

ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE



JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

Hawaii Branch

Event #1: VAC (Vision Access Club)

Description: Access to Independence welcomes all consumers who are visually impaired and completely blind to a peer support group that is non-judgmental, as we learn how to thrive while blind/visually impaired and navigate our environment. The intention of this club is to learn how to be a self-advocate, explore success stories, build lasting friendships, see things in a positive view, mentorship for newly blind and gain empowerment among peers. So, please join us as we learn about Career Choices, Decision Making, Structured-Discovery, Assistive Technology, Software Training and more! This Month, we will be having an information session, to decide where this group will be headed into the future, as well as taking consumer feedback on what would like to be accomplished, and what kinds of blindness activities that would like to be achieved during the group.

Date: 06/13/2024

Time: 1 - 3 PM HST

Location: 200 N Vineyard Blvd, 5th Floor Oahu Conference Room

Contact: Keao Wright, LTSS Coordinator, 808-731-0878, kwright@accesstoindependence.org

Event #2: Youth Peer Support Group Meeting

Description: Access to Independence invites all youth between the ages of 14- 24 who have a disability to join us for our monthly workshop! This event is designed to provide a supportive, non-judgemental environment where participants can explore and discuss various topics related to transitioning to adulthood, the experiences of living with a disability, coping strategies, and more! Please note, this program is now combined with the youth book club!

Date: 06/20/2024

Time: 2 -4 PM HST

Location: 200 N Vineyard Blvd, 5th Floor Oahu Conference Room

Contact: Leelynn Brady, Program Manager 808-369-9524, lbrady@accesstoindependence.org

Upcoming Events

Event #3: Cross-Disability Support Group

Description: The Cross-Disability Support Group embraces individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Our monthly gatherings center on emotional support and social connection. In this welcoming space, consumers share experiences, explore coping strategies, and foster meaningful connections that go beyond boundaries. Expect a supportive community where heartfelt discussions and carefully curated activities foster emotional well-being and social bonds. From personal journeys shared by guest speakers to interactive sessions promoting open dialogue, the Cross-Disability Support Group is a place to find understanding, encouragement, and shared strength. Join us as we create connections that transcend limits, celebrating the diverse tapestry of our collective experiences.

Date: 06/26/2024

Time: 2 PM - 4 PM HST

Location: 200 N Vineyard Blvd, 5th Floor Oahu Conference Room

Contact: Leelynn Brady, Program Manager, 808-369-9521, lbrady@accesstoindependence.org

San Diego Branch

Event #1: Access to Independence at the 2024 St. Paul's Senior & Family Resource Fair

Description: Access to Independence will be hosting a booth at the St. Paul's Conference Center! Come and learn about the services we offer!

Date: 6/1/2024

Time: 9 AM - 12 PM

Location: 2557 3rd Ave. San Diego, CA 92103

Contact: Hermes Castro, Program Manager, 619-704-2443, hcastro@accesstoindependence.org

Imperial Valley Branch

Check back in July for upcoming events!



SUCCESS STORIES

HAWAII OFFICE



TRANSITION & DIVERSION PROGRAMS

Transition Program:

Supports individuals to safely transition from residential medical institutions into their own independent homes by providing equipment, supplies, and case management services.

Diversion Program:

Supports individuals who are high risk of becoming homeless or institutionalized to stay in their independent home by providing equipment, supplies, and case management services.

Ms. Allison, a 30-year-old woman, was referred to Access to Independence by the REHAB Hospital of the Pacific due to a spinal cord injury that left her physically disabled. As her home was not designed for wheelchair access, she relied on a wheelchair to enter and exit, facing significant challenges and risks without proper accommodation. Financial constraints and lack of insurance coverage for an access ramp compounded the problem.

Access to Independence, collaborating with her parents and the REHAB staff, successfully coordinated and constructed a ramp for Ms. Allison, ensuring her safe entry and exit from her home. Ms. Allison and her parents are deeply grateful for the hard work, dedication, and time invested in this project, which has significantly improved her health and safety.

For more information about our program reach out to us by emailing accessmedia@accesstoindependence.org

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Image (left) text: Andrea standing in front of library smiling and holding an Access to Independence tote bag.

Andrea Christopher at an outreach event for the Medi-Cal renewal at two different libraries. Allied Gardens and Benjamin Branch Library.

Image (right) text: Andrea standing in front of library and U.S. flag wearing a pink sweater.



Vivian and school staff member at an outreach effort at Central Elementary School in San Diego.



Image (left) text: Vivian and school staff member smiling at the camera holding a Medi-Cal brochure.



Chloe Showcases Artwork at INSPO! 2024 Event

We are thrilled to announce that Chloe, one of our Employment Services participants at Lanakila Pacific, was one of four artists selected to showcase her artwork at the INSPO! 2024 Event. This event celebrated Lanakila Pacific's 85th Anniversary and took place on Saturday, May 11th, at the Bishop Museum.

In the photo, you can see Chloe standing proudly with her artwork displayed on her right side and a sign explaining more about the popup gallery. With her permission, we captured this moment to celebrate her achievement.

Chloe worked diligently for two weeks to prepare for this event, overcoming her nerves with dedication and perseverance. We are incredibly proud of her outstanding performance and wanted to give her a well-deserved shout-out for her incredible accomplishment. Great job, Chloe!

**ASSET RULES HAVE CHANGED.
MORE PEOPLE CAN GET COVERAGE.**

**You may now
be eligible
for Medi-Cal.**



Medi-Cal

You May Be Eligible

Assets no longer impact your Medi-Cal eligibility. If your coverage was denied, delayed, reduced, or stopped because of your assets, you can ask your local Medi-Cal office to review your case. Learn more at [Medi-Cal.dhcs.ca.gov](https://www.Medi-Cal.dhcs.ca.gov).

WE'RE HIRING

Are you ready to be part of something extraordinary? We are thrilled to announce that our wonderful organization is expanding, and we are on the lookout for passionate individuals to join our dynamic team!

Now Hiring:

1. **Long-Term Services and Supports Coordinator (Location: Hawaii)**
2. **Information and Assistance Coordinator (Location: Hawaii)**
3. **NEW!! Youth Coordinator (Location: Hawaii)**

Why Join Us? At Access to Independence, we take pride in fostering a positive and collaborative work environment. Our team is not just colleagues; we are a family that supports and uplifts one another. By joining us, you'll become an integral part of an organization dedicated to making a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve.

Benefits:

- Competitive salary
- Comprehensive health and wellness benefits
- Opportunities for professional development
- A supportive and inclusive workplace culture
- The chance to contribute to impactful programs and initiatives

How to Apply: Ready to take the next step in your career? You can apply for these exciting opportunities in two simple ways:

- Visit our Indeed job postings.
- Email your resume to jobs@accesstoindependence.org.

Don't miss the chance to be part of our incredible journey! We encourage candidates from diverse backgrounds to apply. Help us continue making a difference in the communities we serve.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to reach out to us at accessmedia@accesstoindependence.org

Join us in shaping a brighter future! We look forward to welcoming new members to our fantastic team.



SPRING ENERGY-SAVING TIPS FOR BUSINESSES

With summer just around the corner, get your business ready for warmer temperatures by using these five energy-saving tips to help lower your energy bill:

1. **Adjust your thermostat:** As the weather heats up, consider raising the thermostat a few degrees during the on-peak hours of 4 – 9 p.m. Aim for a comfortable temperature without overcooling.
2. **Seal air leaks:** Inspect doors, windows, and any openings for air leaks. Properly seal gaps with weather stripping or caulk to prevent conditioned air from escaping.
3. **Switch to LED lighting:** Upgrade to energy-efficient LED bulbs. They consume less electricity, last longer, and emit less heat.
4. **Service HVAC systems:** Spring is an ideal time for HVAC maintenance. Clean or replace air filters, check ducts for leaks, and ensure proper insulation.
5. **Maximize natural light:** Take advantage of longer daylight hours. Open blinds and curtains to allow natural light into workspaces. Remember, small adjustments can lead to energy savings. Implement these tips to create a more sustainable and cost-effective workplace!



For more energy-saving ideas, explore [sdge.com/MyBusiness](https://www.sdge.com/MyBusiness).

