The Montana Centers for Independent Living have launched a new action alert system at http://cqrcengage.com/summitilc/ to inform you about current local, state, and national issues and legislation that affect the lives of people with disabilities.

On this site you will find many opportunities to get involved, follow advocacy efforts, as well as look up and contact your elected officials. Make sure to sign up under the “Become an Advocate” section to be sure you receive the latest action alerts in your email inbox!

This portal also serves as a way for us to keep you informed and updated of what is going on during Montana’s Legislative Sessions and to let you know of opportunities to contact your Senator and/or Representative.

Now more than ever we all need to join forces and work together to improve and preserve the services that keep people healthy, active, productive and involved in their communities. Remember, democracy is a “participatory sport.” We all have tremendous power to bring about positive change, but only if we get involved, speak out and demand that our elected officials do the right thing.

People have already used this tool to write letters to policy-makers to overturn a rule that would have put the independence of people that rely on personal assistance in jeopardy.

Other issues on the site include advocating to fix the Medicaid Medically Needy Spend Down, and tracking a host of federal disability-related legislation.

You can also sign up for alerts in the side-bar at www.summitilc.org. Be sure to check ‘Email Opt-in.’

If you are receiving a hardcopy of our newsletter, you must call Summit at 1 (800) 398-9002 or email missoula@summitilc.org to renew your subscription.

Any subscriptions that are not renewed will be automatically discontinued Dec. 31, 2016.

We strongly encourage people to subscribe to the electronic copy when possible, as more information about upcoming events is able to be sent electronically throughout the year.

If you are already an electronic subscriber, you need do nothing. Thank you.
UPCOMING EVENTS

FLATHEAD COUNTY

Flathead Office Closed - July 4-5, Sept. 5

Social Security Orientation - Second and fourth Wednesdays monthly. Please call 257-0048 ext. 141, to register and get location.

YODA - Youth group meets once a month.

Living Well with a Disability - Call Lynae to sign up.

Social Activities - We get together four times a year for social activities. We hope the next activity will be a river float. Call the office to put your name on the mailing list so you won’t miss the next fun and exciting adventure!

Unless otherwise noted, classes and groups meet at:

Gateway Community Center, United Way Conference Room
1203 Hwy 2 West, Kalispell

Call Lynae, (406) 257-0048, ext. 142, for more information or to register.

RAVALLI COUNTY

New Hamilton office location: 299 Fairgrounds Road #4, Hamilton

Ravalli Office Closed - July 4-5, Sept. 5

Social Security Orientations - First Wednesday monthly, 1-3 p.m.

Man Cave Game Time - Tuesdays weekly, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Man Cave Cookout - Third Thursday monthly

People First - Tuesdays weekly, 3-4 p.m.

Women on the Move - Third Wednesday monthly

TGIAD - Thank Goodness It's Activity Day - Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and Fridays, 1-3 p.m.

Unless otherwise noted, classes and groups meet at:

The Refuge,
317 N 3rd St., Hamilton

Call Sarah or Mary, (406) 363-5242, for more information or to register.
**Montana Disability Vote Project**

**There are many ways YOU can vote:**

1. **At your polling place**
2. **Absentee Ballot**
3. **AutoMark**
4. **Electronic Ballot**
5. **Designate an Agent**

Every polling place in Montana has at least one specialized voting machine, called an AutoMARK, that enables people with disabilities to vote independently and privately. If you cannot enter a polling place, election judges will assist you with "curbside voting."

If you have a physical disability or are unable to read or write, you may ask an election judge to help you mark your ballot. Or, you can bring a friend or relative who, with the permission of the election judge, can go into the voting booth with you and help you vote.

You may also designate an agent to assist you with the voting process on the Designation of Agent by Individual with Disability form. Deliver the signed application to your local election office.

Beginning October 1, 2015, you may apply for an electronic ballot that can be marked on your personal computer, printed and returned to the election office.

If you would like to learn more about the voting process in Montana visit [http://sos.mt.gov](http://sos.mt.gov).

---

**Not registered to vote yet?**

You can register at any Summit office!
Upcoming Events

Missoula County

Missoula Office Closed - July 4-5, Sept. 5
Summit Orientation - First Friday monthly, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
SSA Orientation - July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9, Oct. 14 10-11 a.m. and July 19, Aug. 23, Oct. 25 1-2 p.m.
People First - First and third Wednesdays monthly, 4-5 p.m.
WRAP - Wellness Recovery Action Plan - Sept. 12-Nov. 21, Mondays weekly 1-3 p.m.
Working Well with a Disability - Sept. 13-Nov. 11, Tuesdays weekly 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Work Soft Skills - Sept. 15-Nov. 3, Thursdays weekly, 10 a.m-12 p.m.

Alzheimer’s Support Group - Second Wednesday monthly, 12-2 p.m.
Blind Low Vision Support Group - Second Tuesday monthly, 1-2:30 p.m.
Epilepsy Support Group - First Monday monthly, 2-3:30 p.m.

Missoula ADA Summer Picnic - July 15, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - McCormick Park

The following activities are now meeting at BASE, 725 West Alder, No. 10, across from St. Patrick Hospital and next to Draughtworks in the Warehouse Mall.

Game Night (GN) - Thursdays weekly, 3-6 p.m.
Youth Opening Doors through Advocacy (YODA) - Second and fourth Wednesdays monthly, 3:30-6 p.m.
Base Art Group (BAG) - Fridays weekly, 1-5 p.m.

For other upcoming BASE events, visit: www.facebook.com/base725

Unless otherwise noted, classes and groups meet at:

Summit ILC, Summit’s Conference Room
700 SW Higgins, Suite 101, Missoula

Call Kathy, (406) 728-1630, for more information or to register.

People sit in chairs at a “pop-up” park, built on a previously unsightly corner in Hamilton in May.

**Building Active Communities Initiative**

A project run by the Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity (NAPA) Program with Montana State University’s Office of Rural Health is championing improvements to communities across Montana.

The Building Active Communities Initiative, or BACI, encourages towns to build walkable, bikeable communities that allow people to be physically active as they go about their lives. Accessible pathways that are both safe and attractive are a main feature of accomplishing this goal.

Summit’s Mary Millin is on one of the committees working on the BACI project, where she works alongside members of the Hamilton government. One of their first attempts to spruce up their neighborhood led to building a small, but pretty, park on a disused main street corner.

To find more out about BACI or to see if your town has a BACI committee, visit: [http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/NAPA/BACI.aspx](http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/NAPA/BACI.aspx).

---

**BULLETIN BOARD**

*Summit Pinnacle Chair stair lift.* Gently used, works great. 2 remotes. Straight line - mount rope L. Pick up in Missoula. $1,300. Call Diane at 360-4061.

*Garaventa Super-Trac Portable Wheelchair Lift for stairs.* Great for accessibility where lifts or ramps cannot be installed. Can accommodate all types of wheelchairs. Purchased new for $12,000 and used only a few times. Will sell for $9,000 OBO. Contact Jacob Francom, Troy Public Schools, jfrancom@troyk12.org, (406) 295-4520.

*Acorn Stair lift* for going up to 6 stairs. $750 OBO. Call John at 546-7003.

*Bruno Stair lift.* Hardly used, in excellent shape. $2000 OBO. Call Cate at 241-0172.

*Oxygen Sensor Concentrator -Invacare SensO2.* Call 926-3419.

*Permobil C300 Wheelchair.* Full-featured-power-lift, footrest, backrest, vertical lift, Bluetooth, Omni-control module, enhanced steering, removable tray, E-Z lock (vehicle mount), Roho cushion. $1500 OBO. Call Theresa at 251-6450.

*3-wheel electric scooter.* 5 mph, 12 miles per charge. Collapsible, will fit in the trunk of a car. $600 OBO. Call (406) 676-5966, ask for Gloria or Juan.

View more classifieds at: [www.summitilc.org/newsletter/classified-ads/](http://www.summitilc.org/newsletter/classified-ads/)

Have something you want to sell or give away or are you looking for a hard-to-find piece of equipment?

To get listed contact Justice Ender at (406) 728-1630 or email justice@summitilc.org.

Or, list and find items on the MonTECH exchange:

[http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mtdb/](http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mtdb/)
In Missoula, the North Missoula Community Development Corporation, or NMCDC, offers a variety of programs in accessible locations for the Missoula community.

**Burns Street Kids Club**

Mondays – Thursdays, 3-6 p.m., while school is out of session, June 13 – August 25, in and around 1500 Burns Street. This program offers a variety of activities, free snacks and free dinner for children 18 and under.

Show up during operating hours, and you can sign up. Feel free to call Hermina at (406) 829-0873 with any questions.

**Double SNAP Dollars**

Double SNAP Dollars is a program that provides an extra dollar for the purchase of fruits, vegetables, or seeds for each SNAP dollar spent, up to $20 per day.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, feel free to stop in to the Food Co-op at 1500 Burns Street, go to any of the participating farmers markets when they start for the season, or contact one of their program managers:

Hermina, herminaharold@gmail.com, (406) 829-0873.

Kim, kim@missoulacfac.org, (856) 912-1080.

Or learn more on the Community Food and Agriculture Coalition website, www.missoulacfac.org/double-snap.html.

**Real Meals (on hold until fall)**

Real Meals is a participant-driven cooking and nutrition workshop series intended to help families gain skills and knowledge that will help them get more nutritional bang for their buck.

Once a month, Real Meals hosts a workshop with a special guest – a nutritionist, a chef, farmer, a mom, a home cook, etc. – who shares their knowledge as we collectively prepare a meal.

Child care is included, and participants are sent home with recipes and ingredients.

Call (406) 829-0873 or email herminaharold@gmail.com to sign up.

Go to www.nmcdc.org to learn more about NMCDC and the programs they offer.
Summit Community Forums

Summit Independent Living has recently launched a new way for people with disabilities to connect.

The Summit community forums are a place where people can talk about issues, search for roommates and friends, post equipment to trade, and engage in a variety of other topics.

Simply go to: www.summitilc.org/forums/, register, and go!

Remember to follow rules of web safety and manners, like not using your full name, harassing others, or getting off-topic.

While Summit will moderate the forums, we won't be able to verify every item posted and we might miss some posts that are offensive or that you don't agree with. Use your best judgement!

Visitability

Visitability is a national movement to build homes with three primary accessible design features. They are:

1. One zero step entrance on an accessible path of travel from the street, sidewalk or driveway
2. Doorways that provide 32 inches clear space throughout the home’s main floor and hallways that provide 36 inches of clear width
3. Basic access to a half or (preferably) full bath on the main floor

Visitability homes offer features that benefit our community, whether it be new parents, older adults who wish to remain in their home, people with mobility needs, emergency services, and many others. These three primary requirements are often paired with many other simple, low-cost features to maximize usability of a home.

It is our hope that new homes built in Montana incorporate features of Visitability so that our communities become stronger, more inviting and homeowner-friendly places!

To promote this idea, we’ve launched a website - www.visitablemt.org - that features pictures of Visitable Montana homes and has other information about Visitability.

We are looking for more pictures of Visitable homes from all over Montana, so if you know of one, please send in pictures (with the owner’s permission).
IMPORTANT!

If you are receiving a hardcopy of our newsletter, you must call Summit at 1 (800) 398-9002 or email missoula@summitilc.org to renew your subscription.

Any subscriptions that are not renewed will be automatically discontinued Dec. 31, 2016.

We strongly encourage people to subscribe to the electronic copy when possible, as more information about upcoming events is able to be sent electronically throughout the year.

If you are already an electronic subscriber, you need do nothing. Thank you.

Remember, you can always sign up for the electronic newsletter by contacting: missoula@summitilc.org