

# CONNECTIONS

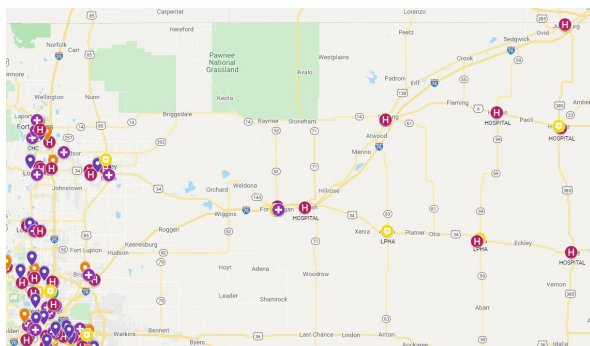
## Connections COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance Program Offers Assistance

Residents of northeastern Colorado who live with disabilities may find the process to register and schedule vaccinations for the COVID-19 virus to be challenging to complete. To provide guidance and assistance in this process, Connections for Independent Living has launched a free vaccine assistance program.

Many healthcare companies and organizations charged with the task of distributing the free vaccine have created waiting lists for interested persons. Health centers are primarily using online methods to schedule vaccination appointments.

Recognizing the challenges associated with online access to many persons with disabilities, Connections' Independent Living Services team is available to provide guidance to consumers regarding the vaccination process. Team members adhere to strict confidentiality agreements and all staff are subjected to background checks to assure safety of personal information. Team members from the Greeley nonprofit can immediately assist in registering and scheduling the vaccination. Free transportation to and from vaccine appointments can also be arranged.

Individuals who have an interest in working with Connections can call (970) 352-8682 weekdays during standard business hours to arrange a consultation. Like most services at Connections, this appointment is provided at no cost to qualifying area residents.



COVID-19 Vaccine locations in northeastern Colorado.



Richard Rhinehart

The new Connections sign in Greeley.

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### Our Organization

Established in 1986, Connections for Independent Living is one of nine certified Independent Living Centers (ILCs) in the State of Colorado. We serve Weld, Morgan, Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma Counties. All our services are free and voluntary for our valued participants.



*Connections Cares provides welcome assistance.*

## Connections Cares Program will Return this March

Our popular *Connections Cares* program, which ran for eight Friday sessions beginning in late October, 2020, will return in mid-March for additional weekly sessions.

Specifically created for persons who live with disabilities in northeastern Colorado who are also temporarily experiencing homelessness, the program provides critical support through distribution of complimentary pantry food boxes, along with personal protective gear for health. Connections Independent Living Specialists and Housing Specialists participate in the outdoor program, offering pre-intake assistance to persons new to our organization.

It is anticipated the program will again be hosted Fridays from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the front entry plaza

outdoors at the Connections offices at 1331 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Greeley. Depending on weather, the team will erect a large green tent to provide some shelter from outside conditions.

There is also discussion about potentially offering a reduced version of the program in the weeks leading to the launch in mid-March. This is envisioned to provide free pantry food boxes to any registered Connections consumer in need. Curbside delivery of the boxes will offer low-risk accessibility to these pantry staples.

Additional information regarding the *Connections Cares* program will be shared through the Connections website and through social media, including Facebook and Twitter, in the coming weeks. Or, please call us for more information.

## Colorado Gives Day Successful

Connections for Independent Living participated in the annual Colorado Gives Day on December 8<sup>th</sup>. This annual day of giving from individual and corporate donors provides millions of dollars to numerous Colorado nonprofit organizations.

For Connections, this year's day of giving raised nearly \$1,000 from multiple donors. Funds from these donations will be mostly applied to Connections' consumer rental deposit program, offering deposit assistance for registered consumers moving into new rental units.

Our online donation portal at [ColoradoGives.org/ConnectionsIndependentLiving](https://ColoradoGives.org/ConnectionsIndependentLiving) remains open for contributions throughout the year.

## New Signs at Connections

There is a new look along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Greeley.

In early December, technicians from Signs First installed a new wall sign at Connections facing 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and replaced the lighted panels in the pedestal sign. These new signs feature the updated Connections logo art, which launched in late October 2020.

The two Connections vehicles also received new logo art wraps Thanksgiving week. This provides a new look and helps raise awareness for our organization.

Watch for our vehicles when you are traveling in northeastern Colorado!



## Connections Peer Support Groups

### ANXIETY SUPPORT GROUP

Participants share information about how they cope with anxiety and Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD). This group meets every third Thursday from 2—3 p.m. MST.



📞 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86218709472> passcode 549156

📞 dial 253-215-8782; using your keypad, enter 86218709472#, 0#, 549156#.

### CHRONIC PAIN/ILLNESS PEER SUPPORT

A support group for those living with chronic pain and illness. Group meets every first Thursday of the month from 3—4:30 p.m. MST.



📞 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83030138798> passcode 565101

📞 dial 346-248-7799; using your keypad, enter 83030138798#, 0#, 565101#.

### LOW VISION PEER SUPPORT

Learn about and share strategies for living with low vision or blindness. This group meets every fourth Tuesday from 11 a.m.—12 noon MST.



📞 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8169249500> passcode 289228

📞 dial 669-900-6833; using your keypad, enter 8169249500#, 0#, 289228#.

### SELF-ADVOCACY PEER SUPPORT GROUP

This is a participant lead group that teaches people how to advocate for themselves. This group meets the second Tuesday of each month from 10—11 a.m. MST.



📞 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84949531378> passcode 752016

📞 dial 669-900-6833; using your keypad, enter 84949531378#, 0#, 752016#.

### TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP

The Traumatic Brain Injury Support Group is a peer support group offering information and support to individuals who have experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury, Stroke, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, or any other type of brain injury. Caregivers are welcome. This group meets the second Monday of each month from 1—2 p.m. MST.



📞 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87692062801> (no passcode)

📞 dial 253-215-8782; using your keypad, enter 87692062801#, #.

### VETERANS PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Veterans provide support to each other and learn and share strategies for living in the civilian world. The group meets every Wednesday, from 3:30—5 p.m. MST. **This group is on temporary hiatus.**



📞 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81692498500> (no passcode)

📞 dial 669-900-6833; using your keypad, enter 81692498500#, #.

### WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT GROUP

A safe environment for women to support each other. This group meets the fourth Friday of every month from 2—3 p.m. MST.



📞 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89197179026> passcode 373583

📞 dial 346-248-7799; using your keypad, enter 89197179026#, 0#, 383583#.

## NEWS & NOTES

Connections is hiring! Our website includes announcements for fulltime and part time paid positions, and for our volunteer TechMate program. Visit Join Our Team on our new website for application information. Persons who live with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Our computer voucher program continues to award laptop computers valued at \$350 to registered consumers. The program, funded through the CARES Act, will distribute dozens of computers at no cost through this coming summer.

Would you like to receive future newsletters by email? Has your contact information changed? Let us know! Contact the Connections team by telephone at (970) 352-8682 or by email message at [info@connections4il.org](mailto:info@connections4il.org).

Are you a Facebook user? Follow our Connections page at [facebook.com/CILgreeley/](https://facebook.com/CILgreeley/) for regular updates about our organization, and information about persons with disabilities throughout the state. (Also find us on Twitter and LinkedIn!)

Connections is published bi-monthly by Connections for Independent Living and distributed at no cost to care consumers, followers, supporters, and partners. **Rochelle Miller**—Executive Director; **Anne Yanez**—Finance Associate; **Sarah Augenstein**—Director of Interpreting. **Richard Rhinehart**—Communications Director and Editor. Send change of address to Connections, 1331 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631-4601.

Explore our full program calendar online at [connectionscolorado.org/](https://connectionscolorado.org/)!

## Connections for Independent Living

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# CONNECTIONS

Challenge Barriers. Build Independence.

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

### About Connections for Independent Living

Our mission is to promote the full inclusion and integration of people with all types of disabilities into all levels of society. We challenge barriers, both physical and attitudinal, which restrict the rights and personal development opportunities of people with disabilities. With a staff and board of directors that consists mostly of persons with disabilities, we are effective in promoting independent living and empowerment.

## Saying Goodbye to a Colleague

Connections was heartbroken to report on November 30, 2020 that Colin Morey, one of our own, passed as a result of complications due to COVID-19. As a community, we are struggling with this devastating loss.

First and foremost, our hearts are with Colin's family. We have been in regular communication to offer our condolences and ongoing support during this difficult time.

Connections facilities and face-to-face interactions has been closed for business operations since March 9, 2020. Our team member became ill prior to Thanksgiving and was admitted to the hospital for care during the weekend. We do not believe our team member contracted the Coronavirus through work contact, but nevertheless, we have taken extraordinary precautions with our staff. All are working from home, and only limited team members are authorized to enter our facilities on an occasional basis.

Colin will be greatly missed by all.



Jen Coen

Colin Morey: December 16,  
1963-November 30, 2020.