

# About DILA



Established in 1982, Deaf Independent Living Association, Inc. (DILA) offers a variety of services for Eastern Shore residents with disabilities, including information and referral, supported employment, community and residential support, and communication resources. Above all, DILA strives to promote active, independent living among the people we serve.

## OUR MISSION

Independence of people who are deaf or hard of hearing through communication, connection and community supports.

## OUR CORE VALUES

1. **Community Connector.** We cultivate relationships and actively participate in the community to access needed resources and we help each person get involved and create their own supportive networks of friends, colleagues and families.
2. **Individual Supporter.** We strive to figure out what every person wants, needs and dreams. Then, we work tirelessly to do “the right thing” and offer the best support possible to help each person create a life of their choosing.
3. **Independence Broker.** We appreciate each person’s self-worth and right to determine the path and direction of their life.
4. **Joy Maker.** We have fun with a “can do” infectious team spirit.

## Our Staffing Team

DILA’s staff is comprised of hard-working, specially trained professionals dedicated to helping Eastern Shore residents who are deaf or hard of hearing establish connections to their community and improve their quality of life. Staff members are fluent in American Sign Language and well versed in deaf culture and hearing loss issues. A volunteer board of directors helps guide our organization.



## Our Consumers

DILA primarily serves deaf, hard-of-hearing, late deafened, deaf-blind individuals and their family members, as well as other disability groups. We also assist businesses, community members and other agencies and organizations that have an interest in disability issues.

## Our Services

- ◆ Information and referral
- ◆ Residential support services
- ◆ Employment and Supported employment services, including job coaching and Job Lab
- ◆ Communication resources, such as our public video phone and ASL classes
- ◆ Interpreter Referral Service
- ◆ And much more!

## Funding

To fulfill our mission, DILA relies on a combination of funding sources, including fee-for-service contracts with State agencies such as the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration, Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services and Delaware Division of Developmental Disabilities Services plus generous grants and donations from private foundations, businesses and individuals.

## To Learn More...

For general information about DILA, details about our programs and services or to request assistance, contact the DILA office below. You can also visit us online at [www.dila.org](http://www.dila.org).

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