

**MetroWest
Center For
Independent Living**

**People with Disabilities
Living in the Community**

Coronavirus Updates

First, we want to assure you that MWCIL is staffed and ready to work with you on any important issues. We will try to resolve as much as possible remotely to protect both our staff and consumers.

Second, we want to share some of the reliable information that we have found on the web. A compilation of most of this is on our web post at <https://mwcil.org/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/>.

And third, we just want to say that we hope you are staying safe and can enjoy these peaceful weeks. As with everything else, we are learning that the personal experiences of everyone are vastly different. Some are home alone, some are spending excessive "quality" time with family or roommates, some are being gifted time with the family, some are not home, some are working, some are sick and some are struggling with money and essentials. If you have a disability and are struggling, please call us. We *are* an essential service and are here for you.

Paul Spooner,
Executive Director



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MetroWest Resources

Senate President Karen Spilka is maintaining a page of resources available for MetroWest residents. Visit <https://karenspilka.com/covid>.

MetroWest Center for Independent Living has compiled some information from most of our service area towns. You can download this: [MWCIL-COVID-resources.pdf](#).

Mass.gov Resources

Main information page on the Coronavirus:

<https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

Mass Health:

- **Long Term Supports and Services including PCA information:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ltss-provider-updates-for-covid-19/download>
- Expansion of **Home Health Aide Services:** [MassOptions.org](#).

MassOptions hotline at 1-844-422-6277

- **Consumer Information:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masshealth-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-applicants-and-members-0>
- **General MassHealth Information:** www.mass.gov/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-and-masshealth
- **90 Day Supplies of Medication for MassHealth Members:** www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-141-march-12-2020-0/download

Attorney General: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/resources-during-covid-19>

Food Pantries

Visit foodpantries.org.

Housing

As the COVID-19 situation rapidly evolves, CHAPA is adapting their operations and policy priorities. COVID-19 Affordable Housing Resources: www.chapa.org

Disability Rights and Healthcare

We have heard threats and warnings that healthcare may need to be rationed, and that "someone" may have to decide who gets treated and who does not. These warnings are especially frightening for people with disabilities who may feel undervalued. [The Disability Rights and Education Fund](#) has compiled information on this topic.

You can download the pdf document: [Preventing Discrimination in the Treatment of COVID-19 Patients: The Illegality of Medical Rationing on the Basis of Disability.pdf](#)

Crip Camp

Crip Camp is a new documentary, now available on Netflix, produced by the Obama's production company, Higher Ground. The movie is featured at Sundance 2020.

Camp Jened ("run by hippies) was a camp for teens with disabilities in the Catskills in the 60's and 70's.

"Crip Camp focuses on a group of teens who went to the camp in the early

1970s (it closed due to financial difficulties in 1977) and later joined the radical disability rights movement, with many of them ending up in Berkeley as young adults, advocating for legislation that would require public places to be accessible to everyone, and that would prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities. The film shows how the vision the young people experienced at camp, for a world that was open to everyone, led them to become activists and community organizers." (from vox.com)."

Read more about the movie at www.vox.com. Or read more at apnews.com.

2020 Census

You should have received one or two mailings from the Census Bureau on how to fill out your census information online. This information is completely confidential. Please let us know if you have questions. Visit the Revupma.org page on the Census.

From Marlene Sallo, Executive Director of Disability Law Center

"On April 1, 2019 elected officials, nonprofit workers, and the public gathered at Nevins Hall in Framingham to kick off the state's 2020 census. This event marked the one-year countdown to the National Census Day (April 1, 2020).

The census is mandated by our Constitution and aims to include every person living in the United States. Census data provides the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds every year to support states, counties and community programs, such as housing, education, transportation, employment, and health care.

During the #2020Census, households will be able to self-respond in three ways: Internet, Telephone or Paper Questionnaire. The Census Bureau has indicated that the online questionnaire and telephone contact centers will all be fully accessible to people with disabilities and that the paper questionnaire will be available to download in both braille and large print. Completing the #2020Census form ensures that neighborhood schools, health centers, and other vital parts of our communities are adequately funded.

Please make sure to participate in the upcoming census. Find out more at www.censuscounts.org."

National Contact Information

[Directory of House of Representatives](#)

[Directory of Senators](#)

Senator Edward J. Markey

Address:

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Phone:

(202) 224-2742

Contact:

www.markey.senate.gov/contact

Website:

<http://www.markey.senate.gov/>

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Address:

317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Phone:

(202) 224-4543

Contact:

<https://www.warren.senate.gov/contact/shareyouropinion>

Website:

<http://www.warren.senate.gov/>

State Government Contact Information

[Directories of State Senators and Representatives](#)

[Contact Governor Baker](#)

[WhereDoIVoteMa.com](#) - Enter your address, and get a list of all of your elected officials.

National Resources

Save My Care - a movement to bring together families, advocates and health care providers to protect the health and financial security of all Americans. [Visit the website.](#)

National Council on Independent Living has Action Alerts for issues on

the table in Washington. [Visit the Advocacy Monitor webpage.](#)

Join REV UP - Make the disability vote count!

For more information, visit www.revupma.org.

And follow our [Face Book page!](#)



Disability Pride Toolkit

[NCIL](#) (National Council on Independent Living) has compiled a [Disability Pride Toolkit and Resource Guide](#).

This guide delves into what Disability Pride is, and why it is so important. The difference between the Medical Model and the Independent Living paradigm offer a framework of the disparities between how society works and how it should work.

The guide also offers many resources and ideas on how to advance the discussion and how to educate others. *We highly recommend this toolkit and resource guide for anyone who wants to be active in the fight for disability rights!*

MA Tales of Independence

Visit our video projects at: www.matalesofindependence.net.

The concept and history of Independent Living are complex. MA Tales of Independence is a collection of videos by people who are successfully living independently. Each person tells their story including things like: how they achieved independence, why independence is important to them and what barriers they had to overcome. Some of our videos have historical information about the struggle and others are about growing up today. Most have college degrees, jobs and families.





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