



Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida, Inc.

**[Visit us at www.cil-drc.org](http://www.cil-drc.org)**

**[Link to PDF version here.](#)**



### **Ode to Love**

To love, to love I toast thee.  
Lovers, poets, couples, I salute thee.  
To Love, To Love the sacred energy.  
For Love, For Love, the greatest energy.  
Boo Hate, Boo Hate, terror and atrocity.  
Let love, Let love' conquer all atrocity.  
I love, I love therefore I am man.  
Be kind, Be kind and love your fellow man.

Then Love, Then Love will conquer all.  
Make Love, Make Love to one and all.  
- Aidan Ross

### **In this update:**

- Update on the 40th Anniversary Gala
- Messages to the Community
- Severe Weather Risk
- Health Care Information
- CILDRC Service updates
- Pride and Accessibility
- Google's New Accessibility Tools
- Disability Rights International
- Upcoming Community Events
- Virus Info by County
- Census Reminder
- Please Donate!



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## Update for the 40th Anniversary of the CIL Disability Resource

### Center (CILDRC) “Honoring Our Past, Planning Our Future” Gala.

Due to the ongoing spread of Covid-19 (Coronavirus), we made the difficult decision to postpone the 40th Anniversary of the CIL Disability Resource Center (CILDRC) “Honoring Our Past, Planning Our Future” Gala. We will plan a Gala event for July 2021 and we hope you will be a part of those efforts.

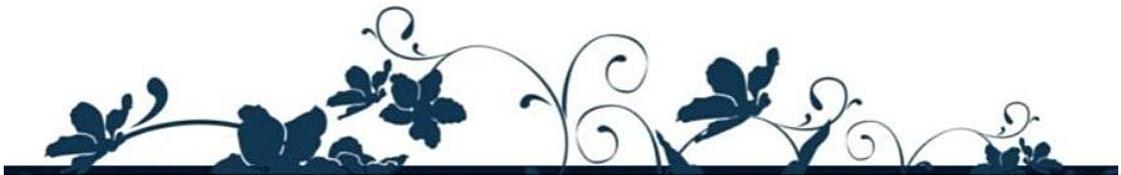
Although an in person Gala will not be held in 2020, CILDRC’s fundraising efforts will continue to support people with disabilities in the Community. CILDRC provides education, advocacy and other services to promote equality, access, and inclusion for people with disabilities whose goals are living independently in the community. We won’t let Coronavirus stop our incredible momentum – we have pledges over \$10,000 for our anniversary celebration.

Even though the gala won’t go on, we still need **your** support!

Together **your** commitment honors the anniversary of successes people with disabilities have had for 40 years in our community with the CIL Disability Resource Center. Your continued support with the Center will also further the independence of individuals today and in the future.

In place of the Gala for 2020, we will be launching an online fundraising campaign throughout the month of July. Our online donation link is [here](#). Our community has come together to raise funds for worthy causes, and we’re hopeful that you will continue to support us in this time of need – thank you for all your continued generosity!

Should you have questions, please contact CILDRC directly at [info@cil-drc.org](mailto:info@cil-drc.org).



## A Message to the Community



We acknowledge that the country and the world are experiencing another ongoing crisis in addition to COVID19; one that brings many many years of systemic racism experienced by the Black community to the forefront. The Center wants to address the current climate regarding the countless protests taking place as people advocate for why Black lives matter and seek to dismantle injustices from the recent murders of **George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Dreasjon Reed, Tony McDade**, and countless other Black people whose rights to enjoy life were taken away.

We want to express our unwavering support of the Black community during this time of injustice. Many members of the independent living community are hurting deeply, and there is a need to be in solidarity, to take action, and speak out. Enough is enough. Kareem Abdul-

Jabbar stated, **"We must all seek the humanity in each other ... we're ALL in this together."** He recommends, **"If you want to change this, just make a friend with someone who doesn't look like you,"** be part of the solution take part in community conversation. Thank you to our Pensacola community for having peaceful engagement, protests and remembrances this week.

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## Severe Weather Risk

Be prepared this weekend. Make sure to have your emergency kits ready for any circumstances that might arise. Our current storm system has the potential for severe flooding and could develop into a tropical storm. Be careful everyone and stay safe!





## Medicare's Coverage of Durable Medical Equipment

If you or a loved one are in need of durable medical equipment to help with a disability or injury, then you might be curious about how much Medicare will cover. Luckily, Medicare has clearly defined its coverage limits and rules, meaning that with a little research, you'll be able to get a better idea of what you'll need to pay out of pocket. [Find out more about what Medicare can do for you!](#)

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## Do You Have Questions Involving Economic Impact Payments due to Covid-19?

Visit the [Social Security & Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#) web-page for the answers to common concerns and questions during this difficult time.



## AHCA Seeking Public Comments on Extension of Medicaid Managed Care Waiver

The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is seeking authority to extend its current Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) waiver through June 30, 2024. AHCA will hold two webinars to receive public comments on the MMA waiver extension.

You can [view the Extension Request here.](#)

Information about the webinars is below:

[AHCA MMA Waiver Extension Request Webinar](#)

Monday, June 8, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

AHCA MMA Waiver Extension Request Webinar  
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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## **CILDRC Updates:**

**Our team has returned to the office and we continue to practice CDC guidelines and physical distancing by providing services by appointment only.**

**We ask that when an appointment is made that if you have any COVID-19 symptoms or are not feeling well that you stay home and contact us via phone. For all who come to the office for your appointment you will have an infrared temperature taken, you will need to wear masks and gloves and you will be asked some screening questions in order to enter our building.**

**The CIL Team continues to also reach out by telephone to assess and fulfill consumer unmet needs. We have been able to assist many individuals with connection to food, equipment and/or a listening ear.**

**We reviewed and discussed housing opportunities with a community member this week. The consumer and several of our team members looked at the accessibility of the housing plan. We looked for ways to support the individual in having his needs met. This is not a “one and done” meeting. We will assist the individual in working with departments and sharing his concerns about the process and working towards his goal of returning to home ownership.**

**New challenges of COVID-19 occur everyday. If you are experiencing new urgent or ongoing matters that you want to attend to, please contact us ASAP. You can reply to this email or call us at 850-595-5566. We will do what we can to help support you in the direction(s) you wish to navigate for solution(s).**

**(If we haven't reached you yet and you don't feel you need to connect with CILDRC directly, please reply to this email and type "I AM OKAY" in the body.)**

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## How to make Pride Truly Accessible

As we enter the beginning of Pride Month, please remember to keep accessibility in mind. One third of LGBTQ+ individuals have a disability and they deserve to equally participate in community Pride events. For more information on how our community can make our events more accessible read [Pride and Progress](#).

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## Google Launches New Accessibility Tools for Android Users Called Action Blocks

"From making calls, sending texts, playing videos and controlling devices at home, **Action Block** promises a whole new world for people with limited mobility. This latest offering from tech giant **Google** is an Android app that allows users to create customization home screen buttons.

With these buttons they can create an Action Block for any action that the **Google Assistant** can perform. All the user has to do is pick an image for the Action Block from their camera or photo gallery, and place it on the home screen for one-touch access." [Read more about it at Newshook](#).





## DISABILITY RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL

### **Disability Rights International (DRI) announces launch of preliminary results of COVID-19 disability survey**

A coalition of seven disability organizations from around the globe - including DRI - have been conducting a worldwide survey since mid-April 2020 to assess the impact of the pandemic on persons with disabilities and to gauge the extent to which governments have protected their rights.

The survey - known as the COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor (DRM) - collected responses from some 1,600 people and from more than 120 countries.

Today we present the COVID-19 DRM Dashboard, which will allow you to share in the concerns of the respondents - their fears, the dangers and discrimination they face, and the impact of the virus on their lives.

It is a must read.

For more information, read the [full launch statement](#) and visit the dashboard at [www.covid-drm.org](http://www.covid-drm.org).

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### **Upcoming Community Events**

- **Crip Camp Impact Campaign:** Have community building right in your own home. Every Sunday at 2 pm PST/5 pm EST from May 17th to August 30th for one and a half hours each. [Here is a link](#) to register or find out more information.
- **FIU Embrace** will be hosting a *free online* training on *Knowing Your Rights (COVID-19)*, Saturday, June 6, 2020 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Webinar address will be provided at registration). Reserve your spot at [Eventbrite](#).

- Watch this year's AAIDD media award winning film, "Hearts of Glass," as a catalyst for conversation about employment and inclusion. Attendees will have access to stream the film from Friday, June 19, 7 pm ET to Friday, June 26, 7 pm ET. [Learn more at aaidd!](#)
- [Registration is open!](#) The First Annual Stanford Conference on Disability in Healthcare will take place as an interactive webinar on June 20, 2020 from 8 AM to 2:30 PM. You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.
- The 22nd Annual Family Cafe Featuring the Governor's Summit on Disabilities in June 2020. Find out more through [Family Cafe Orlando](#).
- NAMI Mental Health Peer Support Groups - On ZOOM. For dates and times [visit this link](#) to register or find out more about this free event.
- Online Group Psychological Health Promotion Program for Women with Spinal Cord Injury. [Find out if you are eligible today!](#)
- Research Opportunity: To understand how young people with disabilities experience the transition to adulthood. [Find out if you are eligible today!](#)

Can you recall where you spent your last ATM withdrawal?

Are you living paycheck to paycheck?



## Build a Basic Budget

### The Five-Step Spending Plan

#### Details

When: June 9th, 2020

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Join Us on Zoom



[Transcript for the Build a Basic Budget](#)

[Register Here](#)

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**Peer Support Group on June 10, 2020 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)**

[Register Here](#)

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## Social Conversations



**Social Conversations on June 11th, 2020 at 12:00 PM  
Central Time (US and Canada)**

[Register Here](#)

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**Easy Tips for Hurricane Preparedness at Jun 12, 2020 01:00 PM Central Time  
(US and Canada)**

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

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**We need your help completing an important survey about  
your experience during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

The survey is completely anonymous and should take about 15 – 30 minutes to complete. The purpose of this study is to investigate issues related to quality of life,

stress, healthcare access, and community access during the Covid-19 pandemic for individuals with a disability.

This research is IRB/ethics approved through Stockton University in NJ. We anticipate the results of this study will be published. Thank you for your assistance!

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Kerri Sowers at [Kerri.Sowers@stockton.edu](mailto:Kerri.Sowers@stockton.edu) or (609) 652-4418.

[Take Our Survey!](#)

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**Updated information about COVID-19 by county is available by clicking a graphic below.**



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Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida, Inc. (FEIN: 59-2288751) dba CIL Disability Resource Center, is a registered charity in the State of Florida, Registration Number CH130. A copy of the Official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.  
1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352), [www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com)

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of West Florida**

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