

Caregiver Connection and Support Program



As a caregiver, we rely on the support of other caregivers to:

- ◇ help us learn how to navigate a complex system,
- ◇ share our stories, and
- ◇ discuss our challenges

Caregiving is a lifelong journey that no one understands unless they have experienced it. This program offers education, support and socialization for caregivers who are caring for a loved one with a disability. There is a focus on those caring for a loved one with a developmental disability, but all are welcome.

We hope you will consider joining us.

February Caregiver Recreation Activity: Crafting

Join us for our informal support group for caregivers. Connect with other caregivers, discuss your journey, the challenges encountered, and learn from each other all while engaged in a fun, seasonal craft activity!

Facilitated by: Carmela Slivinski, Executive Director of DAWN Center for Independent Living and Julie Ferguson, Caregiver Support Coordinator

Supplies will be provided by DAWN.

Caregivers will need to come to DAWN to pick up their supply bag.

Thursday, February 13, 2025

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/EitzYejDRCmk0K62gleOLw>

February Facilitated Support Group Session

Join us for our facilitated support group for caregivers. This month will be an “open topic” session. Come share your thoughts about your caregiving journey and bring any questions or concerns you have to the group. This is a time for you, the caregiver, to talk with other caregivers to receive support and learn from one another.

**** The Caregiver Support Group sessions are intended only for caregivers. ****

Facilitated by: Carmela Slivinski, Executive Director of DAWN Center for Independent Living and Julie Ferguson, Caregiver Support Coordinator

* Please note: this session is for providing connection and support, not legal or professional recommendations.



Tuesday, February 25, 2025

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Register in advance for this meeting:



<https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/zguxEqYkQH-k7dCyeSZVnQ>

February Caregiver Education Sessions

SSI & Medicaid: How To Apply and Why You Need To Do So

Presenter: Jerisa Maseko

Director, Planning for Adult Life at the ARC of NJ

There are many different ways to initiate the Medicaid eligibility process and it is important to make sure you have all of the necessary information. This workshop will help parents and caregivers understand how to access health care services for their loved one with IDD from the current healthcare system. At the end of the presentation, caregivers will be able to ask questions.

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/9YBTYBIXQ6y8P4D4JzRnGA>

Disabled Adult Child

Presenter: Marijean Sperry

Human Service Specialist II, Department of Human Services

If you have questions or concerns about what will happen to your disabled adult child's SSI benefits and Medicaid coverage when one parent retires, becomes disabled, or passes away, this educational session will help you understand the process and what you can do to ensure that your child's benefits will continue. The presentation will cover qualifications for DAC, (Disabled Adult Child), when to start the process of preparing to transition to DAC, how to avoid gaps in Medicaid coverage during this transition, and the application process and waiting periods. At the end of the session, caregivers will be able to ask questions.

Thursday, February 20, 2025

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/5db7MErjTfifes7cOBJw9g>

If you are new to our caregiver programming, Julie Ferguson, DAWN's Caregiver Support Coordinator, will reach out to you to welcome you to the program, share information, and answer any questions you may have.

Please contact Julie Ferguson at (862)-753-7424 for further information.

This program is supported by Morris County Office on Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming. Contributions are gladly accepted. Contributions are voluntary and are not required to participate in this programming.