

# Independent Living Centers (ILCs)

Providing advocacy, resources  
and services to people with  
any type of disability,  
and of any age

# What are Independent Living Centers?

- Federally mandated, non-profit agencies
- Consumer controlled
- In Wisconsin, there is a statewide network of 8 ILCs
- Nationally there are several hundred ILCs

# What is Independent Living?

- People with disabilities have the right to make their own choices
- People with disabilities have the right to manage their own affairs
- People with disabilities have the right to live as independently as they choose in the community

# WHO do ILCs Serve?

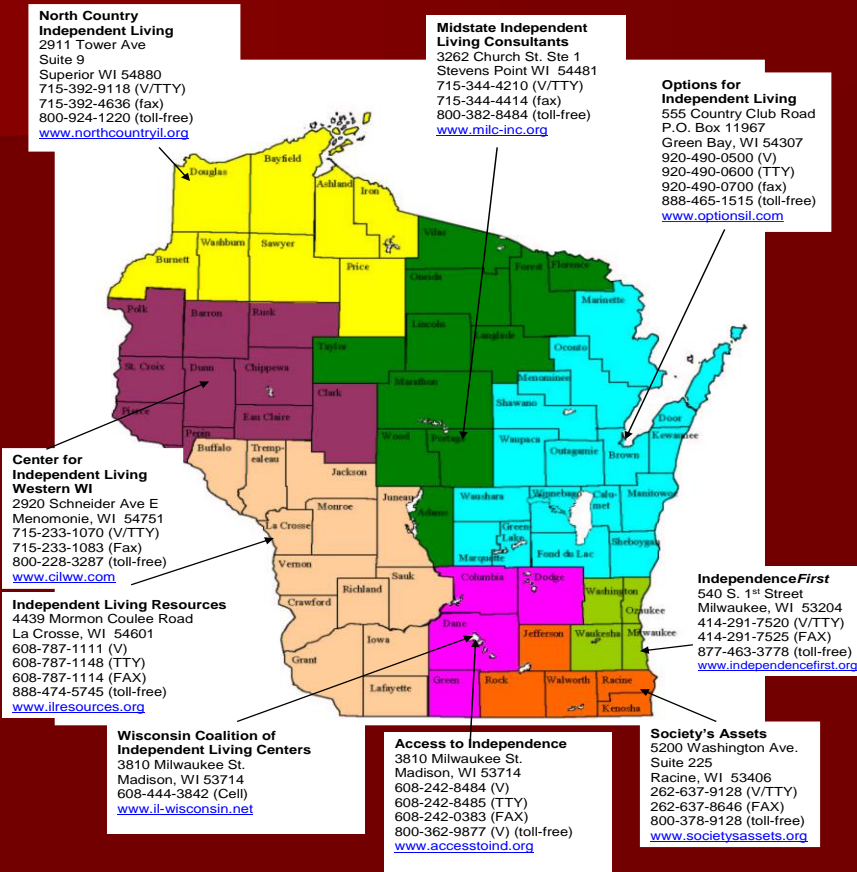
- People of ANY AGE and with ANY TYPE of disability – no income restrictions or verification, and no screening or eligibility tests required!
- Friends, families and others who know of or assist people with disabilities
- Anyone who may need disability information or services

# WHAT do ILCs Provide?

- Information and Referral
- Peer Support
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Advocacy (individual, systemic, and grassroots)
- Institutional Transition and Diversion
- Post-secondary Youth Transition
- Assistive Technology
- Accessibility Assessments
- Public Benefits Assistance
- Youth Programs and Services
- Disability Awareness and Community Education

# WHERE do ILCs provide services?

## Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers



Visit this website to find an ILC near you!

<https://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory>

# Information and Referral (InR)

- ILC staff are ready to provide current information about disability-related issues, services, and resources available to people with disabilities on topics such as
  - Housing
  - Transportation
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Benefits and finances
  - Social and recreational needs
  - Technology
  - Disability information
  - Legislation, policy and voting
  - Healthcare and long-term care

# Peer Support

- Staff and trained volunteers assist people with disabilities who have established independent living goals, and feel a peer mentor would be best to help them achieve those goals



# Independent Living Skills Training

- ILC staff can provide both group and individualized training in skill areas such as:
  - Budgeting
  - Transportation (private and public)
  - Communication
  - Computer and technology Skills
  - Cooking
  - Household Maintenance
  - Many MORE!

Services can be provided at the office or anywhere in our service region the person may need to learn the skills

# Advocacy

- *Individual Advocacy* teaches individuals how to effectively communicate their needs to obtain needed services and supports. This includes IEP advocacy, housing matters, and grievance and appeal processes that ILCs provides.
- *Systems Advocacy* is the ability to influence disability policy and legislation at a local, state and federal level, which ILCs do on a number of disability-related issues.
- *Grassroots Advocacy* educates and empowers anyone in our region who is interested in disability issues, policy or legislation at a local, state or federal level.

# Transition

- ILCs assist individuals who currently reside in nursing facilities or other institutions and wish to *transition* back to living in the community.
- ILCs assist individuals who are at risk of placement in an institution, so that they may remain in the community. ILCs work to *divert* people away from institutional settings.
- ILCs facilitate the *transition* of youth with disabilities in the post-secondary phase of their life to empower them to achieve goals related to education, employment and independent living.

# Assistive Technology

- ILC staff can demonstrate the use of devices that can eliminate barriers and improve independence.
- Many items can be loaned, free of charge.
- ILC staff are able to assist individuals with finding and purchasing technology that meets their needs, as well as locating available funding sources.
- ILC staff are able to provide training on how to use technology
- ILCs have two loan programs to give people with disabilities easier access to getting funding to afford their needed item(s). The following programs are available:
  - Wisloan
  - Telework

# Accessibility Assessment

ILCs are able to provide assessment assistance for:

- Home safety and accessibility
- Workplace ergonomics and accessibility
- ADA Compliance and recommendations that are beyond compliance

# Public Benefits Assistance

ILC staff are able to assist individuals with the complicated world of public benefits through

- Children's SSI application paperwork, as well as assistance with the request for reconsideration and request for a hearing

# Youth Programs and Services

Youth (up to age 30) with disabilities may receive:

- IEP advocacy assistance
- Healthy Relationships Education
- Curriculum for DVR including:
  - Help Yourself!
  - Skills to Pay the Bills
- Direct services such as skills training
- Technology demonstrations and loans

# Community Education, Collaboration and Technical Assistance

- ILCs provide education on topics such as disability etiquette, voting rights, and the facets the ADA
- ILCs collaborate with many other agencies and organizations to achieve common goals
- ILCs provide outreach to encourage the use of its services





# WI Certified Peer Specialist Program

A Peer Specialist is a person who has not only lived the experience of mental illness but also has had formal training in the Peer Specialist Model of Mental Health Supports. They are an integral part of Mental Health Recovery Teams.

For information on this program contact:

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WI Peer Specialist Program Coordinator

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THANK YOU! – Any Questions?