

November 23, 2021



Empowering
Independence

CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.
WHAT'S UP?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

COVID-19 Updates

Pfizer Vaccine for Children

Who can get the Pfizer children's vaccine?

- Kids ages 5 — 11
- Who live or go to school in Massachusetts

*Children's dose is *smaller than* an adult dose (ages 12 and up)



How do I make an appointment for my child?

- Contact your child's doctor, **OR**
- Search [VaxFinder.mass.gov](https://vaxfinder.mass.gov)



Booster Shots

Why get a COVID-19 Booster?

- COVID-19 vaccines' protection lowers over time.
- **Booster shots** (Pfizer, Moderna or J&J) keep vaccines working longer.
- COVID-19 vaccines and boosters prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death — *even against the Delta variant*.



Booster shots are FREE — you don't need ID, health insurance or to pay.

How do I know when I got my last COVID-19 vaccine?

- Look at your CDC vaccination card for your shot date(s).

Can't find your vaccination card?

- Contact your primary care doctor, or the pharmacy (CVS, Walgreens, etc.) where you got your 1st vaccine, **OR**
- Get your vaccination record at: www.mass.gov/myvaxrecord

NOTE: THIS COULD TAKE UP TO 2 WEEKS.

How do I make an appointment for a booster?

- For a location near you, go to: [VaxFinder.mass.gov](https://vaxfinder.mass.gov)
- No computer? **Call 2-1-1** [COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line]
 - Monday — Friday: 8:30 AM — 6:00 PM
 - Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 AM — 2:00 PM



New VLOGS

HEP C: Testing & Treatment

What is Hep C, and how do I get tested for it? What if I have it - can it be treated?

VLOG: <https://bit.ly/31JZH67>

Transcript: bit.ly/S3HepCTT



Casting Call!

Casting Deaf & Hard of Hearing ASL Fluent Signers, approximately age 20-30, for narrator roles in videos for a national health organization.

(No Professional Acting Experience Required)

Apply by November 30, 2021:

- Send an "unlisted" YouTube video under 2 minutes long explaining why the topic of sexual and reproductive health and rights is important to you.
- Include your name and city/state of residence.

Email: CastingHealth@gmail.com

VLOG: <https://fb.watch/9ijqJew6vj/>

Transcript: bit.ly/CastingHealth



Sorenson's 2021 Fall frame.influence Series

Watch the latest or catch up on missed VLOGS here:

<https://www.sorenson.com/events/fall2021/>



Updated *Therapists for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Directory*

Click here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mRNQIKYYNjM4vYpRX7OECQkiW-PQlu62/view?usp=sharing>



MISSED A *WHAT'S UP* NEWSLETTER?

Past issues of newsletters are on our website!

VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.CENTERLW.ORG/SERVICES/DEAF-HARD-OF-HEARING/](https://www.centerlw.org/services/deaf-hard-of-hearing/)

Heating Help 101

LIHEAP - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Fuel Assistance)

A program run by local agencies in Massachusetts (under *Department of Housing and Community Development, DHCD*). **It helps people with low-income pay winter heating bills (November 1 — April 30, every year).**

- ♦ Got Fuel Assistance last year? Must fill-out the Recertification Application for help this year.
- ♦ Find your local agency here: <https://hedfuel.azurewebsites.net/>

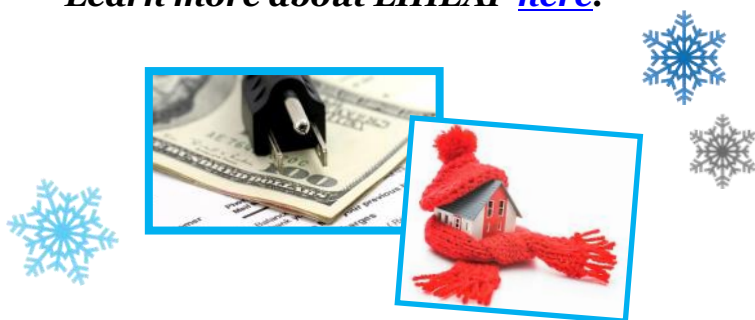
Who can get help? Eligibility is based on income:

- ♦ Last 4 weeks of **gross** income for your household (everyone you live with)
- ♦ **NOT income:** Stimulus funds; Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

Learn more about LIHEAP [here](#).

INCOME GUIDELINES

FISCAL YEAR 2022		
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD	4 Week Income	Annual Income
1	\$3,150	\$40,951
2	\$4,119	\$53,551
3	\$5,088	\$66,151
4	\$6,057	\$78,751
5	\$7,027	\$91,351
6	\$7,996	\$103,951



Live in a Central Massachusetts town/city below?

Contact **Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC)** for help:



- Worcester, Auburn, Brookfield, Boylston, Charlton, Charlton City, Charlton Depot, Douglas, Dudley, East Brookfield, Holden, Jefferson, Leicester, Cherry Valley, Rochdale, Millbury, North Brookfield, Oakham, Oxford, North Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Fiskdale, Sutton, Manchaug, Warren, West Warren, Webster, West Boylston, West Brookfield
- See WCAC's Fuel Assistance page for info: <https://www.wcac.net/fuel-assistance/>
- WCAC's Hours: Monday-Friday 8:45am-4:45pm Call: (508) 754-1176

Have a Phone with 3G Service?

3G Service will end in 2022. Older phones and devices will lose call and data functions — **including calling 9-1-1!**

- AT&T will stop 3G service in February 2022.
- T-Mobile Sprint stop 3G service on March 31, 2022.
- Verizon will stop 3G service by the end of 2022.

Free guide:

https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/plan_ahead_for_3g_shutoff_consumer_guide.pdf



WILL NEED TO UPDATE TO 4G OR 5G!

Are you a Consumer or PCA in the MassHealth PCA Program?

Your Fiscal Intermediary (FI) will be changing to Tempus Unlimited beginning on January 1, 2022.

If you do not already use Tempus Unlimited as your FI, here's what you need to do:

1.

Check your mail and email, or go online

- You should have already received a letter and/or email from Tempus Unlimited that includes pre-filled forms for you to complete.
- Can't find a letter or forms? Contact Tempus at 877-479-7577 or MAFMS@tempusunlimited.org, or visit Tempus' website at <https://tempusunlimited.org/ma-transition/> to download blank forms.

2.

Fill out your forms and return them to Tempus FI

- Complete each required form
- Send back to Tempus as soon as possible – **NO LATER than December 17, 2021**
- You can send your completed forms to Tempus via email, fax, or mail:
 - Email: MAFMS@tempusunlimited.org
 - Fax: (800) 359-2884
 - Mail: 600 Technology Center Dr., Stoughton, MA 02072

Have questions? Go to <https://tempusunlimited.org/ma-transition/> or Contact Tempus at 877-479-7577 or MAFMS@tempusunlimited.org

Learn more here: <https://tempusunlimited.org/ma-transition/>

MCDHH CATTS Update

On Wednesday, November 17th, MCDHH CATTS staff provided ***"Communicating with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals in Emergency Settings"*** training for the Massachusetts State 911 Department's Public Safety Communications Academy in Middleboro, Massachusetts.

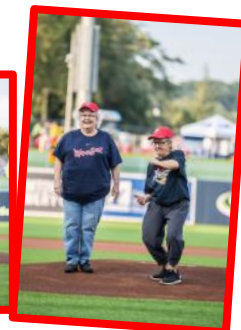
This long-running collaborative training between the Massachusetts State 911 Department and MCDHH has resulted in hundreds of 911 dispatchers from throughout the Commonwealth - many of whom ultimately aspire to become police officers, firefighters or emergency medical technicians - being trained in all aspects of successful communication access provision during emergencies, as well as understanding the importance of creating collaborative community partnerships.

Our sincere thanks to our partners at the Massachusetts State 911 Department, and to our tireless 911 dispatchers and first responders who make all of our lives safer.



WooSox Deaf Awareness Night Photos

Thank you to the WooSox for sharing these September 8, 2021 *Deaf Awareness Night* photos with us, which we shared in a previous issue. We apologize for forgetting to include photo credits. We look forward to our continued collaboration for future events!



Parent Resources

Updated Website



Boston Children's Hospital [Audiology Program](#) and [Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program](#) websites have been updated. Look under **Patient Resources tabs**, for helpful links and resources including:



- Sound Outreach to Schools
- Language acquisition
- Educational program planning
- Strategies for better communication
- Statewide and local resources
(MCDHH, the Decibels Foundation, EHDI-PALS)

Native American Heritage Month ASL Resources

American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) has resources including:

- James Wooden Legs narrating 4 native cultural stories
- Side-by-side comparisons of Plains Indian Sign Language and ASL
- Footage of tribal elders “hand talking” in 1930

ASL Resources for Native American Heritage Month
Nov 8, 2021 | ASDC News, ASL Videos, Educators, Parents and Families



Website: <https://deafchildren.org/2021/11/asl-resources-native-american-heritage-month/>

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Children—Holiday Resources



The holidays will be here soon! Remember to include deaf and hard of hearing children in social gatherings and conversations.

- Play deaf-friendly games (with visual cues — not oral).
- Turn on closed captions on the TV.
- Check-in and ask questions to make sure your child is following conversations.
- Minimize background noise.

Another helpful resource: *Ho Ho Huh? Ideas for Surviving the Holidays and Other Occasions* written by Lorna Irwin. Click [here](#).

Other Helpful Resources

Tina Childress, AuD, a Deaf, ASL-fluent audiologist with bilateral cochlear implants has a **website with resources** related to:



- Apps
- Cochlear implants
- Sign language
- Telecommunications.
- Tutorials /videos about captions and hearing assistive technology

Website: www.tinachildressaud.com

Thanksgiving Safety



The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.



- Stovetop: stay in the kitchen and watch food you're cooking.
- Oven: stay home and check food often.
- Keep children **at least 3 feet away** from the stove/oven.
- Watch kids near hot foods and liquids:
 - ◊ Steam, oil, boiling water, gravy, coffee, etc. can cause **serious burns**.
- Tripping hazards: move toys, bags, etc. off the floor — make a clear pathway.
- Keep knives out of reach!
- Move wires/cords out of children's reach: electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer, mixer, etc.
- Keep matches locked up in high cabinets.
- Never leave children alone with a lit candle.
- Test your smoke alarms to be sure they work!



One Care Update

UnitedHealthcare Connected has joined *One Care*.

You can enroll ***IF you:***

- Are eligible for *OneCare*
- Live in 1 of these counties: Bristol, some parts of Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Plymouth, Suffolk, or Worcester.

Coverage will start: **January 1, 2022**

One Care
MassHealth+Medicare
Bringing your care together

United Healthcare

HAVE A SAFE THANKSGIVING ~REMEMBER **TURKEY!**~

**T**

Thaw turkey at a safe temperature – 40°F or below

**U**

Use extra caution when frying a turkey and oil-free fryers if possible

**R**

Remember to clean all cooking surfaces regularly

**K**

Kee children away from hot foods and surfaces, and kitchen utensils

**E**

Ensure turkey is cooked and has reached minimum temperature of 165°F

**Y**

Your smoke detector should be tested prior to cooking



Brought to you by: American Safety Council

**American
Safety Council!**

COVID-19 Resources/Data

We will add more sites as needed.

Vaccine Information	https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine
Vaccine Appointments	https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/
COVID-19 Testing	www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing
US COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by State	https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days
MA Travel Order	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order
MA Response Reporting	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting
Governor's Press Office	https://www.mass.gov/orgs/governors-press-office

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

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 Asst. Manager/Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer	508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP)
Catherine Brown	Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)	508-762-1021 (VP)
Rosemary Moreira	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1166 (VP)
Kim White	Staff Interpreter	508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP)
VACANT	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-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



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services



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

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



Career Pathways Program

FREE! Nurse Assistant Training



- ▶ 120 Hours of Classroom and Clinical Training
- ▶ Certificate of Completion
- ▶ Paid Work Experience
- ▶ CNA State Exam Preparation Class
- ▶ Job Placement Assistance

Convenient training location:

The Field Stone School | 90 Madison Street, Worcester



To be eligible students must:

Be between the ages of 18-24 | Show proof of eligible income/benefits

Have completed high school or High School Equivalency

Have reliable transportation | Pass a placement test



For more information contact:

Webster Classroom

Education Specialist


508-461-9503

Worcester Classroom

Education Specialist

508-552-7303

This project is funded by a grant from the US Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, and provided locally through MassHire Central Region Workforce Board.



05 S 5

DOCUMENTING EXPERIENCES OF ASL COMMUNITIES IN THE TIME OF COVID-19


WANTED: Members of the ASL communities (Deaf, CODA, hearing, etc., + any level of fluency in ASL)

FOR: a filmed project on your experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and are willing to share their experiences online

WHAT YOU WILL DO:
Participate in different activities with other ASL users (a group chat, one-on-one interview, and story exercise)

\$ YOU WILL BE COMPENSATED \$
\$10 EACH HALF HOUR UP TO 2 HOURS TOTAL.

INTERESTED? GET MORE INFORMATION & SIGN UP HERE (OR USE QR CODE):
<https://forms.gle/v3MGZSPFYGibzL8FA>



THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE GALLAUDET IRB
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact julie.hochgesang@gallaudet.edu.

Watch an introduction VLOG and find out how to submit your video [here](#).