

## MCDHH Return to Office



Starting **Tuesday September 7, 2021** MCDHH will begin a new hybrid work model which is a combination of: in-person, virtual, *and* in-office activities—**depending on the need**.

Staff will follow the workplace safety standards established by the Baker-Polito Administration (find more details [here](#)).

MCDHH hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST.

Contact MCDHH Staff to schedule an appointment. For more information, visit: [Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/mcdhh)

Watch VLOG here: <https://youtu.be/oK5gr41u8zE>

## Need Housing Help?



### Need help finding housing in Massachusetts?

Free online tool to search for affordable rentals statewide.

Learn more here: <https://search.housingnavigatorma.org/>

### Looking for help with housing costs?

State/local organizations are distributing federal rental assistance for landlords *and* renters who are struggling to keep up with rent and other bills.

Learn more here: [consumerfinance.gov/renthelp](https://consumerfinance.gov/renthelp)



## Our Deaf Survivors Center, Inc.

### EXCITING JOB OPPORTUNITY!!

**Executive Director** (updated as of 8/19/21)

Go to [odscunity.org/careers](https://www.odscunity.org/careers) for more information.

<https://www.odscunity.org/>

<https://twitter.com/odsc2>

<https://www.facebook.com/OurDeafSurvivorsCenter/>

Exciting job opportunity!!

**OUR DEAF SURVIVORS CENTER, INC. IS GROWING!**

Join and lead our passionate team as:

**Executive Director**

Check out the job description and how to apply at:  
[www.odscunity.org/careers](https://www.odscunity.org/careers)

We care deeply for our community. Help us make an even bigger impact! Provide much needed DV/SV support services. Share your leadership, management and teamwork skills.

Questions?  
Contact Sue Philip at:  
[suephilip@aol.com](mailto:suephilip@aol.com)





OUR DEAF SURVIVORS CENTER, INC.  
128 PROVIDENCE ST.  
WORCESTER, MA 01604

**New England Low Vision**  
**and Blindness**  
*Bringing Hope Through Technology, Training & Care*

## Lisa Chiango: DeafBlind Trainer

Lisa Chiango has joined the NewEngland Low Vision and Blindness Training Team as an Assistive Technology Specialist. Lisa, who is DeafBlind, has been working with DeafBlind individuals for the past 20 years and helped establish the *DeafBlind Community Access Network*.

***For more information contact New England Low Vision and Blindness at: <https://nelowvision.com/contact-us/>***



## Worcester: *New Parking Rules*

New parking restrictions and violations for several streets in Downtown Worcester, including: Foster, Eaton Pl, Front, Trumbull, Mercantile, Church, Salem and Myrtle Streets.



**Look for time limits and no parking areas, or you will get a ticket and pay a fine!**

There will be on-street signs and notices at the pay stations and on the app.

***For more information visit: <https://parkworcesternow.com/>.***



## Mobile Pay

Download the app  
[here](#).



## Street Pay

Learn more about  
Street Pay [here](#).



## Off Street Lots

Learn more about monthly parking permits [here](#).

## Have a Story of Healthcare Discrimination? *DPC Needs Your Help!*

**Discrimination against people with disabilities is a big issue in healthcare. *H.1256/S.745, “An Act relative to preventing discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health care,”* is new legislation. DPC (Disability Policy Consortium) needs people to share their stories of healthcare discrimination to help get this legislation passed.**

## Have you ever been:

- ◆ Denied care because of a disability?
- ◆ Told a treatment you need was too expensive to be worth it?
- ◆ Pressured to sign a *Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)* order?
- ◆ Told by a healthcare provider that being disabled meant you have a lower quality of life?

Email [advocacy@dpema.org](mailto:advocacy@dpema.org) for more information or to share your story.



DISABILITY POLICY CONSORTIUM

## Speech to Text Apps

Which Speech to Text app should I use?

Ava  

Google Live Transcribe 

Microsoft Translator   

Otter.ai  

Web Captioner 

How do I communicate on my phone?

Big Note  

Cardzilla  

Google Keep  

Make It Big  

Sorenson Buzz Cards  

NAD.ORG/CORONAVIRUS 

## Returning to Work?

**UNEMPLOYMENT PANDEMIC BENEFITS WILL STOP THE WEEK ENDING ON 9/4/21**

***Stepping Stones to Success* guide available.**

Learn more about resources and information about returning to work including:

- ♦ **MassHire** Career Centers
- ♦ **Receive SNAP?** You may qualify for free training through *SNAP PATH to Work Program*
- ♦ **Mass Rehabilitation Commission** (MRC) services
- ♦ **Dress for Success Worcester**
- ♦ Education Opportunities

Download the guide here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vtTcbDxZslogfTpUEctOIE6zEScInVn6c7oT-6wmj3Q/edit?usp=sharing>





# 2021 Advance Child Tax Credit

## Payments start July 15, 2021

- Eligible families can receive advance payments of **up to \$300 per month** for each child under age 6 and **up to \$250 per month** for each child age 6 and above.
- Payments begin July 15 and will be sent monthly through December 15 without any further action required.
- You can benefit from the credit even if you don't have earned income or don't owe any income taxes.
- The credit includes children who turn age 17 in 2021.
- The tax credit is expanded to include advance payments for 2021 only.

### Filed already?

You don't need to take any action now if you've filed a 2020 tax return.

### Haven't filed yet?

File your tax return as soon as possible. For people not required to file a tax return and who didn't file in 2019 or 2020, visit the special IRS **Non-filer Sign-up Tool** for more details and quickly register. You may qualify for the Child Tax Credit and Economic Impact Payments.



- ◆ [Non-filer Sign-up Tool](#)
- ◆ **Manage Payments** [here](#)
- ◆ What's a [qualifying child](#)?

**Eligible taxpayers who don't want to receive advance payment of the 2021 Child Tax Credit will have the opportunity to unenroll from receiving the payments.**

**What is it?** Families can get **half** of their *2021 Child Tax Credit* in monthly payments **in advance** (July 15 - December 2021). *The other half will be claimed when they file their 2021 income tax return in 2022.*

**You (and your spouse, if you filed a joint return) will get payments if you:**

- ◆ Filed a 2019 or 2020 tax return **and** claimed the *Child Tax Credit* on the return;

**OR**

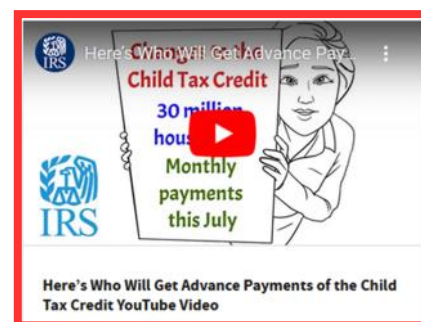
- ◆ Gave the IRS your information in 2020 to get the stimulus payments; **AND**
- ◆ Have a main home **in the U.S.** for *more than* half the year; **AND**
- ◆ Have a **qualifying child** (under age 18 at the end of 2021 *with* a valid Social Security number); **AND**
- ◆ Made *less than* the income limits.

**Check eligibility here:** <https://youtu.be/KMe3q9N5UHY>

**See more information at:**

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/advance-child-tax-credit-payments-in-2021>

**Download a guide** [here](#).





Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

## Join the CLW DHILS Team as a: **DEAF SKILLS TRAINER**

### This job is great for you, if you love to:

- Empower and work with consumers on personal goals
- Advocate for Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals on local/state levels
- Provide:
  - 1:1 independent living skills training and peer support to consumers
  - information & referral
  - guidance and leadership
- Problem solve
- Work independently and with the team
- Work with individuals with diverse disabilities and cultures

### Qualifications:

#### Education

- High School or equivalent (GED) required; Bachelor Degree in health/human services, preferred; years of relevant experience may be substituted for Bachelor Degree;

#### Experience

- ASL Fluent
- 2 years minimum of relevant experience working in Deaf/Hard of Hearing services OR involvement with the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community required;
- Microsoft Office and database management

## GREAT BENEFITS

- Medical
- Dental
- 403(b) Retirement

#### PAID:

- Life Insurance
- Short Term Disability (STD)
- Long Term Disability (LTD)
- Parking

- 13 Holidays
- Vacation
- Sick Time
- Mileage Reimbursement

**\$17.35/hour / 40 hours/week / Mon - Fri**

**Apply  
Now**

### INTERESTED OR HAVE QUESTIONS?

Email Deb Olson at: [dolson@centerlw.org](mailto:dolson@centerlw.org)

### APPLY and SEE MORE INFO HERE:

**[Full-Time Deaf Skills Trainer Positions](#)**

#### Center for Living & Working, Inc.

484 Main Street Suite 345

Worcester, MA 01608

Website: [www.centerlw.org](http://www.centerlw.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking>



*Empowering  
Independence*

Voice: (508) 798-0350  
Toll Free: (800) 570-4020  
TTY: (508) 755-1003  
VP: (508) 762-1164  
Fax: (508) 797-4015

# COVID-19 Resources/Data

*We will add more sites as needed.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Vaccine Information                          | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine">https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine</a>   |
| Vaccine Appointments                         | <a href="https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/">https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/</a>   |
| COVID-19 Testing                             | <a href="http://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing">www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing</a>  |
| US COVID-19 Cases and Deaths <i>by State</i> | <a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days</a> |
| MA Travel Order                              | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order</a>                             |
| MA Response Reporting                        | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting</a>                 |

**NOTE:** See separate *SE Resources* page for more information or contact your Skills Trainer with questions.

## Questions about this Newsletter?

Need a website address from your printed newsletter? Contact your Skills Trainer!

|               |  |   |
|---------------|--|---|
| Joan Philip   | DHILS Director   | 508-762-1165 (VP)                       |
| Denise Paro   | Administrative Assistant                               | 508-556-1600 (VP)                       |
| Ellen Perkins | DHILS Assistant Manager/Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer | 508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP) |
| Kim White     | Staff Interpreter                                      | 508-755-1042 x5042; 508-283-1036 (VP)   |
| VACANT        | Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)                        |   |
| VACANT        | Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)                        |   |
| VACANT        | Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)                        |   |

## Contact Us!

Center for Living & Working, Inc.

*Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services Department*

Videophone: 508-762-1164

Voice/TTY: 508-755-1003

[www.CenterLW.org](http://www.CenterLW.org)



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services



CLW: <https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking>

DHILS Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/469192334303776>