Partner Spotlight

Services for Independent Living Leadership Academy

Services for Independent Living (SIL), NEO Mobility Coalition partner and a not-for-profit center for independent living in Cuyahoga County, has recently piloted a Leadership Academy. The new 8-week program is funded by a grant through the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. As a designated Center for Independent Living (CIL), SIL is committed to the inclusion and meaningful participation of individuals with disabilities into their communities, enhancing their ability to be independent and productive.

Kathy Foley, SIL’s Executive Director, introduced the Leadership Academy as a way to help individuals with disabilities to take the next step towards full participation in activities and decision-making bodies on issues of interest or those impacting their lives.

Though many individuals with disabilities are working hard to be essential self-advocates and to “find their voice,” oftentimes they may not understand how boards, higher level committees and taskforces function, nor feel comfortable expressing their experience and point of view. Kathy explained, “Their input is overlooked, dismissed or diminished. Their voice is lost.”

The SIL Leadership Academy, facilitated by SIL Advocacy and Disability Rights Coordinator Laura Gold, will train participants in a small group setting. The training session curriculum includes growing leadership skills, effective communication and problem solving, as well as navigating the ins and outs of board, committee, and coalition membership. The ultimate goal is for participants to leave the program feeling confident in their ability to make their voices heard in the most impactful way.

The first Leadership Academy session is currently underway with another session opening in September. There is no cost to participate and interested individuals can reach out to Laura Gold at lgold@sil-oh.org or Kathy Foley at kfoley@sil-oh.org.

SECTION 5310 FUNDING

For Your Information

On June 9, 2017 the NOACA Board of Directors approved recommendations for over 3.1 million dollars in project funding.

The United States Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 program provides transit providers, non-profits and social service agencies with funding to provide transportation to seniors and individuals with disabilities.

For a full list of projects approved for funding, visit the Section 5310 page at www.noaca.org, or click on the bus icon below.
Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Learner’s Permit Training

The Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities is currently offering Learner’s Permit Training for individuals 15 ½ years or older who have been referred to the program. This effort helps foster independence and opens up mobility options for individuals who are interested in learning to drive and gaining a driver’s permit.

Details about eligibility can be found in the column to the right. Contact Mary Lombardo at Lombardo.mary@cuyahogabdd.org for more information.

Community Travel Training – Studying for Written Portion of Learner’s Permit

1. Individual Must Have the Following Skills/Items Prior to Referral
   - Must be at least 15½ years of age with permission of parent or guardian
   - Must be able to pass a vision exam (must bring eyeglasses to driver exam)
   - Must be able to understand traffic signs and directions in the English language
   - Must have a State of Ohio ID Card
   - There is no cost for taking the test. If the individuals passes, they will purchase a temp packet at a cost of $22.00.
   - Individuals must pass the test with 75% of questions answered correctly.
   - If the individual has a seizure disorder, they may have to submit a form signed by their physician as to the nature of the condition.
   - It is suggested that participants obtain a copy of the State of Ohio Motor Vehicle laws booklet prior to the start of training.

2. When an Individual Has Been Referred for Training
   - Training will take place in 1 hour increments at a location outside of the individual’s residence
   - At the onset, training sessions will take place 1 time weekly.
   - Parent/care providers will be given study materials that they can use at home with the individual
   - Materials include flash cards of street and road signs that will be on the exam, glossary of key words and definitions, practice exam questions.

Travel Training

Travel Training is an important component of expanded mobility and involves teaching seniors and individuals with disabilities how to use public transportation independently. These skills will open up a wider range of destinations and activities, giving individuals greater access to their communities and fostering independence. This section of Mobility News features Travel Training programs across Northeast Ohio.

Laketrans

Seniors on the Go

Laketrans, the regional transit authority for Lake County, Ohio serves their senior population by offering a tailored Travel Training program especially for them. Seniors on the Go is a group training session aimed at keeping individuals mobile regardless of their ability to drive. This is especially important for seniors who may feel that "giving up the keys" is a setback to their independence.

In Spring of 2017, Laketrans staff offered Seniors on the Go training sessions at ten Lake County Senior Centers. For more information, follow the link below or click on the red brochure icon.

https://laketrans.com/riding-laketrans/seniors-on-the-go/
Mobility News

Senior Transportation Connection (STC), a Cleveland-based not-for-profit focused on transportation options for seniors and adults with disabilities in communities across Cuyahoga County, is expanding their reach!

In April 2017, STC began serving clients in Lakewood and will also be extending service into North Royalton.

For more information about STC and the communities and partners they serve, visit http://ridestc.org/partner-links/ or click on the computer icon.

Do You Have INFORMATION TO SHARE?

Email Sarah at swhite@mpo.noaca.org to be included in the next newsletter.

SAVE the DATES

NEO Mobility Coalition Meetings

August 15, 2017 10:30am-Noon
November 14, 2017 10:30am-Noon
(Location TBD)

ADA Day 2017

Wednesday, July 26 4-9pm
Wade Oval in University Circle

Disability Transportation Coalition
Services for Independent Living Offices
26250 Euclid Ave, Suite 801, Euclid, OH
August 24, 2017 1-2:30pm