



**County Executive**  
Chris Collins

**ECOD Executive Director**  
Emily Kaznica

**Erie County Council  
on the Disabled**

Ronald A. Clark  
(Chair)

J. Lynn Brennan  
(Vice Chair)

Gloria Simpson  
(Secretary)

Maria Biro

Walter Carrick, Jr.

Cheryl Dearlove

Kathy S. Hoffman

Andrew Kiener

Robert McPartland

Charles H. Root, Jr.

Ilona Tylwalk

Bradford Watts

**Ex-Officio Members**

Emily Kaznica

Michael Judd

Kristin Klein-Wheaton

**ECOD News  
Layout/Graphic Design**

Andrew Kiener

## Parent Network of Western New York

Parent Network is an organization of parents who have experienced first hand what it's like to raise a child with special needs. Our primary mission is to be a resource for parents and professionals so that they have the tools they need to be effective advocates for their children. We do this through the following ways:

- Free *workshops* are given throughout the community on topics relating to disability, special education and community resources. These include "Overview of Special Education," "Transition" and "Letting Go...Empowering Your Child."
- Families and service providers can call our certified *Information and Referral Specialist* at 716-332-4175 for answers to questions regarding a child with a disability. Our goal is to give callers the information they need and link them to supports and services in the community.
- Information about Parent Network activities and articles of interest to our readers can be found in our *Special Insights* newsletter. *What's Happening in WNY* which contains current information about community events of interest to our families, is updated monthly and can be found on our web site [www.parentnetworkwny.org](http://www.parentnetworkwny.org)
- Books, magazines, DVD's and videos are available at the Dena B. Goldstein Library which is located in the Parent Network Center, 1000 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14202. Everyone is welcome to come and browse through the selection.



*For more information,  
please call Parent Network  
716-332-4175  
or visit us on our website  
[www.parentnetworkwny.org](http://www.parentnetworkwny.org)*



Buffalo Wheelchair, western New York's largest rehabilitation provider, offers a wide variety of rehab products and services to maximize an individual's independence, function, health, and comfort. We are a dealer for all major manufacturers which enables us to offer a variety of equipment and supplies, including mobility products, seating and positioning products, assistive devices for daily living, accessibility products, and specialty products.

In addition, our staff of Certified Rehab Technology Suppliers offers many services including: assessments, equipment trials and simulations, reimbursement assistance, home accessibility assessments, equipment assembly, delivery, adjustment and custom modifications.

We can be reached by calling (716)675-6500, or you can find us on the internet at [www.buffalowheelchair.com](http://www.buffalowheelchair.com) or by stopping in our showroom at 1900 Ridge Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224.

## New Program to Address Long Term Care

Caring for an individual who is seriously ill, disabled or requiring assistance can be very stressful. That stress is further exacerbated by the difficulty a caregiver has in navigating the complex long term care system.

To make it easier for the public to access information about long term care, Erie County government has taken the lead in developing **Erie County NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Care**. This local initiative is part of the statewide NY Connects network of points of entry (POE) in each county.

When an individual or caregiver calls Erie County NY Connects, knowledgeable staff assesses the caller's situation. Information and direct linkages are then provided to agencies that deliver services appropriate to the caller's needs and eligibility.



Providers of services for disabled children and adults, as well as for senior citizens, will work collaboratively to offer effective care to address the specific needs of the caller.

By contacting Erie County NY Connects, individuals, care givers, and service providers can obtain information on the multitude of services available to address long term care needs. We can be reached locally by dialing 858-8582 or at 1-800-396-2705 for those outside the Western New York area. We can also address inquiries through e-mail at the following address: [nyconnects@erie.aov](mailto:nyconnects@erie.aov).

# What is The Reduced-Fare Program?



## What Is The Reduced-Fare Program?

The Reduced Fare Program is a program implemented by the Federal Government that requires a reduced fare policy to be in effect for senior citizens and people with disabilities. The current reduced fare for senior citizens, disabled and Medicare recipients is:

- .65 for zone one
- .75 for zone two
- .85 for zone three
- .95 for zone four

A complimentary card for individuals 65 years of age or older can be obtained at the Erie County Rath Building, Room 1329 on Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. - until noon and from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. When going for your complimentary card please take documentation to verify your age i.e. driver's license, non driver's license, etc.

*For additional information and/or questions please contact the Eligibility Coordinator at, 716-855-7360*

## How to obtain a reduced fare identification card.

If you are not 65 years of age or older, the Federal Transit Authority requires that persons with the following disabilities be provided with reduced fare:

- Serious mental illness (SMI) and receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Supplemental Aid to the Disabled (SSI-AD).
- Receive Medicare for any reason.
- Hearing Impairment
- Ambulatory disability
- Loss of both hands
- Mental retardation and/or other organic mental capacity impairment.

Applications for reduced fare can be obtained at the Metropolitan Transportation Center, located at 181 Ellicott Street, Buffalo New York at the information booth between the hours of 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Applications can also be requested by contacting the Eligibility Coordinator at 716 855-7360 or visit the NFTA website at [www.nfta.com](http://www.nfta.com).

### **IMPORTANT NOTE: Medicare Card**

A Medicare Card can be used in lieu of the reduced fare identification card. In order to ensure that the person presenting a Medicare Card is the authorized individual, there may be a request for additional proof of identity (i.e. another card with a photograph).

**\*Reduced fare is not valid on Paratransit trips.**

## ReadThisToMe

ReadThisToMe is a free reading service for blind and low-vision people, powered by volunteers on the Internet. The service allows people to have printed documents read to them over the phone. All a person needs is a phone line and a fax machine (no computer is required.) If you don't have a fax machine, this service may be reason enough to get one.

To use this service, which is available throughout the U.S. and Canada; just fax a document to the ReadThisToMe toll-free fax number: 1-877-333-8848. The first page of the fax needs to be a cover page that includes your first name and callback (voice) phone number. The document itself can be just about anything: a handwritten letter, a bill, a can of food, a multi-page magazine article – just



ReadThisToMe.org

about anything that can be faxed. One of ReadThisToMe's volunteer readers will call you — often within an hour — and read the document.

More information about the service is available online at [www.readthistome.org](http://www.readthistome.org). You can also hear a recorded message describing the service by calling 1-877-333-8847.

*The Erie County Office for the Disabled makes no endorsement of products or programs described.  
This publication is for informational purposes only.*

Erie County Office for the Disabled  
95 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, New York 14202

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED