

Hello, my name is Geraldine Rivero I am a registered voter in Groton. I am the Vocational Lead for The Disabilities Network of Eastern CT, Inc. We are one of five Independent Living Centers within Connecticut. My job as a Vocational Lead is to assist individuals with disabilities in the Southeastern corner of the state to maintain and obtain competitive employment. My consumers strive not only to contribute to their community but to become taxpaying citizens, just like you and me.

Apart from vocational services, I assist my consumers with independent living skills such as;

Communication- Teaching consumers how to develop good communication skills to interview and write a résumé / cover letter.

Education- Teach consumers how to develop a résumé, look for jobs, and apply to jobs.

Advocacy- Teach consumers how to become work ready and advocate for reasonable accommodations.

These types of services helped 9 people in 2019 with obtaining and retaining competitive employment, it helped them gain a greater sense of self-worth, provided them with income to put back into their communities and become taxpaying citizens.

Again, with the assistance of an Independent Living Center, more individuals with disabilities can accomplish their goals and, in the process, save the state money. Please don't cut our funding as Independent Living Centers keep people in the community safe and teach individuals with disabilities in the State of Connecticut independent living skills to remain in the community and an integral part of our society.