility.com
- Aging And Disability Resource Center
- Alabama State
- AmeriGroup
- Association of Program for Rural Independent Living
- Atlanta Housing Authority
- Atlanta Legal Aid
- Atlanta Regional Commission
- National ADAPT
- Best For Less
- Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association
- Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund
- The CDC
- CareSource
- Carter Center
- Center For Leadership In Disability
- Center For The Visually Impaired
- CORE
- Community Friendships Inc.
- CTEA
- Decatur Business Association
- DeKalb Chamber Of Commerce
- DeKalb WorkForce
- Destiny Wealth Solutions
- Disability Resource Group
- Disabled American Veterans
- Dress for Success
- EEOC
- Emory
- Enabled Living
- Essendant
- Express Employment Professionals, Decatur
- Faith Medical Services
- FEMA and GEMA
- FODAC
- Frazer Center

Our Community Partners

- Fulton County
- Fulton County Crisis Coalition (FC3),
- Georgia Access
- Georgia Advocacy Office
- Georgia DHS
- Georgia Department Of Labor
- GA Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Georgia State University
- GoodWill
- GVRA
- Gwinnett County
- Integrity Facility Service
- LeKotek of GA
- LIFE Behavioral Consulting
- Lyft
- MARTA
- Metro Fair Housing
- National Voters Registration
- National Council for Independent Living
- Regions Bank
- Seniors First of Georgia
- SHOWAbility
- Shepherd Center
- SNAP
- Sonder Health
- Technical College Systems of Georgia
- Truffles Vein Specialists
- The Body Hood
- Uber
- United Way
- Us Aging
- VA-VR&E
- ViewPoint Health
- Walmart
- Walgreens
- Work Source Dekalb
- Work Source Atlanta
- The list highlights some, but not all, of our community partners

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

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

