**Chicago Area Organizations and Institutions Serving People with Disabilities**

**Accessing Living of Metropolitan Chicago** 115 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Il. 60654 312 640-2100 (phone) 312-640-2102 (fax) | [www.**accessliving**.org](http://www.accessliving.org) Gary Arnold, Public Relations Coordinator [garnold@accessliving.org](mailto:garnold@accessliving.org) James Charlton, Director, Arts and Culture Project [jcharlton@accessliving.org](mailto:jcharlton@accessliving.org) The Arts & Culture Project includes a permanent collection of art by people with disabilities, and programming that includes music, art, poetry and spoken word.

**Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc.** 1359 W Washington Blvd, Chicago, IL 60607  
312.554.0600 (phone) 312.554.0292 (fax) | [*www.adasmckinley.org*](http://adasmckinley.org/wsdindex.html) Brenda Fashola, Director, Community Affairs [*info@adasmckinley.org*](mailto:info@adasmckinley.org)   
Assists individuals and families who, because of disabilities or other limiting conditions, need help in finding and pursuing paths leading to healthy, productive and fulfilling lives.

**AgeOptions**

1048 Lake Street, Suite 300, Oak Park, IL 60301

708 383-0258 (phone) 708 524-0870 (fax) 708 524-1653 (TTY) | <http://www.ageoptions.org> Carol Mattar, Communications Specialist [carol.mattar@ageoptions.org](mailto:carol.mattar@ageoptions.org)r

Connecting older adults and those who care for them with resources and service options.

**Anixter Center**   
2001 N. Clybourn Ave., Chicago, IL 60614-4036 (773) 973-7900 | [www.anixter.org](http://www.anixter.org) Provides a broad range of programs for those who have physical, developmental, cognitive, psychiatric or sensory disabilities including Education Services, Employment/Business Services,   Health and Behavioral Health Services, Residential and Housing Support.

**The Arts of Life**  
[Chicago Studio](http://artsoflife.org/community/studio/chicago-studio): 2010 W Carroll Ave., Chicago, IL 60612 (312) 829-2787 | [www.artsoflife.org](http://www.artsoflife.org) Committed to providing high quality, innovative services for adults with developmental disabilities. The studio focuses on its artists’ needs and strives to create a working, person-centric, artistic community that provides a work environment of equality.

**The Autism Program of Illinois**  
The Autism Clinic and TAP Training Center at University of Illinois Chicago 1640 W. Roosevelt Road Chicago, IL 60608 (217) 525-8332 | http://www.ahs.uic.edu/cl/familyclinics/programs/autismclinicandtaptrainingcenter [www.theautismprogram.org](http://www.theautismprogram.org) Supports persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families through a coordinated network of providers, parents, and university programs while developing, utilizing, and sharing best and promising practices.

**The Awakenings Project** P.O. Box 177, Wheaton, IL 60618 theawakeningsproject@yahoo.com | www.awakeningsproject.org Irene O'Neill. President, Board of Directors Assist artists with psychiatric illnesses in developing their craft and finding an outlet for their creative abilities.

2.

**Backbones** P.O. Box 7334, Prospect Heights, IL 60070-7334 618-SCI-5484 (phone) | http://backbonesonline.com Reveca Torres**,** Co-founder and Director[info@backbonesonline.com](mailto:info@backbonesonline.com) Backbones provides free support for people with spinal cord injury and their families. Through its network facilitates telephone, in-person, or web-based connections and encourage growth by the sharing of experiences and ideas.

**Best Buddies Illinois, Chicago Office**101 West Grand Ave., Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60654312 828-9313 (phone) 312 828-9421 (fax)   
Toll-free: (877) 60-BUDDY [www.bestbuddiesillinois.org](http://www.bestbuddiesillinois.org/) Creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.  
 **Chicago Children's Museum** **Play For All Program** 700 East Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60611 312.464.7679 (phone) 312 527-9082 (fax) | [www.**chicagochildrensmuseum**.org](http://www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org) *Play For All* events invite children and families with disabilities to experience Chicago Children's Museum's inclusive, multisensory exhibits and programs.

**Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired** 1850 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Illinois 60608 (312) 666 1331 (phone) 312 997-3662 (direct line) | <http://chicagolighthouse.org/> Dominic Calabrese, Vice President Public Relations dominic.calabrese@chicagolighthouse.org Offering far-reaching programs that have opened the doors of opportunity for people who are blind or visually impaired.

**Chicago Park District** 541 N. Fairbanks Ct., Chicago, IL 60611 312.742.5097 (phone) | http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/departments/administration/disability-policy-office Larry Labiak, Disability Policy Officer **-** larry.labiak@chicagoparkdistrict.com Advises all departments on the development and implementation of policies and programs inclusive of patrons with disabilities. Oversees the Chicago Park District Department of Special Recreation  
<http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/departments/programming/community-recreation/special-recreation/>

**DeafIllinois News** https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/DeafIllinois/info An announcement list consisting of event announcements, job postings and press releases of interest to the Deaf Community in Illinois

**Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago**

1939 W. 13th Street-Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60608

312-491-4110 (phone) 312-733-0247 (fax) | http://www.easterseals.com/chicago

Colleen Shinn, COTA/L, Manager of Autism Program Service Centers - [CShinn@eastersealschicago.org](https://webmail.uic.edu/src/compose.php?send_to=CShinn%40eastersealschicago.org)

Offers a variety of services to help people with disabilities address life's challenges and achieve personal goals.

**EL VALOR** 1850 W. 21st Street , Chicago, Illinois 60608 312 666-4511 (phone) 312 666-6677 (fax) 312 666-3361 (TTY) http://www.elvalor.org | info@elvalor.net Nina Duenas, Senior Director of Children's Programs - [nina.duenas@elvalor.net](mailto:nina.duenas@elvalor.net) Jon Emory, Director of Adult Programs - jon.emory@elvalor.net  **O**ffers a continuum of services that maximize personal choices, enrichment, employment, and self-sufficiency for persons with disabilities.

**3. Erasing the Distance** 4001 N. Ravenswood Avenue, Suite 503C, Chicago, IL 60613   
Phone: 872.529.1383 | Jennifer Mathews, Communications Director **erasing**thedistance.org | info@erasingthedistance.org ETD uses the power of performance to disarm stigma, spark dialogue, educate, and promote healing surrounding issues of mental health.

**Illinois Arts Council** 100 W. Randolph St., Suite 10-500, Chicago, IL 60601 312.814.6753 (phone) 312.814.1471 (fax) Encarnacion Teruel ADA/504 Access Coordinator [Encarnacion.Teruel@illinois.gov](mailto:Encarnacion.Teruel@illinois.gov) Director, Visual Arts, Media, & Multi- Disciplinary Programs

**Illinois Association of the Deaf http://www.iadeaf.org** | **www.facebook.com/IADeaf/info?tab=overview** Angela Botz, President - [angela.botz@gmail.com](https://webmail.uic.edu/src/compose.php?send_to=angela.botz%40gmail.com) **I**AD advocates for equality, full communication access, and cultural preservation of the deaf and hard of hearing people in Illinois.

**IL DHS - Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education** 1950 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago 60608 312 433-3124 (phone) 312 433-3254 (fax) | www.icre-roosevelt.org Ronald F. Rispoli, MS, CTRS, Recreation Therapist & Volunteer Coordinator - [Ronald.Rispoli@illinois.gov](mailto:Ronald.Rispoli@illinois.gov) ICRE - a residential school for students ages 18-21 with severe physical disabilities and other health impairments. Prepares young adults for successful adult life through a comprehensive program of educational, therapeutic, rehabilitative and medical services.

**International Center on Deafness and the Arts (ICODA)** 614 Anthony Trail, Northbrook, IL 60062 847.509.8260 | [icodaarts.org](http://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=AwrBJR77H9lUCzUALN0pnIlQ/RV=2/RE=1423544443/RO=10/RU=http%3a%2f%2ficodaarts.org%2f/RK=0/RS=S2hn_fNd3nUmFPQfPxZgLqrBcgc-) Patricia Scherer, President and Founder schererp@aol.comEducates and empowers Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Hearing children and adults through the provision of quality artistic and educational experiences. **ICODA’s** CenterLight Family Theatre performs using American Sign Language and Spoken English concurrently during the performance.

**La Rabida Children's Hospital**  
6501 South Promontory Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60649  
(773) 363-6700 | [www.larabida.org](http://www.larabida.org)  
Provides comprehensive, interdisciplinary health services to children with chronic illness, disabilities, or who have been abused through expertise and innovation within the health care and academic communities.  
 **Little City Foundation** 1760 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, IL 60067 847.221.7888 (phone)   847.358.3291 (fax | [www.littlecity.org](http://www.littlecity.org) Terry Braune [tbraune@littlecity.org](mailto:tbraune@littlecity.org) or 847-221-7831.  Supports individuals, families and communities to ensure that children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities can realize their unique potential.

**Mather Life Ways** 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60660 773.769.0299 Kathy Bavaro Kbavaro@MatherLifeWays.com

4.

Offers numerous programs and events that older adults can learn from, discover resources, and exchange ideas with friends—old and new. Mather Edgewater offers older adults an opportunity to have meaningful life experiences.

**Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities** 121 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL. 60602 312.744.7050 (phone) 312.744.4964 (TTY) 312.744.3314 (Fax) <http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mopd.html> MOPD promotes total access, full participation and equal opportunity for people with disabilities of all ages in all aspects of life through an approach that includes systemic change, education and training, advocacy and direct services.

**MOMENTA** 605 Lake St., Oak Park, IL 60302 708-848-2329 ( phone) | 708-848-2391( fax) | **momentadances**.orgMomenta is the resident dance company of the Academy of Movement and Music. It’s repertory includes physically integrated works for dancers with disabilities.

**National Lekotek** **Center** 2001 N. Clybourn Ave., Chicago, IL 60614-4036 | [www.lekotek.org](http://www.lekotek.org) | E-Mail: [jbailey@lekotek.org](mailto:jbailey@lekotek.org) 773-528-5766 ext. 408 (phone)  773-537-2992 (fax) Offers therapeutic PLAY-based family sessions for families of children with disabilities. Structured to help children learn, develop and thrive in a world that presents them with many unique and complex challenges

**National Veterans Art Museum**  
4041 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60641  
312-326-0270 (phone) | 312-326-9767 (fax) | <http://www.nvam.org> Dedicated to the collection, preservation and exhibition of art inspired by combat and created by veterans

**Open Doors Organization**

8623 W. Bryn Mawr, Suite 5, Chicago, IL 60631 773.388.8839 (phone) | 773.432.7567 (fax) | [www.opendoorsnfp.org](http://www.opendoorsnfp.org) Eric Lipp, Executive Director [ericlipp@opendoorsnfp.org](https://webmail.uic.edu/src/compose.php?send_to=ericlipp%40opendoorsnfp.org) Offers programs that improve the quality of life for the individual with a disability while opening doors to businesses and society through social action and research.

**The Progress Center for Independent Living** 7521 W. Madison St., Forest Park, IL 60130 708-209-1500 (phone) | 708-209-1735 (fax) 708-209-1826 (TTY) | [info@progresscil.org](mailto:info@progresscil.org) <http://progresscil.org> A non-profit, non-residential, consumer controlled disability rights organization serving suburban Cook County, Illinois. The Progress Center’s mission is to build a society in which people with disabilities shall have the same freedoms, rights, and civil liberties as everyone else.

**Project Onward Studio & Gallery**   
1200 W. 35th Street, 4th Floor , Chicago, Illinois 60609   
773.940.2992 (main #) | [projectonward.org](http://www.projectonward.org/)  
Rob Lentz, Executive Director (e) [rob.lentz@projectonward.org](mailto:rob.lentz@projectonward.org) 773.295.2061 (direct #) Project Onward is a nonprofit studio and gallery that supports the professional development of artists with exceptional talents and challenges, ranging from autism to mental illness, and provides these artists with workspace, materials, professional guidance, exhibition opportunities and access to markets to sell their work and advance their careers.

**5.**

**Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago’s Life Center** 345 E. Superior St. Chicago, IL 60611 312.238.5433 (phone) | 312.238.2860 (fax) | [lifecenter@ric.org](mailto:lifecenter@ric.org) (email) | https://lifecenter.ric.org Provides a holistic approach and access to information that spans the lifetime needs of persons with disabilities.

**Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital**  1401 S California Ave., Chicago, IL 60608 (773) 522-2010 (phone) | kris.balfanz-vertiz@sinai.org | www.schwabrehab.org Kris Balfanz-Vertiz, Director Extended Services, Deaf Access, Case Management, Outreach and Expressive Therapy A freestanding, not-for-profit, rehabilitation hospital that offers a therapeutic environment of comprehensive inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, both for adults and children.

**Shriners’ Hospital Chicago**  
Serving children with physical disabilities  
773 622-5400 (phone) | [www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/locations/chicago](https://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/locations/chicago)

**Sibling and Leadership Network**  
Provide siblings of individuals with disabilities the information, support and tools to advocate with their brothers and sisters and to promote the issues important to them and their entire families.  
(312) 996-1002  
[www.siblingleadership.org/](http://siblingleadership.org/)

**Snow City Arts Foundation** 630 South Hermitage, Suite 103K, Chicago, IL 60612-3833  
312 942-6991 (phone) | 312 942-6859 (fax) | http://www.snowcityarts.org Provides one-on-one instruction in art, music, writing, theatre and film for patients at Rush Children’s Hospital, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital, and Children’s Hospital University of Illinois.

**Special Kids Foundation** 2218 N. Monticello Ave., Chicago, IL 60647 773.394.3202 (phone) | [fddc@ffdconline.org](mailto:fddc@ffdconline.org) | Cheryle Yallen Supporting organizations that make a positive impact in the lives of children with developmental disabilities.

**Tellin' Tales Theatre** 360 E. Randolph St., Suite 1006, Chicago, IL 60601 312 540-1330 | http://tellintalestheatre.org | Tekki Lomnick, Artistic Director [tekkil@aol.com](mailto:tekkil@aol.com) Shattering barriers between the disabled and able-bodied worlds through the transformative power of personal story.

**Thresholds Theatre Arts Project** 4101 N. Ravenswood, Chicago, IL 60613   
773 572-5500 [www.thresholds.org/](http://www.thresholds.org/) Kirsten Fitzggerald, Managing Director - kfitzgerald@thresholds.org

**Victory Gardens Theatre’s Access Project** 3433 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL. 60604 773 871-3000 Mike Ervin, Access Project Coordinator [mervin@victorygardenstheater.org](mailto:mervin@victorygardenstheater.org) Nationally recognized model outreach effort designed to involve people with disabilities in all aspects of theater, both on and off the stage.

*List provided by CCAC Chicago Cultural Accessibility Consortium. Questions? Contact Theresa Pacione tpacio1@uic.edu*