

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NETWORK PRESENTS

DD NETWORK NEWS

A Collaborative Publication from MSCDD, DRMS and IDS

WINTER 2022 ISSUE



SAVE THE DATE

Mississippi disAbility MegaConference

June 16-17, 2022

Hilton Jackson and Virtual

www.msmegaconference.org

Have you gotten your COVID-19 vaccine?

The DD Network wants to remind you that it's **Worth the Shot!**

The COVID-19 vaccine has been proven to be a safe, effective measure against the COVID-19 virus. Receiving the vaccine not only helps keep you safe, but it also can help protect your more vulnerable friends and neighbors in the community.

In the Jackson area? Join us for coffee & vaccines!



Join us for FREE coffee & on-site Covid-19 vaccines and boosters by Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health. Learn more about resources for Mississippians with disabilities.

Tuesday, February 2

7 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Broad Street Bakery & Cafe

Jackson, MS

DISABILITY RIGHTS MISSISSIPPI

A core part of Disability Rights' mission is to ensure Mississippians with disabilities have full inclusion in education. We are excited to have hired a new advocate to join the DRMS team to work with families and students with disabilities to ensure their right to a free and appropriate public education is protected. We continue to monitor Covid-19 policies in Mississippi school districts to ensure they do not violate the rights of students with disabilities.

DRMS is also excited to collaborate with ACCESS at Mississippi State University to spread awareness about this innovative, inclusive program in higher education.

ACCESS is a program developed at Mississippi State University in 2010 to provide post-secondary education to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. ACCESS is the only post-secondary transition program in the state of Mississippi and truly offers students the opportunity to have the full, inclusive college experience!

ACCESS has recently expanded by developing ACCESS Online, which gives any student (no matter their academic level or disability) an opportunity to join the Bulldog family by enrolling in online enrichment courses such as Practical Money Skills, Career Exploration, Money Management, and Maintaining Employment. These courses are self-paced with weekly deadlines, taught by certified online education ACCESS instructors, and developed for students ages 14+. Courses are offered in conjunction with the MSU fall, spring, and summer semesters. This educational programming is designed for those who would benefit from developing functional life skills to grow independence and identify future career paths. Our team's mission here at ACCESS is to provide students with the knowledge and confidence necessary to become gainfully employed and live as independently as possible in their communities.

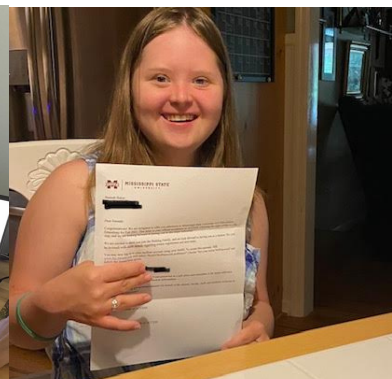
ACCESS Online registration is now open, and enrollment for the spring semester is November 8th through January 25th. Additional information about the courses and registration can be found at www.access.msstate.edu or by calling 662.546.0755

**Making Career Skills
& Independence**



More ACCESSible

www.access.msstate.edu



**Worth
the Shot**



Protect yourself. Help your community. Get the Covid-19 vaccine.

Have you seen our commercials? Be sure to find them on our social media channels and share with your networks!



MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities currently has two grant opportunities to improve the lives of Mississippians with developmental disabilities and their families!

1) Innovative Quality of Life Grant applications are available now at www.msccd.org. Grants may be up to \$25,000 for new, innovative projects or state plan efforts. The current opportunity is for short-term grants of six or seven months.

2) A Request for Proposals for NEW Area of Emphasis grants is available at www.msccd.org. The due date is March 18, 2022 by noon. Projects will start July 1, 2022 and end June 30, 2023. Approximately \$300,000 is available to fund several new projects.

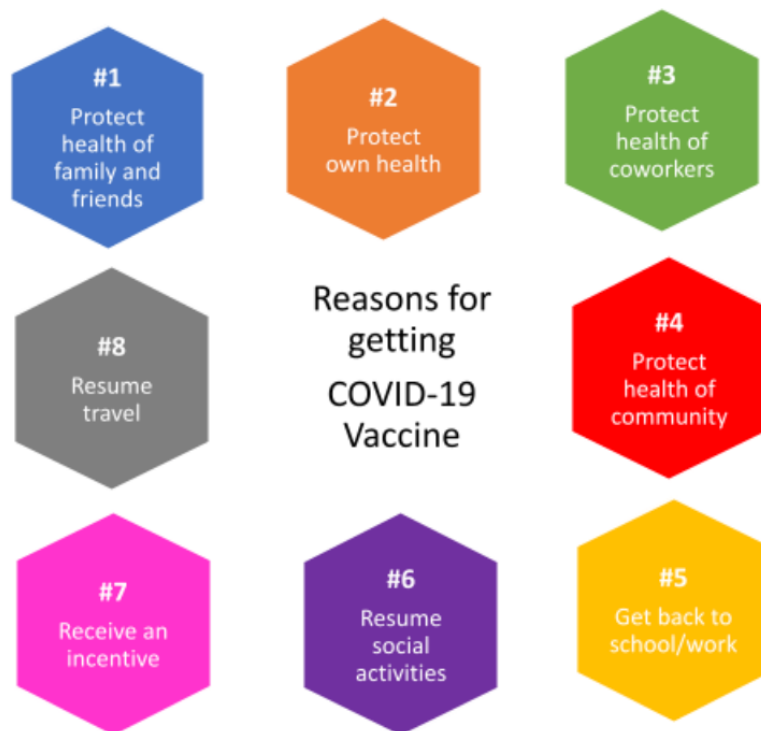
The applications or proposals should address at least one of the following state plan outcomes:

- Developing self-advocacy and leadership of people with developmental disabilities;
- Improving services and systems for people with developmental disabilities;
- Meeting critical needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families; or
- Future care planning for adults with developmental disabilities.

For more information, contact Christy at 601-359-5533 or christy.ashley@dmh.ms.gov.

INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES

As part of the planning process for its next five-year CORE grant renewal, the Institute for Disability Studies conducted a survey in the fall of 2021 to identify priority emphasis areas and explore COVID-19 experiences of Mississippians with disabilities. A total of 112 individuals responded to the survey. Of these, 21% had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 21% had not been vaccinated. Survey respondents indicated that protecting the health of themselves and those around them were the most important reasons for getting the COVID-19 vaccine.



If you have information you would like to have included in the next issue, please contact Jane Walton at jwalton@drms.ms.