

For Your Health:

NY Connects in Greene County

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After successfully managing the NY Connects Program in Columbia County for the past 16 years, the Healthcare Consortium is now managing NY Connects in Greene County as well. In partnership with the Greene County Office for the Aging, Healthcare Consortium staff are now embedded in their Catskill office 5 days per week, providing free, objective, comprehensive information and assistance to individuals in need of long-term services and supports due to aging or disability.

Long-term services and supports, or LTSS, are both medical and non-medical services that help individuals address the functional deficits that would otherwise affect their ability to live safely and independently at home. LTSS can include things such as in-home healthcare, respite care, home-delivered meals, transportation, counseling, and housing.

NY Connects serves anyone with reduced function—whether due to age, physical disability, intellectual or developmental disability, mental illness, or substance use disorder—to support their independent living. In addition to serving older adults and individuals with disabilities at any age, NY Connects also serves their families, caregivers, and other helping professionals.

The work of NY Connects begins with a conversation with individuals or their caregivers to discuss current needs, identify barriers, and ultimately make connections to the services and supports in the community that will help maintain independence and enhance quality of life. They also assist people to negotiate the ins and outs of things like the Medicare and the Medicare Savings Programs, Medicaid, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps). Each of these programs and their applications can seem complicated and overwhelming the first time they are encountered. Happily, Greene County NY Connects Information and Assistance Specialist, Ashling Kelly, can help.

Moreover, NY Connects serves as the hub of an entire “No Wrong Door” Network of agencies, organizations and businesses who collaborate to help individuals with long-term care needs. Through long and positive working relationships with a variety of partners, the Healthcare Consortium facilitates connections and marshals resources on behalf of clients that takes the mystery, the headache, and the legwork out of navigating a complex system.

Greene County NY Connects will be under the leadership of the Healthcare Consortium’s Director of Programs, Kathleen Coffey, who states, “Since our start in Greene County, we have seen such an influx of calls and visits from individuals with a multitude of needs. Our aim is to provide support not only to our Greene County residents, but to serve as a trusted resource to our partnering agencies. We are so grateful for the welcoming space and look forward to conducting outreach in the community to spread the word about our services.”

Claire Parde, Executive Director of the Healthcare Consortium, shared, "We are genuinely thrilled by this opportunity to expand on the organization's long history of serving the residents of Greene County. We're also very grateful for this opportunity to strengthen and deepen our working relationships with the good folks at the Greene County Office for the Aging and all the other helping agencies and organizations that are already doing great work there."

Upon the start of the partnership, Amanda Lyons, Executive Director of the Greene County Department of Human Services, shared "Greene County is excited about our new partnership with The Healthcare Consortium and their ability to help support the residents of Greene County. The Healthcare Consortium has been a leader in the NY Connects Program for years in Columbia County which will allow for a seamless delivery of services in both counties."

The Healthcare Consortium looks forward to helping you and your loved ones make informed decisions about long term care. To contact Greene County NY Connects, please call 518-719-3556 or email Ashling at akelly@greenecountyny.gov. You can also access online resource directory at <https://nyconnects.ny.gov>.

The Healthcare Consortium is a non-profit organization with a mission of improving access to healthcare and supporting the health and well-being of the residents in our rural community. The agency is located at 325 Columbia St. in Hudson. For more information: visit www.columbiahealthnet.org or call 518-822-8820.