



DHILS BERKSHIRE REGION **NEWSLETTER**

The DHILS program at Viability is hiring.

We have two open positions. We offer rewarding work with Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, in a deaf-friendly environment.
Excellent benefits package!



Learn more! Vlog: <https://vimeo.com/552889923>

Community Support Coordinator (IL Specialist) – <http://bit.ly/ILSpecialist>

Community Living Program Supervisor (DHILS Program Supervisor) –
<http://bit.ly/DHILSProgSupervisor>

OUR MISSION

We believe individuals with disabilities and other societal disadvantages are an essential resource for our country's future. Our mission is to help build a world in which individuals with disabilities and other disadvantages realize their full potential.

OUR VISION

VIABILITY will be a positive disruptive force in the marketplace leading the innovative designs of future service delivery for individuals with disabilities and other disadvantages to realize their full potential within their communities of choice.

MCDHH 35th Anniversary Award Announcement



Watch this vlog — <https://bit.ly/342Vjgk>

State's Reopening Plan from The Learning Center



Watch this vlog — <https://bit.ly/3u725fB>

On May 29th in Massachusetts...

Mask restrictions will be lifted for fully vaccinated people!



But —

Masks will still be required for unvaccinated people.

Masks will also be required for all people

- on public transportation, as well as in Uber and Lyft
- in hospitals and medical offices
- in nursing homes and group homes



**Also at Viability or
when with Viability
staff, until further
notice.**



**The CDC now recommends COVID-19 vaccination for everyone
12 years old and above to help protect against COVID-19.**

Find a COVID-19 Vaccine for Your Child

- Check your **local pharmacy's website** to see if vaccination walk-ins or appointments are available.
- Check with your **child's healthcare provider** about whether they will offer COVID-19 vaccination.
- Contact your **state or local health department** for more information.



HOW TO PRE-REGISTER FOR A VACCINE APPOINTMENT

- **STEP 1** Go to the pre-registration site: <http://bit.ly/COVIDVaccineApp>
- **STEP 2** Enter your information to pre-register. You will need to answer these questions:

1. Name
2. Address
3. Date of birth
4. Contact information
5. What is the best way to contact you, email, text, or videophone call?

YOU ARE NOT DONE YET. Follow steps 3, 4, and 5 below.

- **STEP 3** After you pre-register, you will receive an email, text or video-phone call telling you an appointment is available. Be patient. It might take a week or more before you are contacted.

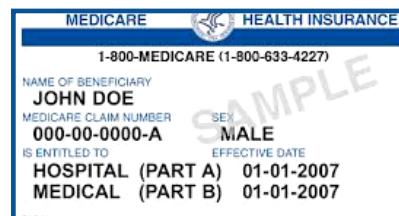
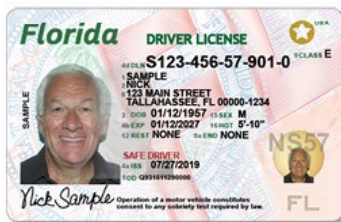


- **STEP 4** You have 24 hours to reply in order to make an appointment. **DON'T WAIT!** If you don't reply, you will lose it.



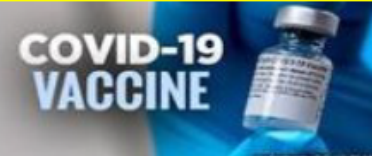
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- **STEP 5** Go get vaccinated! Bring an ID and health insurance card if you have them. (You can still get vaccinated if you don't have them.)



NOTE: Appointments will be at the location nearest to you.

Need Help with Going to Your Vaccine Appointment?
Have MassHealth?
Only two steps!



1. Call (800) 841-2900

Be ready to share:

Your MassHealth ID number

Where are you going for your vaccine?

What day and time?

Where do you want to be picked up?

Your contact information? Phone/Email

You will get "PT-1 Number"
Hold for your next call!

2. Wait 1 day or more after first call
Call region nearest to your home.

[Check map to see which region for you](#)

- **MART** – Greater Boston, Central Mass, Pioneer Valley (800) 854-9928
- **GATRA** – Southeastern Mass (800) 431-1713
- **CCRTA** – Cape and Islands (800) 352-7155; option 3
- **BRTA** – Berkshire County (800) 292-2782; option 2
- **FRTA** – Franklin County (888) 301-2262; option 0
- **CATA** – Cape Ann and Merrimack Valley (800) 830-5191

Be ready to tell your "PT-1 Number"

Lyft and Uber are also offering free rides to vaccination sites:

- **LYFT** (up to \$15 each way) to and from vaccination sites.
- **UBER** (up to \$15 each way) to and from vaccination sites. Via Walgreens.com account

Disaster Distress Helpline Videophone for American Sign Language Users

Are you or someone you know Deaf or hard of hearing and needing emotional support related to a disaster? Call the new *Disaster Distress Helpline* [DDH] direct videophone number for American Sign Language (ASL) users. Trained crisis workers fluent in ASL answer videophone calls 24/7. Call **1-800-985-5990** or go to disasterdistress.samhsa.gov and click on "ASL NOW".

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



V!brant
Emotional Health



COVID-19 VACCINE WEBINARS



Chris
Johnson

VACCINE HESITANCY

Experts and panelists will engage in a dialogue about some of the historical and cultural roots of vaccine hesitancy in their communities.

Every other Wednesday, 12-1 pm ET

MAY 11 - BLACK COMMUNITIES
Moderated by Chris Johnson, G-'19

Webinar Link: <https://gu.live/NenZb>

MAY 26 - HISPANIC/LATINA/O/X/E COMMUNITIES

JUNE 9 - ASIAN COMMUNITIES

JUNE 23 - INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

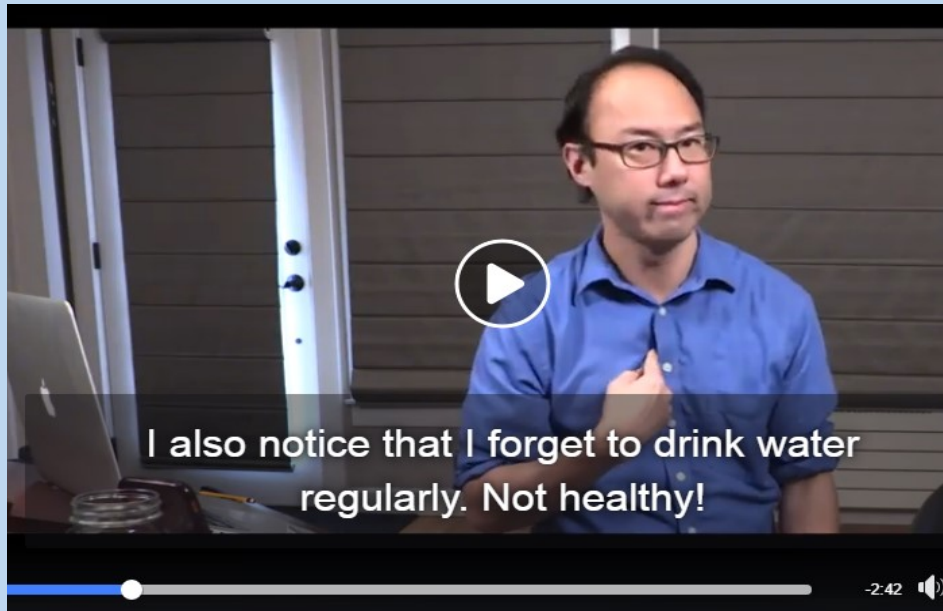
JULY 7 - RELIGIOUS AND OTHER COMMUNITIES

Interpreters and captions provided at all webinars.

A new vaccine hesitancy webinar series kicks off tomorrow! Moderated by Chris Johnson, G-'19, this webinar will address vaccine hesitancy among the Black community. Experts and panelists will engage in a dialogue about some of the historical and cultural roots of vaccine hesitancy in their communities and share information.

Please register for this live event at <https://gu.live/NenZb>.

ASL Self-care during COVID



Schedule breaks throughout the day.

Watch this vlog — <https://bit.ly/3f71vu4>



Breathing For Stress Reduction (Part 2)

Watch this vlog — <https://bit.ly/3fF2rF9>

GENERATIONAL WEALTH 101 FOR LATINX/O/A COMMUNITY

UNDERSTANDING, FOUNDATIONS, & SOLUTIONS

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021
9-10:30 AM ET
DEMYSTIFYING DURING COVID

**STRATEGIES TO PAY STUDENT LOANS- AN
INTERVIEW WITH SABRINA RIVERA**

**FACE THE UNEXPECTED: 31 DAYS IN A
COMA- AN INTERVIEW WITH TONY BARRAZA**

DEMYSTIFYING THE WILL PROCESS

**JOIN US FOR OUR
FREE 3-PART SERIES**

SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2021

3-5:30 PM ET
MONEY MINDSET WITH
NICOLE HERNANDEZ

SUNDAY, SEPT 12TH, 2021

3-5:30 PM ET
THE CONVO



JO Welch

askJO, Founder | Entrepreneur | Author
1st Generation ENYE of Colombian Parents

These are the conversations she wished for growing up. Our wealth is siphoned from us daily, what do we need to know to retain and grow our legacy?
#askjo



<https://genwealth101forlatinxcommunity.eventbrite.com>

For more information, tickets, sponsorship and access www.askjo.org



Join us this Saturday 5/22/2021 9am-10:30am ET for
Generational Wealth 101 f/t Latinx/o/a Community

FREE| CAPTIONED | Everyone is Welcome.
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS provided by G2C

[#askJO](#) [#GenWealth101](#) [#Willfairy](#) [#jofairy](#) [#enyenation](#)
<https://genwealth101forlatinxcommunity.eventbrite.com>



MSAD Community Chat **2021**

Sunday, May 23, 2021 10am to 11:30am

1. COVID-19 and Vaccine
2. MSAD Board
3. MSAD 2022 to 2024 (?????)
4. ASL Variety Show
5. Tricia Ford retirement - MCDHH



Meeting ID: 458 765 5196

Passcode: MSAD

MSAD Community Chat 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4587655196?pwd=SFRjZ3ROb05BWDU1Z2xySXVMTzZ3UT09>

Meeting ID: 458 765 5196

Passcode: MSAD

DEAF AWARENESS DAY



A SPECIAL DAY FOR OUR FRIENDS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

SATURDAY - MAY 29

On Saturday, May 29, Finger Dancers from around New England will join us at Robin Hood's Faire to interpret various shows for our friends who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Please share this post and help us get the word out about this special event.

<http://bit.ly/DeafAwarenessatRobinHoodsFaire>

What is Domestic Violence?

Want to know if you, your friends or family are experiencing Domestic Violence?
Watch these presenters explain in ASL what DV means and where to go for help.



Watch this vlog — <https://bit.ly/3ubW5SK>

What are the tell-tale signs of Domestic Violence?

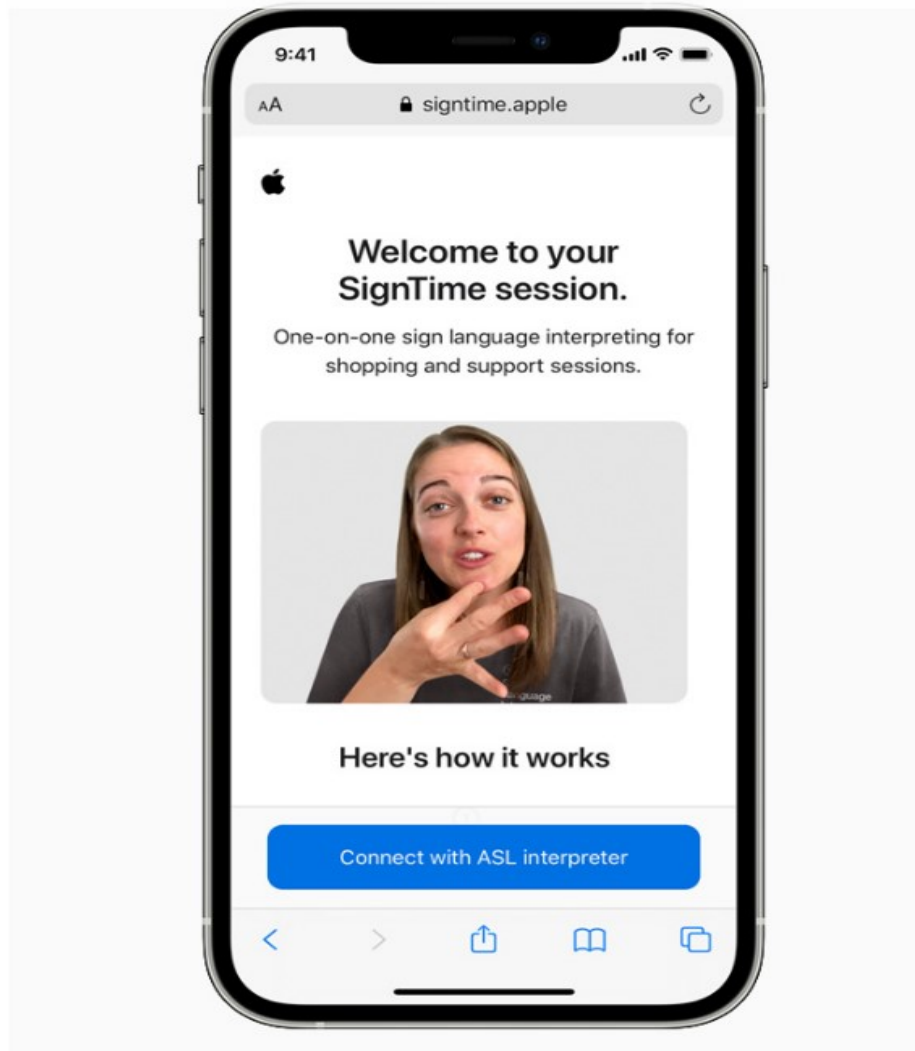
Watch these presenters explain in ASL what clues would indicate DV and
where to go for help.



Watch this vlog — <https://bit.ly/3oLjAkI>



New Apple accessibility features



Gallaudet University: New Guides in Apple Maps



1. Open **Apple Maps**
2. Search /Type "**Gallaudet**"
3. Select "**Guides**" from the results
4. Explore our selection of guides and the **Signing Ecosystem!**

You may also find our guides by searching a place in the Signing Ecosystem, and you'll see our guides appear below the listing.

Guides will show you: interesting places to visit in a city; find popular attractions, restaurants, and more! It will connect you to businesses and organizations that ***value, embrace and prioritize the Deaf community and signed languages.***

EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

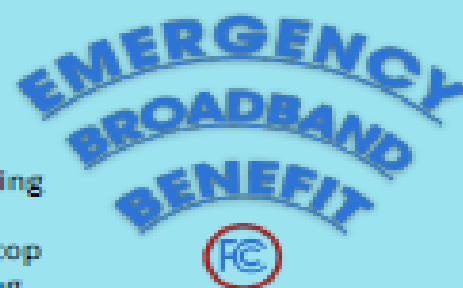
HELPING HOUSEHOLDS CONNECT
DURING THE PANDEMIC

What is it?

A temporary FCC program to help households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic.

The benefit provides:

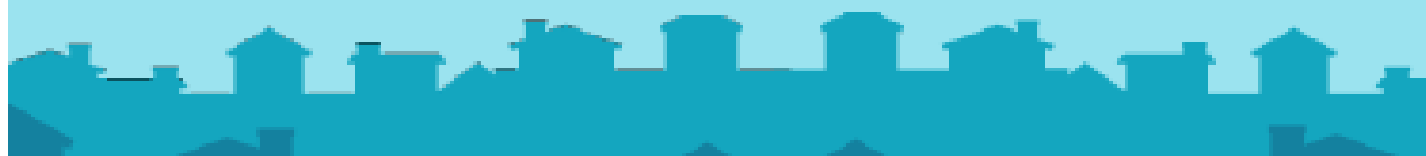
- Up to \$50/month discount for broadband service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.



Who is eligible?

A household is eligible if one member of the household:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain government assistance programs;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch or breakfast program;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.



EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

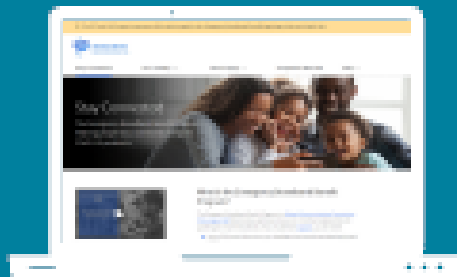
HELPING HOUSEHOLDS CONNECT
DURING THE PANDEMIC

THREE WAYS TO APPLY

1

Contact your Preferred Participating Provider Directly

Ask your provider if they participate in the EBB, or use our online tool to find a participating company near you.



2

Online

Use the online application at [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org)

3

By Mail

Print an application in English or Spanish. Complete the application and send with proof of eligibility to:

Emergency Broadband Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742



For additional information, Call **833-511-0311**, or visit [fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit)

ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH RENT OR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS BECAUSE OF COVID-19?



Department of Housing and
Community Development

New funds are now available - even if you've already received emergency funding!



If you are struggling to make rent or mortgage payments, there are resources available:

NEW Federal Funding is now available!

- > Expanded assistance available for back rent **and** utilities.
- > You may be able to receive up to 12 months of rental assistance.
- > Priority for very-low income and unemployed applicants

For more help: combine financial help with Legal Aid and Mediation to solve housing problems

If you are **facing eviction**, or have received a **Notice to Quit**:

- > FREE/Low Cost legal aid for income eligible tenants and owner-occupants in homes with rental units.

VISIT: <https://evictionlegalhelp.org/>

- > Professional Mediation Services for tenants **and** landlords

VISIT: <https://www.resolutionma.org/>

**IF YOU NEED LEGAL HELP
OR HELP PAYING FOR HOUSING COSTS**

CALL 2-1-1 * Help available in
multiple languages

VISIT WWW.MASS.GOV/COVIDHOUSINGHELP

Massachusetts State Association of the Deaf

MSAD

proudly hosts

Virtual ASL Variety Show



**Come meet our Deaf, Hard of Hearing &
DeafBlind Local Performers**

When & Time?

Friday, June 4th, 2021 @ 8:00 p.m.

MSAD Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 458 765 5196

Passcode: MSAD

ADMISSION: FREE – EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!

For more info or want to sign up for ASL performance,
contact Ivy Vélez, Event Chairperson @ AskIvyVelez@gmail.com





11 Dartmouth St.
Suite 301 Malden, MA 02148
617-542-3822; www.dpcma.org

yesHealth
Your Experience. Speak up for better health care



Are you:

- ✓ Deaf
- ✓ use ASL
- ✓ enrolled in Commonwealth Care Alliance (CCA) or Tufts Unify
- ✓ working with a Long-Term Service and Support Coordinator (LTSC)?

On June 10th, 2021, we would like to learn what LTSCs do to help you with in CCA or Tufts Health Unify.

❖ What would you like to improve or change?

Your information will be kept confidential!

You will receive a \$50 gift card!

Interested? Please call Pili at 617-307-7374

pkamenju@dpcma.org or Lori Siedman at 339-224-6831

LSiedman@myombudsman.org to schedule an appointment!



Baby Fingers

A Musical Journey through Language and Learning

ASL story time with Susan! Plan ahead and sign up!

Sunday, June 13 at 1pm EST. For all ages, Deaf and hearing.

[Mybabyfingers.com](https://mybabyfingers.com)



Watch this vlog — <https://bit.ly/2QJRwla>

Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program (MassEDP) now offering the iPhone XR as program's first wireless device choice for clients!

MassEDP is pleased to announce that we now offer the iPhone XR as the Program's first ever wireless device choice for our clients. The cell phone is pre-programmed with applications based on the applicant's disability.



Features:

- Wireless device, black in color
- 64GB memory
- 6.1' diagonal all-screen LCD multi-touch display
- Liquid retina HD display
- Face ID
- Long lasting battery
- Wireless Charging Capability

Please note, MassEDP DOES NOT provide the cellular data plan.

If you have questions or for a MassEDP application, please call MassEDP Manager Grant Harrison at 508-821-7234 or email him at grant.harrison@mass.gov.

To speak with a MassEDP customer service representative, call **1-800-300-5658 Voice/TTY**.



COVID-19 Screening and Appointment Rules

Before we can see you in person for an **ESSENTIAL (VERY IMPORTANT)** appointment, we have to ask you some questions every time we meet in person: at the office or at your home.

Question 1: Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days? **YES/NO**

Question 2: Has anyone in your household been diagnosed with COVID - 19 within the past 14 days? **YES/NO**

Question 3: Have you had a fever over 100 degrees, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache within the past 72 hours? **YES/NO**

Question 4: Have you or anyone in your household had the following: cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, abdominal pain, new muscle aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea within the past 72 hours? **YES/NO**

Question 5: Have you or anyone in your household traveled to any hot spots within the last 14 days where areas where a large number of COVID-19 cases have been confirmed?
YES/NO

If you answered **NO** to all, then we can meet in person
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Confirmed Appointment: Now What?

We **MUST** do this when we meet in person at your home OR at office:

Maintain 6 ft at all times 	Wash or sanitize your hands upon entry and exit of the building 
Wear a face mask or covering when speaking with people face-to-face, in the same room  	Sanitize or wash your hands frequently while on-site 
Only come at times agreed upon by you and staff and come by yourself. Do not bring people with you. 	Sanitize all surfaces that you utilize while on-site, including furniture, equipment, writing utensils 