

PIRS Hot Sheet

Advocacy & Services for People with Disabilities



Are you a Californian who cares about assistive technology (AT) and/or disability issues? If so, the ATNetwork – a project of CA Foundation for Independent Living (CFILC) - needs your input!

Please take 10-15 minutes to complete an important survey about assistive technology and California's ATNetwork project. The survey will be open through Monday, January 10.

This survey is designed to be completed by Californians with an interest in assistive technology and/or disability issues. Please feel free to forward this email to others who meet these qualifications. To take the survey, go to:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/ATstakeholder_survey

CFILC thanks you very much for your time and input. Your responses will help build a stronger ATNetwork.

Source: CA Foundation for Independent Living Centers, www.cfilc.org.



www.workrerc.gatech.edu

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Workplace Accommodations has free online resource information for employers, employees & others.

White House Hosts Free Monthly Teleconference on Disability Issues

In order to help keep you more informed, the White House Office on Disability Policy is hosting monthly calls to update you on various disability issues, as well as to introduce you to persons who work on disability issues in the federal government.

This call is off the record and not for press purposes.

They strongly urge and ask that you distribute this email broadly to your networks and list serves so that anyone who wants to participate can do so.

Our next call will be Monday, January 10 at 12:00 PM Pacific (noon).

Dial: (800) 230-1093

Title: Disability Call (use instead of code)

For live captioning, at time of call, log onto: www.fedrcc.us/Enter.aspx?EventID=1679107&CustomerID=321



Need to hire an in-home personal assistant? Call Tim Cooper at PIRS, 530-885-6100, x15, for help.

PIRS Calendar

Reasonable accommodations are available upon advance request to facilitate access to PIRS facilities and services.

In order to maintain a comfortable environment for everyone, we respectfully request that **no perfumes or other scented products** are worn when attending activities at PIRS. Thank you.

Deaf Awareness and Conversational American Sign Language:

⇒ **Advanced Class:** call for info.

⇒ **Beginning Class:** Monday, 1:00 – 2:00 pm
For more information on classes, call Virginia at TTY (530) 885-0326, or use CA Relay Service at 211 or 1-877-314-6025 and give the operator the TTY number.

Disability Peer Support Groups:

⇒ **Depression Support Group** – Every Thursday, 2:00 – 4:00 pm. at PIRS. This group is facilitated by Senior Peer Counseling Program of PCHHS, and it is open to all adults regardless of age.

⇒ **Women's Depression/Bipolar/Mental Health Disabilities Support Group** – Monday 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Call Jeff, ext. 15.

⇒ **Men's Disability Support Group** – Tuesday 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Call Jeff Cowen, before attending.

⇒ **Women's Disability Support Group** – Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Open drop-in group. Call Facilitator Barbara Finn, ext. 26, for more information.

⇒ **Family & Caregivers Support** – Call Facilitator Barbara Finn, ext. 26, for more information.

Auburn People First: self-advocacy for people with developmental disabilities

⇒ Call the Supported Life Institute, Self-Advocacy Coordination Project at 916-567-1974 for more information.

FREE Help with your healthcare services problems:

HICAP – Health Insurance Counseling for seniors and people with disabilities. Call Seniors First/SeniorLink at 1-800-878-9222 to make an appointment.

Health Rights Hotline, serving Placer, El Dorado, Yolo, & Sacramento Counties, regardless where you receive your health coverage. Tollfree (888) 354-4474 or TDD (916) 551-2180. In Sacramento, call (916) 551-2100. www.hrh.org.

HMO Help Center: State Dept. of Managed Health Care, free independent medical review (IMR) for denial of services. Assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call (888) 466-2219 or (877) 688-9891 (TTY). www.healthhelp.ca.gov.

DRA's Health Access Project: free publications about the health care and insurance rights and concerns of people with disabilities and serious health conditions. <http://dralegal.org/>, and click on "Projects".

Mental Health America
In Crisis? 1-800-273-TALK
Pensar en Suicida?
1-800-SUICIDA (784-2432)
(Ellos son Latinos y hablan Espanol)

California AgrAbility Project serves agricultural workers with disabilities and their families. Call (530) 752-1613 voice; Toll free: 1-800-477-6129; fax (530) 752-2640.
<http://calagrability.ucdavis.edu>

Cost-Benefits of Providing Workplace Accommodations

With WorkRERC, the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) at Syracuse University is conducting a study to look at the long-term costs and benefits of providing accommodations to employees. The study is attempting to determine both direct and indirect costs and benefits. This will help to better assess the costs, benefits, and utility of workplace accommodations and understand what organizational policies, practices, and cultures lead to successful use of accommodations.

They are gathering information from both the employee and employer perspective, including the experiences of employees who have asked for an accommodation, as well as from employers who have implemented accommodation for their employees. For questions about this research, contact: BBISurveyteam@syr.edu. To learn more about the research and participate in the survey, go to:

websurvey.syr.edu/accommodations.aspx



New AT Product for Drivers: DARIOS

People who use hand controls now have another option to help them commute to work or drive to worksites during the day. DARIOS is a ring-shaped digital accelerator that is positioned just within the steering wheel.

Hand controls typically require a person to use one hand for acceleration / braking and the other for steering. DARIOS enables drivers to maintain both hands on the steering wheel while also operating the accelerator, making turns easier. It also can free up the driver's other hand temporarily for operating secondary functions such as turn signals or wipers.

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Disability Employment Study

Are you living with a disability?

Are you employed?

If YES: You may be eligible for this research study! The study is to identify people with disabilities who are employed and find those factors that contribute to their successful work careers.

Participation process includes completing a Web-Based Survey (*approximately 1 hour*). In order to participate, you must:

- * Have a physical disability;
- * Be employed for at least 2 years at your current job;
- * Work at least 20 hours per week at your current job;
- * Be at least 18 years of age or older.

Participants will be asked to complete the survey a second time in 4-6 weeks. To participate and for more information, visit: disabilitycommunityparticipation.org

Source: DBTAC Southwest ADA Center at ILRU for Washington University in St. Louis, School of Medicine.



DARIOS: (continued from col. 1)

DARIOS stands for "Digital Accelerator Ring Optimized for Speed". The digital accelerator adapts its sensitivity to the speed of the vehicle, producing smooth acceleration. The ring is designed to match the normal interior of the vehicle. If other drivers wish to use the vehicle, the original brake and accelerator pedals remain functional.

For more information:

www.kempf-usa.com/Handcontrols_description.html

(Source: WorkRERC Digest, Dec 2010 - Jan 2011, Vol 8, No. 2).

ADA CORNER

The National Federation of the Blind, a leading advocate for accessible technology for people who are blind, and three blind individuals who travel frequently for work, have filed a class-action lawsuit against United Airlines regarding the inaccessibility of the company's airport kiosks.

The suit alleges that United is violating the California Disabled Persons Act and the Unruh Civil Rights Act because the services it provides through these touchscreen kiosks are not available to blind passengers. The company has not made the kiosks accessible through the addition of audio interfaces, a tactile keyboard, or interactive screen reader technology that some companies have implemented. Blind passengers must wait in long lines at the ticket counter, even when they have already purchased their tickets and checked in online. For more information: www.nfb.org/nfb/NewsBot.asp?MODE=VIEW&ID=688

Free Technical Assistance:

- Pacific Disability and Business Technical Advisory Center – Hotline provides detailed explanations on ADA Guidelines. 1-800-949-4232; www.adapacific.org.
- Dept of Justice ADA webpage: www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm
- Equal Opportunity Employment Commission – non-discrimination in employment: www.eeoc.gov.
- Job Accommodation Network (JAN): lists examples of accommodations that may be appropriate for various types of disabling conditions. www.jan.wvu.edu
- www.access-board.gov – US Access Board publishes access guidelines based on research about best practices.

- www.DisabilityInfo.gov is a cross-government portal on disability, and is easily accessible.
- www.ncaonline.org- National Center on Accessibility promotes access to recreational facilities, focusing on universal access and practical solutions by linking designers with users.
- www.firstgov.gov – a one-stop source to find any federal agency and other information.
- Federal Transit Administration – ADA Assistance line: 1-888-446-4511 or www.fta.dot.gov/transit_data_info/ada/
- Information on the U.S. Dept of Education enforcement of education rights (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA). www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/index.html
- Discrimination in air transportation and related services. Hotline at 1-800-778-4838 (voice) or 1-800-455-9880 (TTY) to obtain assistance. Complaints must be submitted in writing. <http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov/>



Advocate for Your Rights!

Never take your independence for granted. Never ignore discrimination. Speak out and defend your rights to access housing, education, employment, transportation, health care, telecommunications, recreation, and all the other benefits our society enjoys. Stay informed and get PIRS advocacy bulletins by mail or email:

Email: <jcowen@pirs.org> and put "Subscribe Advocacy List" in the subject line;

Call – Jeff - 530-885-6100, ext.15; or

Write: Advocate, PIRS, 11768 Atwood Rd. Ste. 29, Auburn, CA 95603.

Want to get more involved? Call Jeff.

To Contact Your Legislators online:

President: www.whitehouse.gov

Governor: www.governor.ca.gov

US Senators: thomas.loc.gov, then choose "Senate Directory" at top.

US Representatives: thomas.loc.gov, then choose "House Directory" at top.

State Senate: www.senate.ca.gov

State Assembly: www.assembly.ca.gov

Placer County: www.placer.ca.gov

El Dorado County: co.el-dorado.ca.us

Alpine County: www.alpinecountyca.gov



PIRS Board of Directors is seeking new members. In particular, if you are of Latino, Asian, or African-American descent and have a disability, please consider joining our Board.

Please call for an application:
530-885-6100, in Auburn
1-800-833-3453 outside of Auburn area
530-885-0326 TDD
530-885-3032 Fax

PIRS Board of Directors

Dawn Davidson, President
Paul Opper, Vice President
Robert Hancock, Treasurer
Dan Roye, Secretary
Michael Cummings, Director
Harry Powell, Director
Terry Scott, Director
Linda Wisdom, Director

PIRS Board Meeting:

Third Wednesday, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at PIRS.

Disability Rights Organizations:

www.ADAWatch.org: Advancing the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities

National Council on Independent Living:
www.NCIL.org

Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living: www.april-rural.org

CA Foundation for Independent Living Centers: www.cfilc.org

Mental Health: www.Bazelon.org

Advocacy for persons with developmental disabilities: [The ARC.org](http://TheARC.org)

Protection and Advocacy: www.ca-pai.org

Disability Rights Education Defense Fund:
www.dredf.org

Not Dead Yet: opposing physician-assisted suicide. www.ndy.org

Disability Rights Advocates: dralegal.org

American Association of Persons with Disabilities: www.aapd.org

California Disability Community Action Network (CDCAN): Advocacy Without Borders: www.cdcan.us



www.disabilitybenefits101.org

Information on employment, health coverage and other benefits, and how it all relates to working. There's a unique "calculator" that will help you figure it out. You can work!

Placer Independent Resource Services
11768 Atwood Rd., Ste. 29
Auburn, CA 95603

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Organization
US Postage PAID
Auburn, CA
Permit #130

PIRS Hotsheet is available in alternative formats. Please call us – 530-885-6100.



*Please Include
PIRS in Your Will.*



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We need your support. Please make a donation to PIRS today. Thank you!

PIRS is a Certified Agency of United Way California Capital Region: **Agency # 5751**

