Image Above: Finger Lakes Independence Center--FLIC--Logo: The letters: F-L-I-C and the letter I looks like an open door. Finger Lakes Independence Center Opening Doors to Independence

September 2024

September is National Preparedness Month! Sign up for SIREN Alerts in your area and stay informed:

Image Above: White sign with black and dark blue lettering that says "Tompkins County Siren Safety & Incident Real-Time Emergency Notifications" Logo with a picture of a red siren with gold wings with the symbols for phone, text, email, and the thumbs up "like".

September is also:

*9/2 - Labor Day - *FLIC Offices CLOSED*

*9/8 - World Physical Therapy Day
*9/21 - World Alzheimer's Day
*9/23 - International Day of Sign Language

Where To Find FLIC in September:

On Saturday, September 14th, join us at:

*The Ithaca Airport for Emergency Preparedness Day, and
*The Enfield Community Center for the Enfield Harvest Festival

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National Service Dog Month

What is a Service Dog?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines Service Dogs as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. (Some state and local laws define service dogs more broadly than the ADA.)

There are different types of service dogs: guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs, mobility dogs, medical alert dogs, medical assistance dogs, and psychiatric service dogs.

Service dogs undergo extensive training to perform their jobs.

Service dogs perform a variety of different tasks.

Service dogs are not pets. Do not pet, talk to, or distract a working service dog.

The only types of animals recognized by the ADA as trained to do work/perform tasks for people with disabilities are dogs and miniature horses.

Service dogs can be any breed or size. While larger dogs such as Labradors are commonly used as guide and mobility dogs, smaller dogs can also be service dogs.

Service dogs often (but not always) wear special harnesses or vests with patches identifying them as service, guide, or medical alert dogs.

A service dog is expected to behave in accordance with strict standards, and its handler is expected to adhere to service dog handler etiquette.

Under the ADA, service dogs are allowed access to any place that is open to the public, however can be asked to leave if not under control. A service dog must be accompanying a disabled person in order to be granted access – the ADA protects the rights of the disabled handler, not the dog. (Remember, not all disabilities are apparent to others.)

FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS NEEDED!

The Finger Lakes Independence Center will be assisting the Science Center of Ithaca to increase accessibility in an exciting upcoming project. If you are a parent or family of a child with a disability, we would love to hear from you and your child - please contact Ben Bassett at FLIC to be involved or if you have questions: ben@fliconline.org

Census Win for the Disability Community!

At the end of 2023, the U.S. Census Bureau sought to change questions related to disabilities in the American Community Survey (ACS). Data from the ACS is heavily utilized to determine funding allocations and public policies. Though the existing questions were certainly imperfect, the new proposed questions were even worse. If used, they would have resulted in severely undercounting the number of people with disabilities across the country. These changes were also proposed without any kind of input or feedback from the disability community.
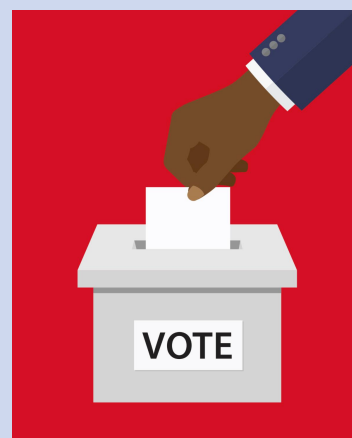
Disability Advocates across the country conducted some fierce advocacy around this during the Public Comment opportunity, resulting in over 12,000 public comments, including one submitted by FLIC's Statewide Systems Advocate, Andrea Champlin. On July 31, the Census Bureau issued a press release, linked below, stating that they would not be implementing the proposed changes. They also now have a meeting scheduled in Washington D.C. to meet with members of the disability community to discuss updates to the ACS.

THANK YOU to everyone who responded to Action Alerts and submitted Public Comments related to this issue. If you are interested in working towards systems changes like this, please contact **Andrea@FLIConline.org** and ask to be added to the Volunteer Advocacy Team!

https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/disability-data-needs.html

Andrea Champlin
Advocacy Specialist & Statewide Systems Advocate
Finger Lakes Independence Center (FLIC)

September is National Preparedness Month

People with disabilities may have underlying health conditions that increase their risks during a crisis or may require services and supports that are often scarce during a crisis event.
That's why planning for the needs of people with disabilities both at the individual level and the community level is so important.
Planning for the needs of individuals with disabilities starts with the individual. The below link has personal preparedness tips for individuals with disabilities.

- https://www.ready.gov/disability

After the individual, planning moves to our local, state, and federal officials. Below are two helpful links for our local, state, and federal officials.

- https://unmhealth.org/services/development-disabilities/programs/other-disability-resources/first-responder-tips.html
- https://www.disabilityawarenesstraining.com/about-dave/about

Four Steps to Emergency preparedness:

1. Stay Informed-Know what disasters and hazards could affect your area, how to get emergency alerts.
2. Make A Plan-Make a plan today. Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find. https://www.ready.gov/plan
3. Build a Kit-Being prepared for an emergency isn't just about staying safe during a storm or a disaster. It's also about how to stay comfortable, clean, fed, and healthy afterwards—when a storm or disaster may have knocked out electricity. https://www.ready.gov/kit
4. Get involved-You could help save countless lives by taking simple actions to prepare your community or organization for a disaster before one strikes.

FEMA offers free trainings and education tools to train yourself and others on the best ways to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster or emergency.

https://www.ready.gov/get-involved

Celebrate Disability Voting Rights Week: September 9 to 13

Disability Voting Rights Week (DVRW) is a nonpartisan movement hosted by the American Association of People with Disabilities and REV UP. DVRW is about advocacy, celebrating community, and building power.
Five days of celebrating:

- September 9- register to vote.

Where you can register:

- Tompkins County Board of Elections, 128 E. Buffalo Street.
- Finger Lakes Independence center, 215 Fifth Street

If you need assistance registering call 607-272-2433.

- September 10- What's on your Ballot. www.votevotevote.org https://www.headcount.org/voter-guides

For Information about the Candidates running, go to go to VOTE411.Org , 7 to 10 days before Early Voting begins
(Oct 26 – Nov. 3)

- September 11- Make a Plan to Vote. https://www.vote411.org/make-your-plan
- September 12- Break Down Barriers. https://cilorlando.org/blog-votingbarriers/
- September 13- Celebrate Our Power.

Your vote impacts your access to:
· Healthcare
· Education
· Transportation
· Employment/Jobs
· Accessible/Affordable Housing

VOTE as your life depends on it BEAUSE, IT DOES!

-Justin Dart- Disability Rights Activist, Father of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

New Group at FLIC - "Creative Expressions"

Any and all ways you express yourself. FREE and open to ALL. "You do your own thing!"
Contact Lee Soo at (607) 327.1445

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month
11:30-2pm in FLIC's Conference Room

The Registry Referral Program

The Finger Lakes Independence Center administers the Registry Referral Program. This is a free referral service linking individuals seeking independent employment to people who need care in their home. Opportunities include: elder companion, housekeeper, run errands, cook, personal care aide, home care aide, LPN, RN. People looking for help can call and receive names of people willing to provide those services. If you either need assistance or if you would be interested in listing your name as a caregiver, please call FLIC at 272-2433 or email: info@fliconline.org. If you have experience caring for a friend or loved one, please consider sharing your compassion with others. This program is made possible through funding from the Tompkins County Office for the Aging.

Need a Public Notary?

Contact Cheryl Baker at FLIC at 607-272-2433 to make an appointment.

Services are free!

COMING IN OCTOBER:
10/30 from 9am-12pm at The Hotel Ithaca
World of Skills Annual Job Fair