



# Family Support News



4-11-2025



A collaboration between the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Federation for Children with Special Needs

## Direct Support Youth Stipend

Fund what **matters most** for your young adult — personalized to fit their interests, goals, & needs.



These funds can support...



Personal Care Attendant

Job Coach



Cooking Classes

Transportation



Gym Membership

...and more!

### Who's eligible?

Young adults age 23-26:

- ☒ Born March 10, 1998 - September 30, 2001
- ☒ Who had an IEP until age 22

Apply today!



[bit.ly/YouthStipend](https://bit.ly/YouthStipend)



1-800-331-0688



Informational flyers in Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Chinese, & Haitian Creole are available on the FCSN website!



YouTube

The FCSN has an on-demand 10 minute webinar that you can watch on YouTube to learn more!

Do you need help navigating the special education process or working with your student's school? We can help!



**Schedule a School Questions Consultation here! Click to complete the interest form.**



Follow The Arc of Bristol County on Facebook for daily information updates and further resource sharing!



**Same supportive  
group with a new  
inclusive name!**

**Are you looking to connect  
with other caregivers?**

**Do you have questions  
about how to best support  
your child?**

**Are you looking to meet  
people who understand the  
ups and downs of caring for  
loved ones with disabilities?**

**Join Family Support  
Coordinator Ida Linquist  
for our Parents' &  
Caregivers' Group!**

**Questions? Contact:  
Ida Lindquist  
Family Support Coordinator  
ILindquist@arcnbc.org**

**VIRTUAL**  
**Tuesday**  
**4/15/25**  
**7-8pm**  
**Register to**  
**receive**  
**the meeting**  
**link by email.**

**IN-PERSON**  
**Thursday**  
**4/17/25**  
**10:30am-11:30am**  
**Family Support**  
**Center**  
**140 Park St 3rd FL**  
**Attleboro**  
**\*Refreshments**  
**served\***

**REGISTER NOW**



**ASD  
SOCIAL**



**Wednesdays  
6-7 pm**

**2 Knotty Walk  
Taunton, MA**



**Join Jacob Anderson, our  
Family Support Center  
Autism Navigator, for a  
drop-in social hour for adult  
folx with autism. Allies,  
support staff, and friends  
are welcome. Light  
refreshments are served.**

**Ages 18+ are welcome, except  
for the last Wednesday of each  
month when ages 13+ and a  
caregiver are also welcome.**

**Questions? Email Jacob at  
JAnderson@arcnbc.org.**

### April Calendar of Events at the Taunton LGBTQ+ Community Resource Center



There's loads of fun in store for LGBTQ+ individuals of all ages this April at the Taunton LGBTQ+ Community Resource Center on 2 Knotty Walk. The center is open during scheduled hours only. No registration is required (except where indicated by ☉). All materials and refreshments will be provided. For more information, email james@scslgbtqnetwork.org or call (508) 264-0584.

| APRIL 2025   |   |  |  |  |   |     |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|-----|
| SUN  | MON   | TUES   | WED  | THURS  | FRI   | SAT |
|  |   | 1<br>2:00-7:00pm<br>Beverly Kesting &<br>Drop-In Hours                                       | 2<br>2:00-6:00pm<br>Dinnering &<br>Drop-In Hours<br>☉ 4:00-5:00pm<br>+ DARTMA Art Project                  | 3<br>3:00-7:00pm<br>DIT Fabrics &<br>Drop-In Hours | 4<br>4:00-7:00pm<br>Support Group for Parents,<br>Grandfathers, and Caregivers of | 5   |
| 6  |   |  |  |  |   |     |
| 13   |   |  |  |  |   |     |
| 20   |   |  |  |  |   |     |
| 27   | 28<br>10:30-11:30am<br>Coffee Hour<br>11:30am-2:00pm<br>Youth/Craft Group | 29<br>2:00-7:00pm<br>Blue Prints &<br>Drop-In Hours<br>☉ 4:00-5:00pm<br>+ DARTMA Art Project | 30<br>2:00-6:00pm<br>Pitt Meeting &<br>Drop-In Hours<br>☉ 4:00-5:00pm<br>LGBTQ+ & ASD Social<br>Hours List |  |   |     |
| <p><b>View The Network's monthly<br/>calendar of FREE activities at<br/>their Taunton office location.</b></p> <p>☉ CALL JAMES AT (508) 264-0584 TO REGISTER<br/>OR FOR MORE INFORMATION</p> |   |  |  |  |   |     |

THE TAUNTON LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CENTER • 2 KNOTTY WALK, TAUNTON, MA 02780 • (508) 264-0584 • SCLGBTQNETWORK.ORG



HOCKOMOCK AREA YMCA

## Camp Calcia

Where you'll soar to new heights



Join us at Camp Calcia, a one-of-a-kind summer camp for adults 18-50 years old living with special needs.

Camp Calcia is a half-day camp held at the North Attleboro YMCA on Saturdays and Sundays in July. Campers will have the opportunity to try new things and make new friends, all while enjoying a traditional day camp.

Each weekend will have a variety of activities which may include swimming, sports, arts and crafts, gardening, outdoor education, ropes course climbs, theatre/improv, and more! We will also have special guests for our campers to enjoy. Pizza lunch will be provided on Sundays.



We will have 1 staff for every 6 campers in order to provide participants with the necessary supports to be successful throughout the camp day.

Campers should bring a swim suit and towel, sunscreen, bug spray, a refillable water bottle, snacks, and a lunch each day.

We will host a Spring Open House for campers and families on n North Attleboro - details to come. Join us to learn more and try some of our fun camp activities!

**Weekend 1: July 5-6, 2025 9am-2pm**

**Weekend 2: July 12-13, 2025 9am-2pm**

**Weekend 3: July 19-20, 2025 9am-2pm**

**Weekend 4: July 26-27 2025 9am-2pm**

*Campers are welcome to join us for as many days as they like!*

**Member: \$163/Weekend or \$92/day**  
**Non Member: \$244/Weekend or \$132/day**

Visit [hockymca.org/camp](http://hockymca.org/camp) to register.

Questions? Contact Camp Calcia Director Laurie Infrerra at [Lauriei@hockymca.org](mailto:Lauriei@hockymca.org) or 508-772-1327.

*Please reach out to the YMCA staff directly with questions. This activity is not organized or sponsored by our Family Support Center. We are sharing the camp opportunity for families to explore independently.*



## Autism Services & Systems Virtual Workshop

Thursday, April 28th  
10:00-11:00AM on Zoom



Community Autism Resources  
A PRESENCE ALONG YOUR JOURNEY

Join Jan Randall, CAR's Director of Family Support, to learn about Services and resources offered by Community Autism Resources. She will also be discussing DDS Services, how to apply, how the system works and how and where to get access to services once your child is accepted.

If you have ANY questions about Autism services in Massachusetts this is your opportunity to get your questions answered!

This short workshop can be really helpful for those who are wondering how services work, if your child was recently diagnosed, you are new to the area, or if you want to learn what you may be missing out on for your child/teen/adult.

[Register Now](#)

# POTLUCK MOVIE NIGHTS

Every other Thursday 4-7PM  
141 Park Street, Attleboro  
4/17 - 5/1 - 5/19 - 5/29



Our adult Autism Navigators, Jacob and Christine, invite DDS eligible folks to join them for bi-weekly movie nights. These nights are open to ages 18+ and are free.

Come spend time with friends, make new connections, snack, and relax in a comfortable and safe atmosphere.

If you are able, kindly bring a snack to share with the group.

For RSVP & questions contact:  
[JAnderson@arcnbc.org](mailto:JAnderson@arcnbc.org) or [CDenis@arcnbc.org](mailto:CDenis@arcnbc.org)







## SELF-DIRECTION PROGRAMS



SUPPORT



EMPOWERMENT



CHOICE

### DDS SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES

Please join us to hear how participants and their families can design individualized services to meet their needs through the:  
**Participant Directed Program or Agency with Choice**

DDS will present their info sessions at the following dates and times. Click on the individual date and time listing below to register for the offering that is most convenient to you.

Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM-11:30AM

Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00-11:30AM

Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 4:00-5:30PM

Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:00-11:30AM

Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> 4:00-5:30PM

Visit our website for more information:

**[DDS Self-Directed Services](#)**

For questions contact [amy.nazaire@mass.gov](mailto:amy.nazaire@mass.gov)





What an awesome (and rainy!) time we had at the Supercross Championship Family Day!



## 20th ANNUAL AUTISM ADVOCACY DAY



Advocating for Rights and Opportunities Across the Spectrum of Need

Tuesday, April 8, 2025  
Great Hall, Massachusetts State House

YOUTUBE.COM

20th Annual Autism Advocacy Day - Tuesday, April 8, 2025 - The Great Hall, The State House



# Transition to Adulthood Workshop

**Date: Monday, April 28th, 2025**

**Time: 3:00 - 5:00pm**

**Location: Middleboro Dept. of Developmental Services  
151 Campanelli Drive, Middleboro, MA 02346**

Transition planning for students starts at age 14 in Massachusetts. Applications for adult services in many areas should take place at the age of 18. Many families feel overwhelmed with the transition process. The Arc of Bristol County is here to help. Join our Family Support Center staff for a training workshop to learn about:

- **Transition timelines**
- **How to address transition in your child's IEP**
- **How to begin navigation adult services**

Families will come away with a one-of-a-kind binder with transition to adult services info neatly organized for you.

Advance registration is required by Thursday April 24th, 2025. Questions can be directed to Kristin Boisclair at [KBoisclair@arcnbc.org](mailto:KBoisclair@arcnbc.org)

