

Family Forum

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY VISION FOR EQUALITY

VISION FOR EQUALITY HOSTED GOVERNOR WOLF

On Thursday, September 29th, Vision For Equality had the opportunity to host the Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, in our Philadelphia Office. Policy Director Sara Galbally; ODP Southeast Regional Manager, Shelly Zaslow; Denise Taylor Patterson, Director and Larry Pace Operations Director of Intellectual disAbilities Services in Philadelphia also joined us to discuss the needs of our community members.

There are about 13,745 people with Intellectual Disabilities and thousands more with Autism waiting for services in Pennsylvania. 13 of these families met with Governor Tom Wolf. They came from throughout the state including Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Northampton and even Bradford county,

a five-hour drive, to tell their stories directly to the Governor.

The message was clear: the needs these families and many others across the State have in terms of services is immense. People with disabilities as well as their loved ones need constant, specialized support in order to live a fulfilling life.

This small group of people were able to represent many of our most vulnerable community members who are currently on waiting lists for Intellectual Disabilities and Autism services or are shortly approaching the 21-year-old mark, leaving high school, and are at risk of being without services and supports.

Governor Tom Wolf took extensive notes as each person shared their words and engaged with the speakers throughout

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BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION



Governor Tom Wolf went around the room and shook hands with families

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To include an event or submit an article for publication, please email:
visionforequality@visionforequality.org

EMPLOYMENT IS MAKING HISTORY

By Kathy L. Skyes

On June 11, 2016, Linette Roberts and Kathy Sykes represented Vision for Equality at the Disability Pride Day at the National Constitution Center by speaking about Employment. Linette spoke from the heart and talked about how important her job at Vision for Equality is to her. She was eloquent and full of excitement as she spoke of how much it means to her to be earning money and a part of the workforce.

Kathy highlighted the Governor's Executive Order issued this past March and the historical significance of this action in Pennsylvania as we move toward truly becoming an "Employment First" State and embracing employment for all citizens with a disability.

Family Forum has reprinted an excerpt of the Executive Order. People with disabilities are significantly underrepresented in our workforce and this Order recognizes the critical role that

work plays in our lives and is an important step toward bringing about change. The Governor has ordered that a plan be developed that is a collaborative effort among key Departments in Government to implement the goals outlined in his Order.

The plan was submitted to the Governor in July and should be available shortly. There is much work to be done over the course of the next several years. An important piece of the work in shaping the future begins at home as families talk to their children about their hopes and dreams and work with teachers and adult service providers to help those dreams become reality.

https://www.governor.pa.gov/executive_orders/executive-order-2016-03-establishing-employment-first-policy-and-increasing-competitive-integrated-employment-for-pennsylvanians-with-a-disability/

Excerpt of the Governor's Executive Order

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. "Employment First" is the policy of all Commonwealth executive branch agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor. This policy reflects the Commonwealth's goal of making the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a model state when it comes to creating a climate hospitable to workers with a disability.

a. The definition of Employment First is that competitive integrated employment is the first consideration and preferred outcome of publicly-funded education, training, employment and related services, and long-term supports and services for working-age Pennsylvanians with a disability, as "disability" is defined in each

agency's governing statutes and rules.

b. The definition of competitive integrated employment for purposes of this Executive Order is the definition contained in the WIOA, which is work performed on a full or part-time basis (including self-employment) for which a person is:

(1) Compensated at not less than federal minimum wage requirements or State or local minimum wage law (whichever is higher) and not less than the customary rate paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by people without a disability;

(2) At a location where the employee interacts with people without a disability (not including supervisory personnel or people who are providing services to such employee); and

(3) Presented, as appropriate, opportunities for similar benefits and advancement like those for other employees without a disability and who have similar positions.

You, You, You

Bill Krebs, a wonderful Self-Advocate and Advocate for others set out to help change the way people with disabilities look at themselves and the system as a whole. He has founded a group known as You, You, You. It's about you, for you, and to help you, it's as easy as ABC.

Some of the topics have included: how to work and keep your benefits, what does music mean to you, learning things you didn't know through Trivia Pursuit, and how to speak up for yourself and others. Bill would like to invite all people with varying types of disabilities to come learn, interact, and build friendships. The only requirement to attend is to show up with a positive attitude and an open mind ready to learn.

The meetings are held every 3rd Friday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. at Liberty Resources located at the corner of 8th and Arch Streets in Philadelphia. Snacks and refreshments will be provided but please feel free to bring your own or something to share.



For More Information:
(215) 634 - 2000 Ext. 197

RESOURCES

By Policy Information Exchange

Everyday Lives: Values in Action

On September 12, 2016, the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) issued the **“Everyday Lives: Values in Action”** booklet. Its purpose is to guide ODP as it develops policy and designs programs. Providers of services will use the recommendations to support individuals and their families to achieve everyday lives. The new booklet updates the previous “Everyday Lives” publication.

It is available at http://disabilityrightspa.org/File/community_jobs_and_living_wage.pdf. See also the Employment article, which includes a citation to the plan and recommendations to implement the Governor’s Employment First Executive Order.



Supports Broker Policy Manual

As part of the Person-Driven Services and Supports Project funded by the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council, the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University and Values into Action-PA have published a Supports Policy Manual to help develop Supports Broker services in Pennsylvania.

The manual is designed for providers who want to offer Supports Broker services so they can partner with people with disabilities and their families who want to direct their own services. Among the topics covered are the roles and responsibilities for supports brokers as well as qualification and evaluation standards.

The manual is available at <http://disabilities.temple.edu/programs/pds/>
For more information, contact Marian Frattarola-Saulino at marians@viapa.org, 610-565-5177 or Denisse Beckett at denisse.beckett@temple.edu, 215-204-4979.

POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION AWARDS 2016

By Bonnie Squires

The format for the Annual Points of Transformation Awards ceremony was a bit different this year. After a buffet breakfast at CBH, in place of one keynote speaker there was a panel of experienced direct support professionals, led by moderator Marian Baldini, the CEO of KenCrest (no relation to Bill Baldini, as she pointed out), comparing then and now; Joe Hartnett, now retired, but was Wendy Williams' first boss; Laura Princiotta, now the CEO of SpArc Philadelphia, who started as a direct support professional 25 years ago (everyone gasped as she revealed her starting salary in those days); and Julio Nieves, of PCHC, with more than 25 years of experience, especially in the Hispanic community.



Panel Presentation

There was a lively exchange of questions and answers from the audience of several hundred people. And then it was time for Denise Taylor Patterson to introduce some dignitaries and our perennial M.C., Loraine Ballard Morrill of iheartmedia (formerly ClearChannel). Pennsylvania State Representative Steve Kinsey presented a citation in honor of direct support professionals from the state legislature, and DBHIDS Deputy Commissioner Rodney Lamb read the citation from Governor Tom Wolf.

Larry Pace and Wendy Williams assisted Denise Taylor, Loraine Ballard Morrill and Deputy Commissioner of DBHIDS Dennis Jones in presenting the awards to each of the Points of Transformation award-winners.

The award-winners this year happened to be all female, and the ceremony resembled in some ways the Miss America pageant. Music was provided by Benjamin Santiago, our wonderful trombone player.



Trombone music

The award-winners included the following: Employment, Estelle Gilliams, Community Integrated Services; LifeSharing, Mae "Lady Bird" Banks; Support Coordination, Heather Shanefield, Quality Progressions; Early Intervention, Jesenia Whitacker, ChildLink; Treatment Staff, Beth Loving, United Cerebral Palsy of Philadelphia and Vicinity; Habilitation, Donna Heard, PATH; Cynthia Jones, Residential, NHS Human Services; Kathy Sykes" It's all about community," Stephanie Petro-McClellan, Center for Creative Works - RHD; and last but not least, Everyday Lives, Tammy Edwards, IDS.



Tammy Carter, receiving her award.

All of the winners have done remarkable work, but Tammy Carter was singled out for her phenomenal job of finding community home for some folks who had been institutionalized for 30 years

SAVE THE DATE!

By Wendy Williams

March is National Intellectual and Developmental disAbility Awareness month! It is time to start marking down your calendars and get ready for the events the City is preparing for the month dedicated to IDS awareness.

March 2, 2017 there will be Fashion Show with people with lived experiences as the models at the Community of Behavioral Health. The time is to be determined.

March 3, 2016 The First Friday Series will be dedicated to Intellectual Disabilities Awareness, the topic is to be determined.

March 9, 2017 at 12 noon there will be a Lunch and Learn Series on Lifesharing.

March 31, 2017 the play: "A Fierce Kind Of Love" will be performed. Time and place are to be determined. The price per ticket will be \$30.

IDS's intent is to have something on every weekday of March leading up to the 25th Anniversary of Brighter Futures. Send us information about your IDS Month Awareness activities at: visionforequality@visionforequality.org

PENNSYLVANIA CELEBRATES THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

By Department of Human Services

Harrisburg, PA – The departments of Human Services and Education and The Arc of Pennsylvania today released the following joint statement on the 45th anniversary of the Right to Education in Pennsylvania:

"Pennsylvania has long been a leader in recognizing and serving the needs of individuals with disabilities. Our commonwealth is the birthplace of the right to education for students with disabilities, and Pennsylvania's standards paved the way for national changes.

Forty-five years ago today the commonwealth and The Arc of Pennsylvania (then called Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children) signed an agreement requiring that all children 6 to 21 years old with disabilities receive a free public education by September 1, 1972.

Each child was to be offered an education appropriate to his or her learning capacities with

a clear preference for educating children in regular public school classrooms.

In 1975, the "right to a full and appropriate education" was codified and extended to all children in the nation by the U.S. Congress as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Pennsylvania led the way in what may be the most significant step in history for children with disabilities. Since this landmark agreement, every child has had the right to attend public school with their brothers, sisters, and friends, setting the stage for a life of full participation in their communities as co-workers, neighbors, and citizens of the commonwealth.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

THE FAMILY CORNER

PHILADELPHIA INFANT TODDLER EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Who do I refer?

- Children from birth to three (3) years old
- Children who have a health condition or medical diagnosis that has a high probability for developmental delay
- Children whose development concerns you
- Children who are developing differently than other children their age
- Children who are At Risk for developmental concerns but may not be showing signs of delay: birth weight under 3.3 lbs, NICU graduate, elevated blood lead level, substantiated abuse or neglect, born to chemically dependent mother, experiencing homelessness

Please note: For children who are over the age of 36 months, call the Preschool Early Intervention Program at Elwyn SEEDS: (215) 222 - 8054

Why should I refer a child?

All children grow and develop in unique ways, however, some children need extra help to learn and develop.

Early Intervention is a FREE program that can help families with their child's development, learning and behavior.

Early Intervention services are delivered in the home, community or at the child's day care.

Families participate in the services and learn how to help their child reach developmental outcomes.

Early Intervention regularly checks the development for children who are **At Risk**

How do I refer a child?

Email: birthto3EI@phila.gov

Fax: (215) 685 - 4638

Call: (216) 685 - 4646*

*Please be prepared to give us the child's name, date of birth, parent's name and phone number to begin intake.

Referral forms available on DBHIDS website: www.dbhids.org



Are you eligible for Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Services?

See requirements & how to enroll on the next page.

To be eligible for Intellectual Disability services in Pennsylvania, you must:

Philadelphia Parent Support Groups

Philadelphia Parent Support Groups (PPSG) are looking for a Parent or Family member to lead the Parent Support Group in South Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Parent Support Groups are grassroots groups organized by families for families of persons who have Intellectual disAbilities and Autism receiving Intellectual disAbility Services (IDS) who share and network with one another to become better informed about resources in their local community and around the state. There are Parent Support Groups located throughout the City of Philadelphia.

Interested people should call Barbara Nattile, PPSG Manager at 267-773-5288 or email bnattile@visionforequality.org for further information.

- Have an IQ of 70 or below
- Have significant limitations in three areas such as communication, self-care, home living, and social skills, based on a standardized test of adaptive behavior.
- Have proof of an intellectual disability before your 22nd birthday, and
- Be a legal resident of Pennsylvania

Eligibility documentation and current psychological evaluation must be available to be reviewed by IDS before a registration appointment is scheduled.

If you are eligible, a registration appointment will be schedule at IDS. You will be asked to bring:

- Personal and demographic information
- Social Security card
- Birth certificate and any supporting medical or psychiatric evaluations

IDS will request that you provide a complete physical exam from the Supports Coordinator.

If you are not receiving Medical Assistance and are eligible, we will provide you with information on how to enroll.

The Process

Step 1: Meet with a Registration Specialist

The Registration Specialist will complete forms with you and your family. This includes the waiting list form, application for Waiver Services (if applicable), services preference, voter registration and a social summary.

Step 2: Discussing Services

The registration specialist will help you begin to

plan by discussing services you may need and offer you a choice of a Supports Coordination Organization (SCO).

Step 3: Eligibility Notification

Within 10 days after the registration process is complete, you will receive an eligibility determination letter. Your rights in the mediation and appeal process will be included in the letter.

Step 4: Refer to an SCO and Develop an ISP

Within 2 weeks after you are referred to the SCO, you will be assigned to a Supports Coordinator. The Supports Coordinator will help you develop an Individual Support Plan (ISP), identify, locate, coordinate and monitor community and system services and supports. Please note that you can transfer your SCO at any time you are not satisfied with services.

What you need to know:

- There may be a list for Waiver services, but all eligible individuals receive supports coordination services at no charge.
- If you are not eligible for Medicaid waiver services, you will be helped to find other community services.
- If you are not registered to vote, you will be offered the opportunity to complete an application.
- It is important for all eligible individuals to register with Intellectual disAbility Services if he or she wants to receive services and supports.

To find out if you are eligible for Intellectual disAbility services, call the IDS Registration Unit: (215) 685 - 4677

For more information about State Funded benefits go to the Compass website at: <http://www.dhs.pa.gov>

VISION FOR EQUALITY HOSTED GOVERNOR TOM WOLF

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the meeting. He addressed those present by acknowledging the budget cuts that surged this year, which particularly affected the Intellectual Disabilities and Autism community and the PA Waiting List. He proceeded to apologize and assured everyone that he is trying to advocate for this community, and he is putting his effort to promote funding for those families who are still waiting.



Sheila McLeod shared her success story

As his closing words, he emphasized that stories like the ones shared by those present at the meeting are very touching and requested that the community help him bring our issues to the forefront.



Brennan McCarthy and his father

If you would like to share your story with Vision For Equality to spread awareness about issues regarding the Intellectual disabilities and Autism community, please email us at: visionforequality@visionforequality.org

INTERVIEW WITH LINETTE ROBERTS

By Kathy L. Skyes

Linette Roberts is an engaging 38 year old woman with many dreams and aspirations and a spirit of determination to succeed.

Linette works at Vision for Equality (VFE) as a data collector for Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q). In that role, she works with different staff at VFE and meets a lot of people. Her job consists of taking notes and keeping track of information she collects in the course of monitoring visits. She has been employed at VFE for over 4 years and will be starting her fifth year monitoring cycle this Fall. When asked what she likes best about her job, she says with a great big smile, "I love everything."

Linette spoke eloquently about what working means to her at the recent Disability Pride Day at the National Constitution Center.

Linette originally started at Vision several years ago at the urging of her friend, Yvette. She left when Yvette left but decided she would like to come back. In addition to her work at Vision, she volunteers at Star Harbor Senior Center. Linette held two different jobs prior to Vision and has established a solid work history and resume. She has found most of the jobs and volunteer experiences on her own.

Linette has a lot of energy and a can do attitude. She is definitely a people person. She has varied interests and enjoys social activities with family and friends. She is looking forward to going on a family vacation this Fall. She loves life.

Linette has a five year plan. She would like to have a job that provides enough income so she could live on her own in an apartment, maybe with

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PHILADELPHIA PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

Community Support Group

Meeting Date – Fourth Thursday of each month. (Except for Holidays, July and August)

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Place: Vision for Equality

The Cast Iron Building

718 Arch Street, 6N

Philadelphia, PA 19106

Representative: Sharon Duckett-215-298-2796

NW Family Support Group

Meeting Date – Second Tuesday of each month (Except for Holidays, July and August)

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Place: Northwestern Human Services Center

27 E. Mt. Airy Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19119

Representative: Verna Edwards-215-248-4415

Northeast Parent Support Group

For More Information

Contact –Barbara Nattile Philadelphia Parent Support Groups Manager

Direct Number-267-773-5288 bnattile@visionforequality.org

Abriendo Caminos a los Latinos con Familias

Opening Paths for Latinos with Exceptional Families Support Group

Meeting Date- Second Wednesday of each month (Except for Holidays, July and August)

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Place: COMHAR, Inc.

3825 Whitaker Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Liaison: Marisol Ramos-267-777-1291

Roxborough Parent Support Group

Meeting Date- First Thursday of each month (Except for Holidays, July and August)

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Place: Andorra Library

750 East Cathedral Road

Philadelphia, PA 19128

Representative: Carol Costello-215-487-1240

There's A Place For Us Support Group

Meeting Date – Fourth Friday of each month (Except Holidays, July and August)

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Place: Dr. Warren E. Smith Center

1315 Windrim Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19140

Representative: Cleo Dupree-215-329-5219

West Philadelphia Parent Support Group

Meeting Date: Second Monday of each month (Except Holidays, July and August)

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Place: The Free Library of Philadelphia

56th & Haverford Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19139

Representative: Doreatha Davis-215-303-3501

INTERVIEW WITH LINETTE ROBERTS

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a dog. Career wise, she would like to develop computer skills. But she is not yet set on one path. She also enjoys children and might like to operate a day care center. She has experience babysitting and has done some volunteer child care work.

Keep your eye on Linette. Whatever she sets her mind on, she can do it!



Linette Roberts, IM4Q Team Member

2016 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION AWARD-WINNER: EVERYDAY LIVES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

By *Bonnie Squires*

All of the award-winners at the 2016 Points of Transformation Event were outstanding and dedicated, but there is one who really stood out above all the rest. She is Tammy Carter, a social worker who has worked at IDS for several years - and she has proven herself to be diligent, optimistic, and successful.

She has worked as a support coordinator and is known for her diligence in assuring that people's needs were met while they are being treated with fairness, dignity and respect. Her most recent role as a social worker in the individual supports unit has allowed her to support individuals in state centers and intermediate care facilities, but that has not limited her dedication to all of the individuals supported by IDS.

Tammy is facilitating the process for several individuals to move from state centers into community homes. Some have been institutionalized for more than 30 years without family support. She has successfully obtained community homes for all of those on the list, and this is a truly remarkable accomplishment. She made sure these individuals were offered the best possible options. To say finding these homes is wonderful is an understatement!

Tammy coordinated a "meet & greet" for a group of individuals who want to move. This was an opportunity for individuals to meet with prospective residential providers. Individuals

got to spend time with providers and for providers to speak directly with staff who know the individual best. It was a huge success and out of that one event, each person on Philadelphia's current list found a new home in the community.



Tammy Carter, receiving her award.

Since this particular group traveled more than 4 hours to get to Philadelphia, Tammy made sure they would enjoy some fun in Philly. Before returning to the state center, individuals and their staff were treated to a luncheon on the Spirit of Philadelphia with specialized menus, accommodations and any special assistance for all involved.

She pulled this event together in addition to her regular duties. She is dedicated and committed to the work that IDS does and she completes each task with a smile and determined attitude. IDS is very fortunate to call Tammy "our very own!"

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

This is information about meetings that will take place throughout the City of Philadelphia through June 2017. Take a close look and get involved with the community!

Adult Protective Service: If you are aware of any person with an Intellectual disAbility who you suspect is being neglected or abused, call the APS [Adult Protective Services] hotline: 1-800-490-8505. Reporters may remain anonymous and have legal protection from retaliation, discrimination, and civil and criminal prosecution.

Consortium Family Advisory Committee: meet every third Thursday of each month from September through June. For more information contact Princess Otigbu at 215-472-1707.

Consumer/Family Advisory Committee, Partnership for Community Supports: quarterly meetings will be held during the months of September, December, March and June. For additional information contact Mary MacAvoy @ 267-350-4513.

First Friday Gotta Dance at SpArc: will be held every First Friday at 2350 West Westmoreland Street Philadelphia, PA 19140. For more information call 215 - 229-4550.

Liberty Resources Inc: Offers consumers a variety of programs and events each month. All events take place at Liberty Resources Inc. 112 N. 8th St. Suite 600 Philadelphia PA 19106. For additional information contact Shawn Tucker at 215-634-2000 ext. 325.

PersonLink Consumer /Family Advisory Committee: meetings are held quarterly during the months of March, June, September and December. For more information Please call Akilah Witherspoon at 267-295-3842 for details.

PIN Bilingual Support Group: 4501 Rising Sun Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19140. Persons interested in meeting dates and times (to be determined) can contact her at 267-507-3869. Michelle Sanchez at 267-507-3869.

Quality Progressions (267-765-2002): Meeting dates for the next fiscal year will be September 12, 2016, October 3, 2016, November 7, 2016, December 5, 2016, January 9, 2017, February 6, 2017, March 6, 2017, April 3, 2017, May 1, 2017, June 5, 2017. Persons wishing to attend the meetings can contact Susan Fellows @ 267-765-2009 or sfellows@qualityprogressions.org

SEPTA's Advisory Committee for Accessibility: meets every 2nd Thursday of the Month. We will meet at SEPTA, 1234 Market Street, Floor 11, Room C from 12:30pm-2:30pm. Please contact Patricia Russell at 215-438-8250 10 days in advance prior to the meeting if you wish to attend. Also, please remember: SAC is an avenue through which SEPTA's riders can voice their concerns and make suggestions directly to SEPTA/CCT.

Speaking For Ourselves: will meet the 2nd Monday in September 2016 then the 1st Monday of October 2016 through June 2017 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at 701 Market Street (Philadelphia IDS), 5th Floor, Suite 5200 in the Board Room. For more information contact Debbie Robinson, Executive Director at 215-313-6392 or Shawn Outen (Department Of Aging), Advisor at 215-765-9000.

Temple Legal Aid: Offers free legal advice and representation on general legal problems by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call 215-204-1800.



Vision for Equality

Serving People with Disabilities and Their Families

718 Arch St., 6N, • Philadelphia, PA 19106 • visionforequality.org

T: 215 . 923 . 3349 F: 215 . 923 . 8075



Disaster Readiness Tips for People with Developmental or Cognitive disabilities

Prepare Yourself



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON
DISABILITY

Information from:

National Organization on Disability
Emergency Preparedness Initiative
77 Water Street, Suite 204
New York, NY 10005
Tel: 646-505-1191
TDD: 711 Relay
Fax: 646-505-1184
E-mail: info@nod.org
<http://www.nod.org/emergency>

To be better prepared as a nation, we all must do our part to plan for disasters. Individuals with or without disabilities can lessen the impact of a disaster by taking steps to prepare before an event occurs.

This information is designed to help people with developmental and cognitive disabilities begin to plan for emergencies. Developmental and cognitive disabilities include disorders that may affect a person's ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, do math, or follow instructions. It includes people with dyslexia, and extreme difficulty in reading, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), an inability to focus on necessary tasks. Some people with neurological disorders, such as Tourette's syndrome or the effects of a stroke, may also have developmental and cognitive disabilities. Although many people with these types of disabilities live independently, others, particularly those with significant brain disorders or severe developmental disabilities, may need assistance with nearly every aspect of daily living.

You can take small steps every day to become better able to survive an emergency. Read NOD's general brochure, "Prepare Yourself: Disaster Readiness Tips for People with Disabilities." Identify your resources, develop a support network, make a plan and create a **Ready Kit and Go Bag**. ***Start Today to become better prepared, safer, and more secure.***

For more information and printable brochure:

Go to:

http://nod.org/disability_resources/emergency_preparedness_for_persons_with_disabilities/