

# MARCH IS: Developmental Disabilities Month

In 1987, President Reagan recognized March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to increase “public awareness of the needs and the potential of Americans with developmental disabilities” and to provide the “encouragement and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential.” According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), developmental disabilities are defined as: impairments in physical, learning, language or behavior areas, and include:

- **Autism spectrum disorders • Cerebral palsy**
- **Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder**
- **Learning or intellectual disabilities**
- **Hearing loss • Vision impairment**
- **Other developmental delays**

The Department of Family Services continues to serve individuals with disabilities throughout Prince George’s County. Project HIRE: Disability Apprenticeship Program provides individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities between the ages of 18 and 25 a meaningful paid job training experience within a Prince George’s County Government agency. Participants will have an opportunity to enhance current skills, learn new skills, and gain on the job work experience. To apply please contact Valerie Berkeley at VFBerkeley@co.pg.md.us.

For those who are interested in advocacy and empowering the community, the Commission for Individuals with Disabilities is actively recruiting new commissioners. The role of the commissioner is to promote equal access and opportunities for those with differing abilities due to unmet needs or discrimination on the basis of differing abilities in such areas as housing, transportation, employment, education, health, community services, business, faith-based organizations, and non-profits. Individuals interested in being considered for an appointment to a board/commission should send a letter of interest along with a resume’ to pgboardsvacancy@co.pg.md.us.

To access more information on Project HIRE and to apply please visit us at <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/FormCenter/Family-Services-28/Project-HIRE-Disability-Apprenticeship-P-146>

For more information on the Commission for Individuals with Disabilities please visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/698/Commission-for-Individuals-With-Disabili>



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