

DAWN Center for Independent Living

Hosts:

“Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Disability Networks Initiative”

A project funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Community Living.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) provided funding to recruit, hire, and train public health workers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future public health challenges. As trusted members of their communities and providers of services that support older adults and people with disabilities in every community across the country, the aging and disability networks play an essential role in public health. Our networks provide a variety of services that directly support public health, such as health and wellness education and information, counseling, case management and assistance with accessing health care services, including COVID-19 vaccinations. Centers for Independent Living were specifically identified as key partners in this initiative to implement activities at the local level.

DAWN Center for Independent Living, serving Morris, Sussex, and Warren counties, has implemented activities to:

- Provide education and training to build a culturally competent public health workforce;
- Connect individuals with disabilities and those with access and functional needs to needed health and social services;
- Develop and disseminate information and culturally appropriate communications via multiple channels;
- Build partnerships and foster relationships amongst stakeholders;
- Engage the community to understand health status and needs.

As part of our initiative to “Expand the Public Health Workforce Within the Disability Networks”, we have created a brief survey to identify barriers individuals with disabilities may have in being able to gain access to community wellness and public health programs and services.

If you are an individual with disabilities or have access or functional needs, please take a moment to complete the survey at: <https://bit.ly/41eI73W>

We have created a Health and Wellness guide that provides needed information at a state and local level to ensure community members are aware of the public health services in their community. You can find the Health and Wellness guide here: [View Health and Wellness Guide here](#)

Also, we have facilitated a workshop for human service providers and community members to highlight all of this information. You can find the recording and a copy of the PowerPoint presentation below.

[View Recording here](#)

[View PowerPoint Presentation here](#)