

Education, representation, and accommodations, all this and more in this issue of Accessibility for All.

# Accessibility for All

## - Disability and Health Program -

### Recent News

#### [Voting machines help vision-impaired voters in Alachua County cast ballots](#)

"The number of vote-by-mail ballots in Alachua County is expected to break local records this November, but some constituents may find it hard to independently fill in their ballot because of vision impairment. To help voters with diminished sight cast their ballots, equipment to improve ballot visibility will be placed at polling places throughout the county through the early voting period and on Election Day."

#### [Characteristics of Preschool Special Education Services and Educators](#)

"The data tables present national information on the preschool services funded by IDEA and provided by local school districts and schools. Data are from surveys collected in 2015 from two groups: (1) state agency staff in 50 states and the District of Columbia coordinating grants and services under IDEA Part B Section 619 and (2) preschool special education coordinators in 1,055 school districts selected to represent all districts in the United States."

 [FRIEND ON FACEBOOK](#)

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### Events and Survey Opportunities

[Special Needs Virtual Music Groups](#)

**Date and time varies by session, see website for details**

"Do you know someone with special needs who loves music? Then check out our virtual music groups:

- In ongoing Level 1 groups, Mondays at 10am and Thursdays at 5:30pm adults of all abilities learn to play fun favorite songs on Handbells.
- In the Level 2 group (Tuesdays at 6:30pm), more verbal adults learn Handbell playing techniques, reading music, writing songs, together.

Tuition is \$60 for four Level 1 classes and \$75 for four Level 2 classes. Scholarships are available. Anyone with a device that can access Zoom is welcome; Ask about scholarships by emailing

## [Racism and Disability Discrimination](#)

"Many parents of children with special health care needs — regardless of race — report struggling to receive prompt diagnoses and access to adequate therapy and support services. But for families of color, particularly those who are Black and Latinx, the struggle is more acute."

## [Accessible And Representative Toys Key For Development Of Kids With Disabilities](#)

"Kids with disabilities rarely get an opportunity to see themselves reflected in their toy box heroes and this lack of representative toys also has a knock-on effect on able-bodied children, who are deprived of valuable lessons in normalizing disability through pretend play from a young age. Additionally, many mainstream toys may be inaccessible to children with a variety of impairments such as limitations in dexterity or sight preventing the location and activation of buttons. Fortunately, slowly but surely, representative disability depiction is something that mainstream toy manufacturers are beginning to identify as increasingly important."

## [Improving Representation of People With Disabilities in Health Education](#)

"Over the past two decades, there has been increasing recognition of the importance and merits of increasing representation of historically underrepresented minorities in the health professions. However, people with disabilities are less discussed in these efforts. More than one in four of U.S. adults have a disability; yet it seems that these individuals are less represented in the field of health education. This commentary discusses the merits of increasing representation of people with disabilities in the health education/promotion profession

both classes, please visit [www.exceptionalensemble.org](http://www.exceptionalensemble.org)."

### [Community Campus Partnership for Health Consultancy Network Survey](#)

"The CCPH Network is a resource utilized to support and augment our national footprint. Consultants engaged through the Network support a myriad of projects. Consultants generally work alongside CCPH staff and provide very specific content expertise, all of which are centered on enhancing the capacity of both academic and community leaders to engage in authentic partnerships yielding transformative experiences and outcomes. CCPH consultants must demonstrate a shared commitment to our Principles of Partnership, social justice and health equity. Our consultants usually have backgrounds in academia or prior experience as patient advocates, community experts, academic researchers and key members of diverse organizations and agencies. "

**For more upcoming events, search through the [Agency for Persons with Disabilities \(APD\) Event Calendar!](#)**



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increased representation" (Open Access link: [https://www.tylergjames.com/pubfiles/2020\\_JamesSullivanVarnes\\_PHP\\_AAM.pdf](https://www.tylergjames.com/pubfiles/2020_JamesSullivanVarnes_PHP_AAM.pdf)).

## [How the #CripTheVote Movement Is Advocating for Disability Policy](#)

"#CripTheVote, a movement by the disabled community, is bringing conversations about disability issues to the forefront of political discourse. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in four people has a disability in the United States. Medicare for All, protecting the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) advancements are some policy changes that the disability community is hoping to continue working toward."

## [To See and Be Seen: These Dancers Make Disability Visible](#)

"On Display" is a project of Heidi Latsky Dance, the kind of company called physically integrated, which means that its diverse array of dancers includes many who are disabled. The project began in 2015 as guerrilla art in Times Square commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

## [Do students with disabilities receive quality instruction in general education classrooms?](#)

"Students with disabilities (SWDs) are likely to spend the majority of their school day in the general education setting. But more likely than not, their teachers have only had a single course on how best to support this student population. And while we have considerable research about how teacher quality overall is distributed within and across schools, we know comparatively little about who teaches students with disabilities, and what

## [Advancing the Full Participation of Persons with Disabilities in All Areas of Society](#)

**Tuesday, January 19th, 2021  
2:00pm-3:00pm EST**

"Join us for this informative session to gain information about the mission, purpose and services provided within the community by independent living centers across the country. Learn about policy and advocacy initiatives at the national and state/local levels designed to allow full participation by persons with disabilities. Our presenter will discuss how the National Council on Independent Living and local centers are serving persons with disabilities during the pandemic and common issues and obstacles being encountered. Following the presentation there will be time for questions from participants." Registration is free, deadline to register is January 18th, 2021.

## [MDisability Internship Program Open for Summer 2021 Applicants](#)

**Deadline: Friday, January 29th, 2021**

"Eligible, prospective undergraduate or graduate students are invited to apply for MDisability's 9-week summer internship program. MDisability is a University of Michigan Medical School, Department of Family Medicine (DFM) funded program focused on improving the inclusion of people with disabilities in healthcare research, education, practice and community engagement. MDisability's internship provides students with opportunities to develop basic research skills; gain exposure to disability related health policy; engage in community and educationally based disability projects; and explore best

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persistent teacher-quality gaps across schools for students without disabilities are replicated—or worse, exacerbated—for the SWD population."

## [They Made a Revolutionary System to Protect People With Developmental Disabilities. Now It's Falling Apart](#)

"Arizona's Independent Oversight Committees helped it become one of the best places in the country for the care of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. But now members say the state hasn't provided necessary resources."

## [Women and Girls with Disabilities Must Not Be Excluded](#)

"As we commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December, we celebrate an increasing recognition of the leadership and expertise that women and girls with disabilities bring to the table.

Recent calls to apply an intersectional lens to humanitarian action have also led to greater attention to women and girls with disabilities. This is a welcome development, but we must not forget that women and girls with disabilities, and their representative organizations, have been self-organizing and advocating for their rights for decades, both in law and in practice."

## [The Next Wave of Disability Law](#)

"As the Biden-Harris transition moves full speed ahead, and as lawmakers across the country establish legislative agendas for 2021, three key priorities may help advance disability rights. First, the federal government must ensure robust agency enforcement of

care of patients with disabilities.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Recent graduate from an undergraduate program, or currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program (Junior or higher class standing) with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Must be available full time from mid-June to mid-August
- Ability to commit to a 40-hour work week
- United States Citizenship (or hold permanent resident status) or international students currently enrolled in US college/university holding a student non-immigrant visa
- Students with disabilities encouraged to apply"



## About the DHP

The Disability and Health Program (DHP) is funded through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Formerly, the Florida Office on Disability and Health, the DHP is housed under

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regulatory officials must consider the importance of disability outside of traditional disability antidiscrimination laws. Finally, policymakers must consider the importance of mandatory data collection and transparency in carrying out Congress's explicit intent to change antiquated attitudes about disability in society."

Prevention in Tallahassee, FL with partnership from the University of Florida.

## DCPG Member Spotlight

### [Connecting Thru Music](#)

Connecting Thru Music (CTM) 501-c3 is dedicated to providing music therapy for children with special needs, building a foundation of music therapy/music therapists throughout Northeast Florida and raising awareness about the efficacy, benefits and importance of music therapy and learning through music for children with special needs.

CTM is looking to collaborate and share resources with those who can benefit and or share this vision. Together with the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens and The tag! Children's Museums, CTM will be offering a series of 10 videos filmed at the museums with the subjects of science, fine arts and diversity taught by music therapists through music. The videos will each be approximately 15 minutes in length and the objective is to teach children with special needs about the world around them through music at a level that they can understand - and to provide joy!!

If you are interested in receiving these videos or would like more information about Connecting Thru Music, please contact Executive Director, Karen Demuth at [info@ConnectingThruMusic](mailto:info@ConnectingThruMusic), 904-310-4827.

[ConnectingThruMusic.com](http://ConnectingThruMusic.com) (visit our virtual music library) and Facebook / Instagram Connecting Thru Music.

## Tips, Briefs, & Guides

## [Accommodate People with Disabilities at Meetings](#)

"A disability inclusion expert shares ideas for making attendees with disabilities feel welcome and included at your conferences.

Whether organizing in-person, hybrid, or virtual events, association meeting professionals want to make sure they are accessible, inclusive, and equitable for everyone."

## [How To Do Something Good In The Disability Community If You're Not Disabled](#)

"The field of disability services and advocacy is changing. One of the most significant shifts over the last few decades has been the rising prominence of actual disabled people within the disability field. While this is a positive development overall, it should prompt non-disabled people interested in serving disabled people to rethink their position and approach."

## [Allsup Provides Important Tips for Social Security Disability Insurance Applicants during COVID-19](#)

"Former workers with disabilities who are considering applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), will benefit by learning about some little-known facts that confirm their eligibility and speed their claim, according to Allsup, the nation's premier disability representation company. This is especially true as the Social Security Administration continues to operate with office closures and restricted operations during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic."

## [Covid-19 Accessible Materials for People with Disabilities](#)

"COVID-19 has disproportionately affected many groups, including the 61 million people in the United States living with a disability. While the COVID-19



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the Rehabilitation Act (e.g., those using assistive technology devices, closed captions on videos, etc.), content is needed in alternate formats such as simplified text, braille, and American Sign Language (ASL) videos. It is important that COVID-19 guidelines are not only accessible to people with disabilities, but also that the cultural challenges are considered that people with disabilities face while trying to follow them."

**Sincerely,**

## **Florida Disability and Health Program**

Disclaimer: These links are provided for informational purposes, not to solicit donations to an organization nor to promote one organization or resource over another.

[Florida Department of Health - Disability and Health Program](#)

[Florida Office on Disability and Health](#)

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