



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

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Office for People with Disabilities

Board of Legislators 2016 Budget Presentation

Positions:

No changes in office staffing from 2015 to 2016 and will maintain 11 positions in total.

- 4 positions Office for People with Disabilities
- 7 positions ParaTransit

Highlights:

Day at Playland for People with Disabilities:

- The 2015 event hosted over 8,291 participants this past July 24, 2015.
- Funding for 2016 was again secured from an outside source.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

- Co-sponsored the annual employment breakfast with the Westchester Employment Network honoring disabled employees and employers this past October 2015. 234 people attended.

Disability Mentoring Day

- Co-sponsored this event with CAREERS for People with Disabilities and ACCES-VR providing individuals with disabilities the opportunity to shadow various Westchester County department staff in a day of work while also providing actual on the job experience to those participants. This year 9 county departments participated with 9 individuals from local agencies providing vocational training and job placement.

Westchester County Disabilities, Access and Functional Needs Emergency Preparedness:

- Co-sponsoring this committee with the Department of Emergency Services while partnering with local agencies that provide day to day programs for the disabled community. The goal is to update the county's response to the necessary evacuation procedures and policies in providing our disabled community the necessary plans in dealing with emergencies in general.

Disability Awareness Program

- Providing Disability Awareness trainings to local school districts, undergraduate and graduate programs sharing with these students the day in the life of a person with a disability. Provide real life experiences through demonstrations, Kids on the Block puppet show, question and answers sessions and policies and procedures associated to the American Disability Act.
- BEAT Plus Program: A hands on travel training education program which is brought into the special education classroom or service providers daily activities. To provide educators the necessary tools needed to incorporate travel training skills into the core curriculum.
- The above 2 programs touch over 1,000 individuals yearly.

The Miracle League of Westchester:

- Children's Program operates on Saturday & Sundays from April to October with an average of 250 children participating.
- Adult Program operates Monday through Friday with an average of 650 participants from various day programs in Westchester. ARC, Cerebral Palsy of Westchester, KEON Center, Ability Beyond, and Jawonio are some of our participating agencies.

Adaptive Playground for the Disabled Community:

- A bond is before the BOL as part of park improvements at Ridge Road Park that will include a new adaptive playground for the disabled community to utilize. This facility would be next to the Miracle League field that draws many disabled children and their families during the year.

ParaTransit:

In 2015 Westchester County contracted with **5** vendors to provide ParaTransit services.

For the year 2016 it is anticipated that **6** vendors in total will be contracted with depending on our innovative services progression per the taxi initiative.

Highlights:

- The new online reservation system officially started on Monday February 9, 2015.
- Our current vendor Suburban ParaTransit is now handling the scheduling duties for all para trips.
- Current phone line for reservations has seen significant improvements related to call volume and hold times since establishing the above 2 changes.

