

February 2, 2023



Empowering Independence

CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.

WHAT'S UP?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

SNAP Emergency Allotments Ending on March 2, 2023

Recent action by the federal government ends the extra COVID SNAP benefits, known as *SNAP Emergency Allotments*, as of February 2023.

You will get your last COVID SNAP payment on March 2, 2023.

Watch VLOG here: <https://youtu.be/3yaa-oMS8Kg>

Read more: <https://www.mass.gov/federal-extra-pandemic-snap-benefits-to-end>

This new website helps people plan for the end of these temporary benefits: [Mass.gov/ExtraCOVIDSNAP](https://www.mass.gov/ExtraCOVIDSNAP)



New Bus Stop Near CLW's New Office!

WRTA bus Route 3 [Union Station Hub – Worcester State College via Highland St.] stops near CLW's office. If you need to visit us you can request a stop at the corner of Chestnut St. and Walnut St.

From the bus stop, walk to 18 Chestnut Street and enter the building (on the 2nd floor). Continue through the lobby to the back side of the building and take the elevator to the 5th floor. CLW is in Suite 540.



COVID-19 Updates

United States at a Glance

Cases

New Cases (Weekly Total)

295,140

Case Trends



Dec 2022 Jan 2023

Deaths

New Deaths (Weekly Total)

3,756

Death Trends



Dec 2022 Jan 2023

Hospitalizations

New Admissions (Daily Avg)

3,726

Admission Trends



Dec 2022 Jan 2023

Vaccinations

% with Updated Booster Dose

15.5%

Total Population



Total Cases

102,171,644

Total Deaths

1,103,615

Current Hospitalizations

15,859

Total Updated Booster Doses

51,437,397

Deaf Performers at Super Bowl 2023

National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and the NFL announced that *Super Bowl LVII* in Arizona on February 12, 2023 will feature Deaf performers Troy Kotsur, Colin Denny, and Justina Miles as part of pregame festivities. Oscar winner and Arizona native Troy Kotsur will provide the American Sign Language (ASL) performance of the National Anthem. Colin Denny, a Deaf Native American from Navajo Nation in Arizona, will perform *America the Beautiful* through a blend of ASL and North American Indian Sign Language. For the first time ever, there will be an ASL rendition of *Lift Every Voice and Sing* at the Super Bowl, done by Justina Miles, a Philadelphia born performer now living in Maryland. On top of that, Justina will also perform in ASL the music of Rhianna during the Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show. *Information on where to best watch these sign language performances will be shared when it becomes available.*



<https://www.nad.org/2023/01/24/deaf-performers-at-super-bowl-lvii/>

WorkWithoutLimits™

CAREER FAIR

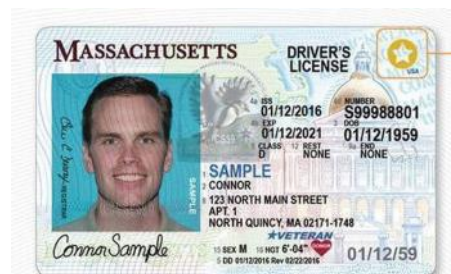
For Individuals with Disabilities

Tuesday, March 7, 2023
Virtual
1:30 - 3:30 pm
Registration opening in early January!

<https://workwithoutlimits.org/career-fair-for-individuals-with-disabilities/>

REAL ID Date Extended

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has extended the REAL ID full enforcement date from May 3, 2023 to **May 7, 2025**.



MASSHEALTH



ELIGIBILITY REDETERMINATION

In March 2020, the federal government declared a **Public Health Emergency [PHE]** and put protections in place to prevent *MassHealth* coverage ending during the COVID-19 emergency. Now that the PHE has ended, *MassHealth* will start their regular annual renewal process.

- 1 **MARCH 2020** COVID-19 *Public Health Emergency [PHE] Declared*
- 2 **MARCH 2020** *MassHealth suspends eligibility process - everyone's coverage continues.*
- 3 **APRIL 2023** *MassHealth returns to standard annual eligibility process.*



**Starting
April 1, 2023**

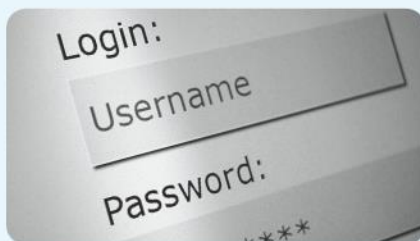
WHAT SHOULD I DO TO GET READY?



**Update your
Contact Information**



**Report any
Household Changes**



**Create a
MassHealth Account**

[Mass.gov/masshealthlogin](https://mass.gov/masshealthlogin)



**Read all mail
from MassHealth**

**QUESTIONS?
Contact your Skills Trainer!**



CLW Service Award!

In December, all CLW staff gathered at *Val's* in Holden for our Annual holiday gathering. It was a nice time to socialize, have a wonderful meal and play games.

Joan Philip, Director of DHILS [*Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services*] was presented with an award for her **35 years** of service to CLW and it's consumers. Actually, Joan is celebrating 37 years at CLW, for 2 years of contract work, plus 35 years as a salaried employee! Congratulations to Joan for her dedication and hard work over the years!



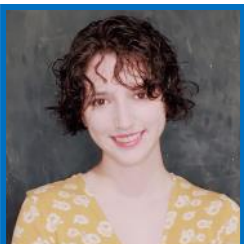
DHILS Staff Holiday Gathering

The DHILS team took a break from their busy schedules to celebrate the holidays together at *Peppercorn's Grille & Tavern* in Worcester. It was nice to enjoy time together and celebrate the new year.



Introducing our DHILS Interns

Hello my name is **Sydney Albrecht**, I graduated from the University of Arkansas with a BSN in Nursing and BS in Anthropology. I grew up in a town in Kansas with a large dDeaf population and fell in love with the culture and language of ASL. I now am continuing my education to become an ASL interpreter at NECC. I am very excited to work and use my skills to support CLW!



My name is **Freddi Koss**. I graduated from Hampshire College in 2019 and now I'm in the Interpreting Certificate Program at *Northern Essex Community College* in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Last semester I volunteered with CLW's DHILS department, and now I am intern working with them. Some of my hobbies include costuming, creative writing, and dance.

STALKING IN THE UNITED STATES



1 MOST COMMON STALKING TACTICS EXPERIENCED BY VICTIMS:



Most stalkers use multiple tactics.³



APPROX. 13.5 MILLION PEOPLE ARE STALKED IN A 1-YEAR PERIOD



1 IN 3 STALKERS HAVE STALKED BEFORE

Citations

1. Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease control and Prevention. 2. Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). Stalking Victimization in the United States. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. 3. Mohandie, K., Melay, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51(1): 147-155.

Filing Taxes Common Mistakes to Avoid



Filing too Early

Have **all** your tax papers [W-2's, proof of health insurance, identification, etc.] *Mistakes mean delays.*



Missing or Incorrect Social Security Numbers

Each SSN [filers, dependents, etc.] must match what is printed on the Social Security card.

Misspelled Names

The names of all taxpayers and dependents listed on the return should match the names on their Social Security cards.



Incorrect Information: Amounts, Filing Status, Bank Account Numbers

Put the right amounts for: wages, dividends, bank interest, other income received. Use the right Filing Status. Bring a blank check for correct bank routing information.

Math Mistakes

Always double check your math!
Tax prep software checks it automatically.



Unsigned Forms

Unsigned tax returns aren't valid!
Joint returns - both spouses must sign.

Dishonest Tax Preparers

Having someone do your taxes for you? Be sure they are honest and have a good reputation:

<https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/choosing-a-tax-professional>



MCDHH News



JOB OPENINGS

Part Time Legal ASL Interpreter (2)

Watch VLOG: <https://youtu.be/QBXoQGl7yMs>

See job posting here:

<https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=23000069>



Part Time Legal CDI Interpreter (2)

Watch VLOG: <https://youtu.be/TboZ-z1mdts>

See job posting here:

<https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=23000068>

Interested applicants should attach a cover letter and resume when applying. For new applicants/new to *MassCareers*, you first need to create an applicant profile. The Commonwealth offers this guide to assist you, *MassCareers* [Create a Profile guide](#).

For returning applicants, or after you created your *MassCareers* profile, there is another guide to help you apply: *MassCareers* [Apply for a Job guide](#).

This is a wonderful opportunity to join MCDHH. Please share this announcement with your professional network and encourage a diverse pool of applicants.

MCDHH CART Contract Forum for Feedback

MCDHH invites all stakeholders to join MCDHH on **Wednesday February 22, 2023** from **6pm – 8pm** on *Zoom* for a **Forum for Feedback**.

Please RSVP to sacmcdhh@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Facebook video: <https://fb.watch/ijWBgANUtI/>

Transcript: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1b50pd_fx9JeLkDubF9oNenwCQCNI-uEljMZ4MEJZNA/edit?usp=sharing



MCDHH is seeking input from freelance CART providers, private sector requestors, state agencies, CART provision agencies, CART referral specialists and CART users on all aspects of the current contract, as well as requests for consideration for items to be included in the upcoming contract MCDO8. During this Forum for Feedback, we will be discussing issues and concerns affecting CART providers, CART users and all CART stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and we want to give CART providers and community members the opportunity to share feedback on the contract with MCDHH staff.

Additionally, there will be a public comment period in which MCDHH will be accepting written comments, or comments provided in ASL via Vimeo, MP4, or YouTube links that will run from February 10 – February 24, 2023.

MCDHH will provide CART and ASL Interpreters for communication access.

If additional access is necessary, please request services by contacting Cat Dvar, Director of Communication Access Services, at cat.b.dvar@mass.gov.

Worcester Parent Guide to Community Resources

[CLICK HERE FOR ENGLISH GUIDE](#)



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/2022/07/WHATS-UP-NEWSLETTER/](https://www.centerlw.org/2022/07/whats-up-newsletter/)

NOTE: 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 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) |
| Jonathan Vanderschrick | Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time) | 508-762-1350 (VP) |
| Kim White | Staff Interpreter | 508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP) |

Contact Us!



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

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



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

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