

Scams & Identity Theft Workshop Recap



Wednesday, June 3rd DHILS hosted a workshop to learn about **Scams & Identity Theft**. Different types of scams were explained, as well as 10 Tips to Avoid Scams. We had a great discussion with a lot of sharing of personal experiences with scams and awesome questions.



Deaf Survivor Services Launches June 8

Deaf survivors of violence often face significant barriers to finding support in their language and within their culture. On June 8, *Activating Change* will launch **Deaf Survivor Services (DSS)**, a national Deaf-led virtual program providing crisis intervention and ongoing advocacy for Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing survivors.



Created alongside ADWAS, DAWN, and DeafHope, DSS ensures survivors can access support without first having to explain their language, culture, or communication needs.

[Follow DSS on Instagram](#) for more information and updates



A resource and advocacy center for independent living serving people with disabilities and the Deaf & hard of hearing in Central Massachusetts.

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Deaf and Hard of Hearing Night at the WooSox



Your Access Advocates attended the Friday, May 22nd **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Night** at the WooSox game at Polar Park. It was chilly but many staff and community members came out to socialize and enjoy the game.

Andrew Veith was recognized as an Interpreter Supervisor at Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital (WRCH) and a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) providing communication access services statewide. He is actively

involved in the Deaf community through organizations such as the National Association of the Deaf, state Deaf associations, and interpreter organizations, supporting advocacy, accessibility, and professional development. Andrew currently serves as Board Treasurer for Our Deaf Survivors Center, Inc. and Vice President of Worcester Deaf Club, Inc. He previously served as President and a Board member of the Massachusetts State Association of the Deaf.

DeafYES! Center for Deaf Empowerment and Recovery was recognized as the Heart of Worcester. Co-directed by **Melissa Anderson** and Alexander Wilkins, the mission of DeafYES! is to partner with the Deaf community to develop innovative addiction and mental health resources that are accessible, useful, and freely available to Deaf sign language users. In addition to conducting research on best practices in Deaf mental health, the DeafYES! Center provides mental health and addiction counseling for Deaf people under the UMass Memorial umbrella. Counseling services take place via Zoom, videophone, or in person, and are provided in American Sign Language (ASL) or in the client's preferred language.



UAP's Summer 2026 Program Schedule is Live!

DCR's [Universal Access Program](#) (UAP) is dedicated to providing outdoor recreation opportunities in Massachusetts state parks for visitors of all abilities. Accessibility is achieved through site improvements, specialized adaptive recreation equipment, and accessible recreation programs.



Website: Check out mass.gov/dcr/access to keep up to date with our activities!

Contact List: If you want to be added to our contact list to be notified of upcoming events and activities, please email us at DCR.UniversalAccess@mass.gov

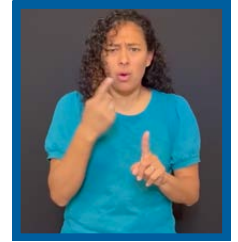


911 VRS Tech Tips (Sorenson)

Did you know that Sorenson has several ways to help make it easy for you when you call 911?

Click [here](#) to see this in ASL.

First, and most importantly, anytime you call 911, your call goes to the front of the line so it's answered as quickly as possible. (Be aware that if you call 911 and then change your mind and hang up before you get an interpreter, you may get a callback from your 911 service.)



Second, Sorenson interpreters always verify where you are whenever possible so that the 911 operators can send emergency services to the correct location. This is why it is important to correctly fill out your 911 Location Info screen – if the interpreter is unable to verify your location for whatever reason, the interpreter will work with 911 professionals to identify the location of your emergency. Check your 911 Location Info address in the Settings of all your Sorenson endpoints to make sure it is accurate. <https://youtube.com/shorts/gmSVk7lkG7I?si=CT09cooP06I7i7r9>

Got ntouch mobile with cell service?

If you have a mobile phone with ntouch, you can go to your mobile phone's settings and set your phone to share your current GPS location with ntouch mobile so the interpreter can see it. This video shows how: <https://youtube.com/shorts/4DYtYhvlzw?si=Wlao6daqjBqEb9UB>

Healthy Incentives Program (HIP)

Learn more about buying fresh, local produce through the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) and other food assistance programs below.

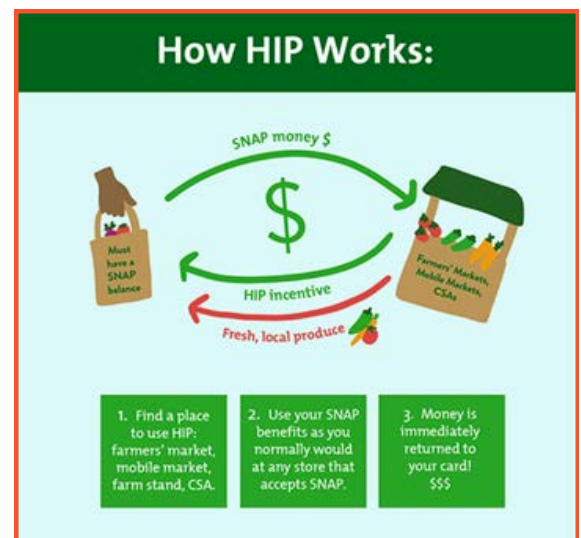
What is HIP?

Use your SNAP benefits to buy fruits and vegetables from HIP (Healthy Incentives Program) authorized farms or vendors. You will get a dollar back for each dollar you spend, up to a monthly limit.

Where You Can Use Your HIP Benefits?

Use your HIP benefits at any of the *The Food Project's* farmers' markets. Learn more [HERE](#):

<https://thefoodproject.org/farmers-markets/>



Find farm stands, farmers' markets, and other local sources of fresh, local products that accept HIP (and other benefits) with the *DTA Map* at: <https://dtafinder.dtadash.ehs.mass.gov/dtahip>. You can customize your search for location, what days these resources are available, and more!

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act

What is ABLE?

Created in 2014, ABLE is a savings and investment account specifically for people with disabilities.



Who is eligible for an ABLE account?

Individuals whose disability began before age 46. The disability must be terminal or long-term (more than 12 months) and must cause "marked and severe functional limitations".

What does it mean?

It allows people with disabilities to save money that is not counted towards asset limitations set by means-tested benefit programs such as Medicaid (MassHealth in MA) or SSI. "Asset limits" prevent people with disabilities from saving money beyond \$2,000 (a typical asset limit) and planning for their future.

Who can contribute to an ABLE account?

Anyone – including the account owner, friends, family, organizations, nonprofits, and employers – up to \$20,000 per year as of 2026. NOTE: there are lifetime balance limits for the various state ABLE Programs, which could be more than \$500,000.

Learn more here: <https://www.abletoday.org/>



Advocacy Tips

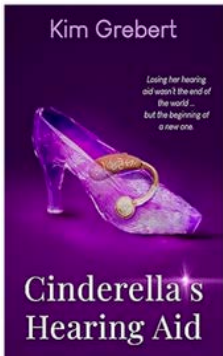
Important self-advocacy tip: Deaf and hard of hearing individuals who use American Sign Language [ASL] can ask for a qualified "in-person interpreter" (instead of a Video Remote Interpreter) for appointments, meetings, healthcare visits, legal matters, and other important services when needed for effective communication access.

Ask for an "in-person ASL interpreter" - not a "live interpreter."

As technology continues to change and improve, many hearing staff assume the word "live" means virtual services like Zoom or VRI (Video Remote Interpreting).

As a Deaf community, we need to continue advocating, educating, and pushing together for true language access. In-person interpreters provide the best opportunity for full and direct communication access, and we should not have to fight so hard for it.

Resource: DeafMed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thedeafmed>



Cinderella's Hearing Aid

This retelling of the classic tale of Cinderella comes with the mean stepfamily, love-struck prince, glass slipper, and a magical hearing aid.

For Cinderella, lipreading is a guessing game she often loses, even with her magical hearing aid. Her stepfamily bullies her, saying her hearing loss is a burden and embarrasses them. They constantly demand that she try harder to hear and pay attention. When Cinderella loses her hearing aid, she's blamed for everything that goes wrong and fears she'll be forced to live on the streets.

During a chance encounter with a stranger, Cinderella learns she has choices around communication. Choices that support her needs as a deaf person and encourage her to make the fateful decision to leave the only life she has ever known.

A tale of a deaf person's search for authenticity and empowerment.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0G1JYX71W>

Want to Share Your Telehealth Experience?

Are you deaf or hard of hearing and have recently used telehealth, like a doctor or therapy appointment through video? We want to hear from you!



The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the use of telehealth, but

little is known about best practices and standards for deaf communities. Led by community members, DeafHealth is gathering your perspectives and experiences with telehealth to help guide future research and improve healthcare access for our communities.

You can earn a \$30 virtual gift card for completing a short survey about your telehealth experience.

Who Can Join?

- ✓ Age 18+
- ✓ Deaf or hard of hearing

What Participation Involves:

- Completing a survey about your telehealth experience
- Receiving a virtual \$30 gift card as appreciation for your time



<https://bit.ly/DeafHealthPCORISurvey>

ASL VLOG: <https://youtu.be/v6OuD2OLTZ8?si=cpiv0rxdaMBPI1rO>

June 2026 Awareness

June 3: National Egg Day



- Eggs provide an excellent source of protein and vitamin D. At 75 calories and 5 grams of fat, it's an easy choice to satisfy hunger, too.
- About 100 billion eggs are produced by American egg farmers each year.
- The average American eats about 285 eggs a year.
- Egg shells can have more than 17,000 pores.



June 7: National Cancer Survivor's Day

- Honor those who demonstrate that life after a cancer diagnosis can be a reality.

June 12: National Movie Night



- Start a tradition of movie nights with friends and family.
- Pop some popcorn, grab a blanket and your favorite buddy, put away the cell phones and tablets, and start watching!
- Movies have been bringing people together for over 100 years.



June 21: Longest Day of the Year

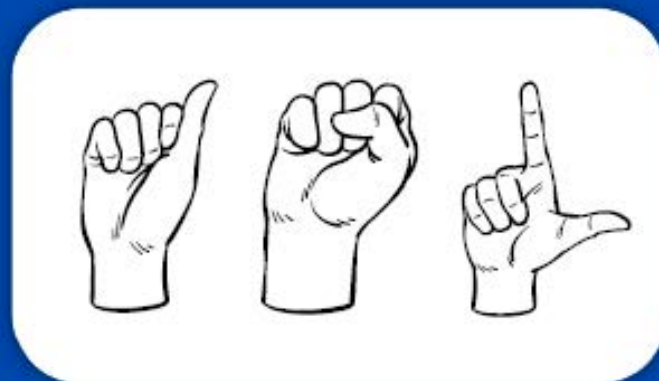
- Also known as the Summer Solstice.

June 30: National Meteor Watch Day

- Meteors sometimes happen in showers.
- When space debris, like pieces of rock, come into the Earth's atmosphere the friction causes the surrounding air to become super hot. This "shooting star" streaking through the sky surrounded by flaming hot air is a meteor.
- We usually see meteors at night. They can be seen when they are about 34 to 70 miles above the Earth.
- They glow for about one second.



Job Opening: ASL Instructor



Teaching Requirements:

- ✓ In-person staff ASL classes at Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital (WRCH)
- ✓ Weekly 1:00PM (1 ½ - 2 hour sessions)
- ✓ ASL Curriculum:
 - ✓ Basic
 - ✓ Medical & mental health
 - ✓ Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)]



Email your resume to:
Joan Philip, DHILS Director
jphilip@youraccessadvocates.org



YAA: www.facebook.com/YourAccessAdvocates
DHILS Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/yaa.dhils/>



Worcester Parent Guide to Community Resources

[CLICK HERE FOR ENGLISH GUIDE](#)



Missed a Newsletter?
Past issues are on our website!
[CLICK HERE](#)

Updated Therapists for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Directory

[CLICK HERE](#)



Questions? Contact your Skills Trainer

Joan Philip	DHILS Director	508-762-1165 (VP)
Priscilla Langone	DHILS Administrative Assistant	508-556-1600 (VP)
Ellen Perkins	DHILS Asst. Manager/Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer	508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP)
Rosemary Moreira	Senior Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1166 (VP)
Denise Paro	Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)	508-762-1021 (VP)
Vacant	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	
Vacant	Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)	
Kim White	Staff Interpreter	508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP)

**Contact
Us**

Videophone: 508-762-1164

TTY: 508-755-1003

www.youraccessadvocates.org



YAA: www.facebook.com/YourAccessAdvocates

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

