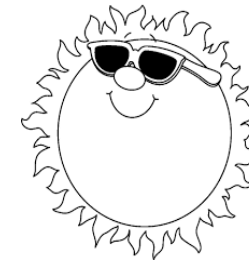


NC AgrAbility Provides Assistance to Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities

The North Carolina AgrAbility Partnership (NC AgrAbility) is a federally-funded grant program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute for Food Safety (USDA-NIFA). The program consists of a National Project and individually funded state or regional projects. The National AgrAbility Project was originally established in the 1990 Farm Bill and in 1991, the project consisted of 8 states. Today, AgrAbility is funded in 24 state and regional projects serving states and has 5 affiliate states.

The mission of NC AgrAbility is to educate and assist farmers, ranchers, farmworkers and their family members engaged in production agriculture who are living with disabilities to enable them to stay actively engaged in production agriculture, agriculture-related occupations, and/or daily life.

For more information, contact Chuck at (828) 631-1167



DP CONNECTION

Summer 2019



Operation Fan Heat Relief

As warmer weather arrives in North Carolina, the Division of Aging and Adult Services is partnering with the N.C. Area Agencies on Aging and local service providers to distribute fans to eligible recipients through Operation Fan Heat Relief May 1 – Oct. 31.

As individuals age and develop chronic medical conditions, they are less likely to sense and respond to changes in temperature. They may also be taking medications that can worsen the impact of extreme heat. Operation Fan Heat Relief helps vulnerable adults at risk for heat-related illnesses stay safe during the summer.

People 60 and older, as well as adults with disabilities, are eligible to sign up for assistance at local aging agencies across the state. Since 1986, the relief program has purchased fans for older adults and adults with disabilities, providing them with a more comfortable living environment and reducing heat-related illnesses.

The program is made possible by donations from Duke Energy Carolinas, Duke Energy Progress, Dominion Resources and the Valassis Giving Committee, which allow regional area agencies on aging and provider agencies to purchase fans for eligible individuals. Provider agencies can also purchase a limited number of air conditioners based on a person's specific health conditions.

Last year, the division received \$85,600 in donations, allowing for the distribution of 5,226 fans and 26 air conditioners.

For more details, individuals may contact their [area agency on aging](#) or the Division of Aging and Adult Services' Housing Program Consultant at 919-855-4993.

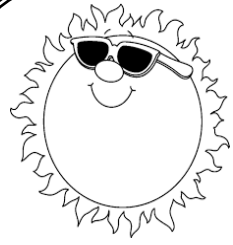
For more information about Operation Fan Heat Relief, including tips on preparing for extreme heat and a list of local agencies distributing fans, is available

at www.ncdhhs.gov/operation-fan-and-heat-relief.

Mailing address

Disability Partners
525 Mineral Springs
Sylva, NC 28779

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DP CONNECTION



Hands on Jackson

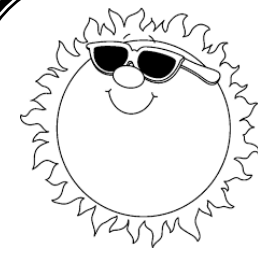
Hands on Jackson is a “Day of Caring” type of community effort to help those in need here in Jackson County. Organizers for this event include: The Jackson County Department of Social Services, The Jackson County Department on Aging, Jackson Neighbors in Need, The Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Habitat for Humanity and Mountain Projects Community Action Agency.

This collaboration is focused on providing assistance to neighbors in need through mobilizing community volunteer teams of all skill levels and matching them with needs. Jobs will range from installing energy efficiency measures, building ramps, or cleaning yards and gutters. Supplies will be provided to the teams in advance and will be purchased through sponsorships. All projects must be less than \$1,000 to complete and be able to be completed in one day. The event is scheduled for October 3rd, 2019 and applications are due by July 12th. For more information contact the Jackson County Department on Aging at (828) 586-5494.

DisAbility Partners Now Has an In-House Certified Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator

DisAbility Partners is proud to announce that we now have a Certified Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator on staff. We offer services ranging from simple ADA consultation to full accessibility surveys determining compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For questions regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act or a no cost estimate for an accessibility survey, contact Chuck at (828) 631-1167.



DP CONNECTION



Medicaid Changing to Managed Care

Beginning this summer, Medicaid begins the transition to managed care. In Medicaid Managed Care, people enroll in a health care plan that is run by a prepaid health plan or “PHP.” The transition to Medicaid Managed Care will begin in July 2019. Just like current Medicaid, eligibility may change due to your income and other causes, but there will be no new eligibility rules or restrictions under Medicaid Managed Care. You will get to choose a plan based on what is important to you, such as making sure you and your family are in the same plan. **One important detail that you should be aware of ; if you do not choose a plan, one will be chosen for you!** Be aware of what plans are offered and choose what plan fits your situation.

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