

ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

Program Highlight

Program: Benefits Counseling in San Diego and Escondido

What is Benefits Counseling?

Our Benefits Counseling Program is designed to empower individuals by providing comprehensive assistance in understanding, accessing, and navigating various benefits they may be eligible for. Whether it's Social Security, CalFresh, caregiving services, transportation assistance, healthcare applications, discounted utilities, or more – we're here to guide you through the entire process.

How Can We Assist You?

- **Personalized Guidance:** Our knowledgeable Benefits Counselors offer one-on-one consultations to understand your unique situation and provide personalized guidance.
- **Application Support:** Navigating the application process can be complex. We are here to assist you at every step, ensuring you have the support needed to submit applications accurately.
- **Appeals Assistance:** If you encounter challenges or need to appeal a decision, our team is dedicated to helping you understand the process and advocating for your rights.

Why Choose Our Benefits Counseling Program?

- **Comprehensive Approach:** We cover a wide range of benefits to address various needs within our community.

Program Highlight

- **Empowerment Through Information:** Knowledge is power. We believe in empowering individuals by providing clear information and resources to make informed decisions.
- **Community-Centric Service:** Our program is tailored to the unique needs of the San Diego community, fostering a sense of support and collaboration.

If you or someone you know could benefit from our program, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to assist you in maximizing the opportunities available to enhance your well-being.

For inquiries or to schedule an assessment, contact (619)704-2443



Have restricted Medi-Cal? You could soon get full Medi-Cal!



Starting January 1, 2024, more people will be eligible for full Medi-Cal benefits.

Immigration status doesn't matter.

If you qualify and currently have restricted Medi-Cal:

- In December 2023, you will get a letter in the mail telling you if and when you will get full Medi-Cal.
- You do not need to fill out a new application for full Medi-Cal. If you qualify, you will be automatically enrolled.

Full Medi-Cal is different from the restricted Medi-Cal you may have now. Restricted Medi-Cal only covers emergency services. Full Medi-Cal covers:

- Doctor visits
- Prescribed medications
- Vaccines
- Mental health care
- Substance use care
- Vision care/eyeglasses
- Dental care
- Emergency services
- Referrals to specialists

You may soon be eligible if you:

- Live in California
- Are 26 to 49 years old*
- Meet household income eligibility requirements

* Californians under the age of 26 or over 49 are already eligible for full Medi-Cal.



Learn more at
[GetMedi-CalCoverage.dhcs.ca.gov](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/GetMedi-CalCoverage)



Medi-Cal

For more information, call:
(619)704-2443



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 (Locations: Escondido, CA, and Hawaii)**
3. **Community Organizing Coordinator (Locations: El Centro and San Diego)**

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.

TAX SEASON IS HERE!

AARP Tax Aid will be providing free tax assistance services in the Imperial Valley! Our team will be on hand to help you navigate through the tax preparation process, ensuring a stress-free experience for you.

Location: OPOP 230 S 5th St, El Centro

Days and Times: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Service Details:

- Walk-ins are welcome!
- Appointments can be made by leaving a message at 760-353-2801.
- Someone from our team will promptly return your call.

Start Date: Beginning February 6th, our dedicated volunteers will be ready to assist you with your tax preparation needs.

Whether you have questions about deductions, need assistance with electronic filing, or simply want to ensure you're getting the maximum refund, the AARP Tax Aid team is here for you.

Take advantage of this valuable service and let us make your tax season a breeze. Don't forget to spread the word to friends and family who may benefit from this resource.





IMPERIAL COUNTY AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

Connecting seniors, people with disabilities and caregivers with long-term care services and supports


We can assist you with:

- **Counseling Options**
- **Information & Assistance**
- **Transition**
- **Service Coordination**

We help seniors and people with disabilities find the support and care they need to live as independently as possible.



Se Habla Español

 **760-332-3213**

 **www.icadrc.org**



IMPERIAL COUNTY AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

*Conectando a personas mayores,
personas con discapacidad y
cuidadores a servicios de cuidados
alargo plazo y apoyo.*


Podemos ayudarle con:

- *Opciones de asesoramiento*
- *Información y asistencia*
- *Servicios de Transición*
- *Coordinación de servicios*

*Ayudamos a las personas
mayores y discapacitadas a
encontrar el apoyo y la atención
que necesitan para vivir de la
forma más independiente posible.*



Se Habla Español

 **760-332-3213**

 **www.icadrc.org**



ARE YOU PREPARED FOR STORMS?

The San Diego County of Emergency Services has tips on how to prepare for storms and other emergencies. You should create a plan, build an emergency kit and sign up for alerts. Check out these helpful tips.

- Create a family disaster plan at alertsandiego.org. Practice evacuating with your family to be prepared at a moment's notice.
- Have an emergency kit ready with necessary items if you had to evacuate, including food and medication.
- Have contingency plans for different times of the day, such as an emergency while some family members are at work or school.
- Check with schools or childcare providers to make sure you are aware of emergency plans and how you will be contacted.
- In case you are separated during a disaster, discuss where to reunite because phone service may not be reliable during a disaster.
- Your pets are part of your family too. Make sure they are microchipped and that you have a pet disaster plan in place. Learn which items to have packed at sddac.com.
- Register your (and other family members' cellphones) with Alert San Diego at alertsandiego.org to be notified if an emergency is affecting your neighborhood.
- Get free sandbags at locations throughout the County. Find one near you at alertsandiego.org. Sandbags help divert or redirect water, mud and debris from your property and help prevent soil erosion.

Have you been affected by winter storms? You may be eligible for assistance and recovery resources. Learn more at sdge.com/RecoveryResources.



Access to Independence is seeking your input!

If you are between the ages of 14-24 and have a disability or you are a parent of a child with a disability, we want to hear from you! Your feedback will help us improve our Youth Program to benefit our community in a meaningful way. For San Diego residents, visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YouthandParentYouthSurvey2022TYR57K6> to complete a brief survey.

For Hawaii residents, visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HawaiiYouthSurvey2022CQDL5NK>

Access to Independence is Hiring!

Open positions: Independent Living Assistive Technology Coordinator Mission Valley, Program Manager Mission Valley, and Transition & Diversion Escondido Branch.

To apply, send your resume to jobs@accesstoindpendence.org

Follow us on Instagram: [@accesstoindpendence](#)

Follow us on Facebook: [@Accesstoindpendence](#)