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Maryland LBPD to Host Inclusion Showcase

Additional partners include Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program

Baltimore, MD — The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD), a division of the Maryland State Library Agency, and the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT) Program under the Department of Disabilities, in a united effort, proudly host the Inclusion Showcase. This inspiring event is a testament to our shared goal of promoting accessibility and inclusivity for all Marylanders. The event will occur virtually and at several satellite locations across the state on July 25, 2024, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The Inclusion Showcase will highlight innovative technologies and services and their transformative impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities. These tools are designed to empower them and provide the means to lead independent and fulfilling lives, inspiring hope and possibility.

"Working together with the Department of Disabilities, the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled wants to expand the equitable opportunities that our patrons have to get information and get the tools that help people find information," said John Owen, Director of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled.

The Inclusion Showcase will include speakers from the National Federation of the Blind, Foundation Fighting Blindness, Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program, Maryland Technology Assistance Program, the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, Division of Rehabilitation Services (Independent Living Older Blind), and 988 Mental Health Hotline Ambassadors.

The Inclusion Showcase is a virtual event and can be accessed via Zoom. The Zoom link is: <u>https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/5770178916?omn=94128721361</u>; Meeting ID: 577 017 8916. Attendees can also call the event at 1.301.715.8592. The event will be recorded and shared on the Maryland State Library Agency's <u>YouTube channel</u>.

Several locations across the state have agreed to broadcast the Inclusion Showcase. Locations include:

- Enoch Pratt Free Library
- Montgomery Public Library
- Kent County Public Library
- Howard County Public Library
- Harford County Public Library
- Baltimore County Public Library
- Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County
- Loyola University

For more information or questions about the Inclusion Showcase, please contact Ashley Biggs at 410-230-2430 or Jane Hager at 301-974-1946.

About the Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA)

As the state library agency for Maryland, MSLA administers state and federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources, programs, and excellent customer service. The State Library Resource Center, located in the central branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, serves as Maryland's state library. MSLA has oversight of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled; Maryland's Public Libraries; the State Library Network including the three regional libraries; the Library Capital Grants Programs; and the Deaf Culture Digital Library.

Maryland Libraries: Inspiring Library Innovation.