



Disabilities Network of Eastern CT

19 Ohio Ave
Norwich, CT 06360

Please forward resume to dnec@dnec.org

Independent Living Advocate

Full-Time – 35 Hours/Week

Benefits: PTO, Paid Holidays, Flexible Schedule, Health Benefit Payment

About Us

The Disabilities Network of Eastern CT (DNEC) is a nonprofit agency located in Norwich, CT. We support individuals with disabilities across Eastern Connecticut so they can live independently and participate fully in their communities.

We are seeking an Independent Living (IL) Advocate who will also serve as the Youth Transition Advocate, helping young people with disabilities prepare for adulthood.

Position Summary

The IL Advocate provides direct advocacy, independent living skills support, and resource navigation to individuals of all ages with disabilities.

This position also includes youth transition responsibilities, helping young people build skills, access services, and move successfully from school to adult life. The role involves collaboration with schools, families, service providers, and community partners.

The IL Advocate will also participate in community outreach throughout Connecticut, including schools, human service agencies, community groups, and housing complexes.

Key Responsibilities

Independent Living Advocacy

- Assist individuals with disabilities in accessing community services, education, employment, housing, and healthcare.
- Provide independent living skills training, advocacy, and resource navigation.
- Support individuals in developing self-advocacy and leadership skills.
- Help remove barriers by addressing accessibility issues and service gaps.

Youth Transition Services

- Serve as a liaison between DNEC and educational institutions, Local Interagency Teams, and the New London County Regional Interagency Team.
- Support youth transitioning from school to adult life by coordinating services and strengthening partnerships among agencies.

- Assist youth with goal setting, planning, and accessing resources.
- Facilitate youth programs, workshops, and leadership-building activities.

Community Outreach

- Conduct outreach to schools, human service agencies, housing complexes, community organizations, and service groups.
- Represent DNEC at community meetings, events, and presentations.

Documentation & Compliance

- Maintain accurate case notes, records, and program documentation.
- Track outcomes and engagement.
- Follow confidentiality and agency policies.

Minimum Qualifications

Values & Experience

- Commitment to independence, self-determination, and disability rights.
- Experience in advocacy, human services, education, or youth services preferred but not required.

Skills

- Strong verbal, written, and organizational skills.
- Ability to work with diverse individuals and communities.
- Comfortable working independently and as part of a team.

Technology

- Proficiency with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Ability to learn new software and databases.

Other Requirements

- Reliable transportation for travel within Connecticut.
- Ability to work a flexible schedule, including occasional evenings or weekends.
- Ability to pass background checks and comply with drug/alcohol testing policies.
- No felony or serious criminal convictions.

Equal Opportunity Employer

DNEC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We welcome applicants of all backgrounds and identities.