

**California IHSS Consumer Alliance
Statewide Monthly Call
November 16, 2016
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Notes

Call-in: 1-800-309-2350 **Pass:** 10282015#

Present on call (names shared): Linda Roberts, Brad Toy, Deborah Kindley, Eva Stafford, Charlie Bean, Janie Whiteford, Todd Metcalf, Janet Clark, Michele Geving, Michael Conden, Joey Riley, Rosita Whitaker, Kristine Loomis, Becky Stockton, Christina Mills, Cindy Begal (sp?) from Placer, Ernie from Mendocino, plus 5 others with no names.

10:05 - Karen Keesler will provide an update on CAPA and topics surrounding the IHSS program. ***Had personal business to attend to!***

10:30 - Christina will share information about the [Digital Access Project: Increasing Online Opportunities and Access for People with Disabilities](#).

Christina Mills, Deputy Director, California Foundation for Independent Living Center. Oversee several different state programs, such as Disability Organization Network, Ability Network, Tech Act loaning out technical equipment that loans equipment for 30 days, and are now offer a loan program freedomtech.org, [Voice Options](#) is a pilot program through the California Utilities Commission, Youth programs 16 through 28, and last is our Digital Access Project (link above).

Digital Access provides assistance for disabled throughout the State of California to receive Internet Access and computer equipment. Rural areas are the most needing options for improved Internet access. To find out if you qualify go [here](#) to take a short survey.

There are many low-cost Internet services, "Internet Essentials," that are not widely known about because these companies do not advertise them. Using Comcast as an example, they have a separate website for signing up for reduced rates. But also, there are restrictions to have a child on the free lunch program which through studies, 70% of disabled do not have children so this makes it more difficult to qualify – this is being worked on to change.

There are other programs, [mobile beacon](#), [basic Internet](#) but they also have low marketing and are less known. [Frontier](#) as noted earlier bought out Verizon, they have programs. [AT&T](#) has a program as well, which their qualifications are much broader. To find out about these take the survey on line [here](#) and if you are unable to take the survey call the staff at **916-737-5334**. (Note: links to companies are for reference only, it is advised you go through the Digital Access Project to find a server for you!)

Depending on where you are located, offers may be different. Our Staff can tell the up to date changes and what is available to you.

Wondered if any of the services have Satellite?

It was not known for the area they lived in being served by Frontier. Recommended to call the office and ask if Frontier serves the area they are in. If the area is served by Frontier they want folks to note this so it could be improved.

What is the ability to get computers from you?

We work with a company out of Chico through a program called [Computers for Classrooms](#). Don't let the name fool you, it is also for low-income individuals.

Some through Frontier offer a free Chromebook if you are first getting Internet or have not had it for 6 months...you need to be in its area of service...be sure to call 916-737-5334 for more information. Look on Frontier's website for where they cover.

Is there access to training?

Yes, there are some training offered in CFILC, they do have a list of sites where digital training is offered throughout the State.

For those of us who have access, how would we avail ourselves to the low-income service?

We can assist folks in finding cheaper service, but we cannot count it towards our grant unless you were off service for at least 6 months.

This is something folks need to look into especially if they hope to use Electronic Timesheets.

Asked of Electronic Timesheets would be able to use it on the mobile?

Yes this will be available to those using mobile phones. As long as you have access to the web.

Life-line will soon be offered to the land-line or cell phone, but it will not be offered to both. This is coming in December, 2016.

10:55 - CICA reminder of surveys and miscellaneous information

Get information on ABLE accounts. There's a bill in Congress to change the age limit from 26 to no age. Had to be identified as having a disability by the age 26.

Having money in an ABLE account you need a money manager?

No, it is up to you to place it into a secure account, some just savings with little interests or risky accounts.

ABLE stakeholder meetings will be held throughout the State. Get with Christina for more information.

If you open an account in another state you will be able to transfer them to California at possibly lower fees.

Surveys have been set out to consumers, providers and Advisory Committees. hope folks complete these.