

A Brief History of the Disability Rights Movement, Colorado's Centers for Independent Living, and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

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61 Million adults in the United States have disabilities.

That's one of every four people.

**It's the largest minority group
in the country.**

You could join at any time.



People with disabilities face barriers in all areas of life



The biggest barrier
to people
who have disabilities
is people who don't.

The disability rights movement is a global social movement to secure equal opportunities and equal rights for all people with disabilities.



Colorado-SILC



- Access and safety in physical environments, buildings and transportation
- Equal opportunities in independent living, employment, education, and housing
- Freedom from discrimination, abuse, neglect, and other violations
- Inclusion in our communities

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Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act was the first disability civil rights law to be enacted in the United States.

It prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in programs that receive federal financial assistance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMC5UuiIQkI&t=213s>

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The Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- The Rehab Act of 1973 replaces preexisting laws to extend and revise the authorization of grants to States for vocational rehabilitation services, with special emphasis on services to those with the most severe disabilities.
- The Rehabilitation Act requires affirmative action in employment by the federal government and by government contractors and prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs conducted by federal agencies, in programs receiving federal financial assistance, in federal employment, and in the employment practices of federal contractors.
- President Richard Nixon signed H.R. 8070 into law on September 26, 1973 after he had vetoed two previous versions.



The Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- **Section 501** requires affirmative action and nondiscrimination in employment by Federal agencies of the executive branch.
- **Section 503** requires affirmative action and prohibits employment discrimination by Federal government contractors and subcontractors with contracts of more than \$10,000.
- **Section 504** created and extended civil rights to people with disabilities. Section 504 has also provided opportunities for children and adults with disabilities in education, employment and various other settings. It even allows for reasonable accommodations such as special study area and assistance as necessary for each student. Each Federal agency has its own set of section 504 regulations that apply to its own programs. Requirements common to these regulations include reasonable accommodation for employees with disabilities; program accessibility; effective communication with people who have hearing or vision disabilities; and accessible new construction and alterations. Each agency is responsible for enforcing its own regulations. Section 504 may also be enforced through private lawsuits. It is not necessary to file a complaint with a Federal agency or to receive a "right-to-sue" letter before going to court.
- **Section 508** of the Rehabilitation Act establishes requirements for electronic and information technology developed, maintained, procured, or used by the Federal government. Section 508 requires Federal electronic and information technology to be accessible to people with disabilities, including employees and members of the public.



The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Significant Amendments


Significant amendments were made 1974. The most important was the expansion of the definition of "handicapped individual." The original 1973 Act defined a "handicapped individual" as:

- any individual who (A) has a physical or mental disability which for such individual constitutes or results in a substantial handicap to employment and (B) can reasonably be expected to benefit in terms of employability from vocational rehabilitation services.
- The 1974 amendments substituted a much broader definition of "handicapped individual," and addressed architectural and transportation barriers (Section 502), employment by federal contractors (section 503) and programs receiving federal financial assistance (Section 504) not related to employability. The 1974 amendments said a handicapped individual meant:
- ca any person who (A) has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities, (B) has a record of such an impairment, or (C) is regarded as having such an impairment.

Congress adopted that definition in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, substituting the term "disability" for "handicapped."

Title four of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 amended the Rehab Act in order to accomplish the goal of helping people return to the workforce. It also created a national council on disability. However, the Workforce Investment Act was repealed and replaced by the [2014 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#).





ACL
Administration for Community Living

**Advancing independence, integration,
and inclusion throughout life**

- [Independent Living Services \(ILS\) Program](#)
- [List of Centers for Independent Living and State Plan for Independent Living by State](#)
- [Policy and Regulations](#)
- [Aging and Disability Networks](#)

Region VIII: CO, MT, UT, WY, ND, SD
Percy Devine, Regional Administrator
1961 Stout St
Denver CO 80294-3638

WHAT IS COMMUNITY LIVING?

OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS EVERYONE ELSE TO:

☒ CHOOSE WHERE TO LIVE

☒ EARN A LIVING

☒ PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY

☒ MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR LIVES

WHY IS COMMUNITY LIVING IMPORTANT?

PEOPLE PREFER IT

IT COSTS LESS

IT'S A LEGAL RIGHT

EVERYONE BENEFITS WHEN EVERYONE CAN CONTRIBUTE


HOW DOES ACL SUPPORT COMMUNITY LIVING?

FUNDS SERVICES THAT HELP PEOPLE LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

INVESTS IN RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, AND EDUCATION

ADVOCATES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND OLDER ADULTS

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The History of Independent Living

- Ed Roberts
- UC Berkley in the '60's
- The Rolling Quads
- Independent Living and Equal Access
 - Why were they forced to live in a hospital?
 - Why was it so difficult to travel around the city?
 - What options did a student with disabilities have?
 - What could the University do to help students with disabilities?
 - What could they do after graduation?
- Berkley CIL

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Atlantis Community

- 1975 – 2nd Center for Independent Living
- Wade Blank, Recreational Director of the youth wing for Heritage House
- Michael Patrick Smith
- *When You Remember Me*




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ADAPT – Adult Disabled for Accessible Public Transportation



- The Gang of 19: July 5-6, 1978, at Colfax and Broadway
- People from nursing homes
- Wade Blank and fellow Atlantis cofounder Michael Auberger
- RMPBS Gang of 19



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ADAPT – Adult Disabled for Attendant Programs Today



- Money Follows the Person
- No Cuts to Medicaid
- Disability Integration Act
- ADA Notification bills – HR 620
- Local Chapters



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AMERICAN DISABLED FOR ATTENDANT PROGRAMS TODAY



The Story of ADAPT

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Disability rights are civil rights.

When we segregate people with disabilities in "special places," we violate their civil rights.

Americans with Disabilities Act – July 26, 1990

"...to tear down the shameful walls of discrimination that segregate and isolate Americans with disabilities..."

~ George H. W. Bush

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ADAPT FUNERAL MARCH

ON THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
1999 SUPREME COURT'S OLMSTEAD DECISION

*People with disabilities think of
nursing homes as death sentences.*

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The right to do stupid things and make bad decisions.

Independent living means deciding one's own pattern of life – schedules, entertainment, food, vices, virtues, leisure, and friends. It is the freedom to take risks and the freedom to make mistakes. Every person, regardless of disability, has the potential and the right to exercise individual self-determination. We expect the same choices and control in our everyday lives that others take for granted. We want the same freedom to try, and fail, and learn from our failures.



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Exercising the right to make choices

=

Self-Determination



"Guardians appointed by the court whether limited or plenary, can be vested with substantial powers over a respondent. Therefore... the appointment of a guardian implicates a respondent's constitutional rights..."
(*Oller vs. Oller-Chiang*, 1994)

Iowa Supreme Court

Guardianship "...involves significant loss of liberty similarly to that present in an involuntary civil commitment for treatment of mental illness."
(*In Re: Hedin*, quoting *Arizona Court of Appeals*)

California Supreme Court

"[A person who has] an conservator [appointed] may be subject to greater control of his or her life than one convicted of a crime"

National Elder Abuse and Guardianship Victims Taskforce

"Too often the very Adult Guardianship and Conservatorship System meant to protect the elderly are being used as instruments to violate their right savings and tear them away from their families and loved ones."

"The typical ward has fewer rights than the typical convicted felon— they no longer receive money or pay their bills. They cannot marry— or divorce... it is in one short sentence, the most punitive civil penalty that can be levied against an American citizen,

— Claude Pepper, Former U.S. Representative from Florida

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Using Supported Decision Making to enhance Self-Determination

- ↑ Health
- ↑ Independence
- ↑ Employment
- ↑ Inclusion
- ↑ Normalization
- ↑ Quality of Life
- ↑ Safety

On 08/14/2017 the American Bar Association adopted Resolution 113, urging that guardianship statutes be revised to require that supported decision making be identified and fully considered as (1) a less restrictive environment, before guardianship is imposed, and (2) in terminating guardianship and restoring rights.

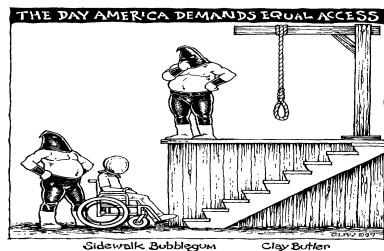


Micro-Aggressions & Crip Porn



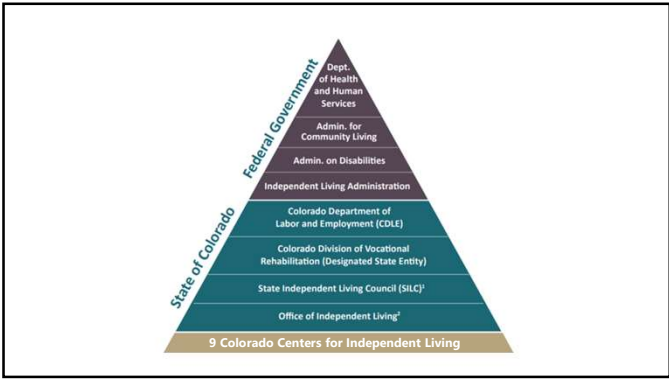
Equal access to society

As barriers are removed and legal rights are honored, society in its broadest sense appreciates and includes people with disabilities in education, employment, housing, recreation, transportation, and all other forms of public and private group activity.



Advocacy Priorities
Summer 2022

- [Advocacy Priorities Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [Advocacy Priorities Guide \(Word\)](#)
- [Advocacy Priorities Guide \(plain text\)](#)
- [Advocacy Priorities Guide \(audio\)](#)



Northwest Colorado Center for Independence
NWCCI
 Empowerment through Advocacy, Peer Support and Education.





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Micheal Bertram
 Assistant Director
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Grand, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit

Part B Center
 Steamboat Springs with satellite offices in
 Craig, Dillon, and Granby
<https://www.nwcci.org/>

Center FOR Independence




David Nelson
 Chief Executive Officer



Billy S. Allen
 Director of Programs & Operations





Part C Center
 Grand Junction, with satellite
 offices in Glenwood Springs,
 Montrose, and Salida
<https://cfigi.org/>


Chaffee, Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison,
 Hinsdale, Lake, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray,
 Pitkin, and San Miguel




Southwest Center for Independence


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 Executive Director
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 Program Manager
Carli@swilc.org



Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan



Part B Center
 Durango, with a Satellite Office in Cortez
<https://swindependence.org/>




Center Toward Self-Reliance

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Alamosa, Baca, Bent, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, and Saguache

Part C Center
Pueblo, with satellites in Canon City, Alamosa, Lamar, and Trinidad
<https://ctdpueblo.org/>



Indy Frazee
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Cheyenne, El Paso, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Park, and Teller

Part B Center
Colorado Springs, with satellites in Calhan, Cripple Creek, and Limon
<https://www.theindependencecenter.org/>




Rochelle Miller
CEO / Executive Director






Joshua Fulemwidder
COO / Director of Independent Living Services



Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld (shared), and Yuma

Part C Center
Greeley
<https://www.connectionscolorado.org>



Part C Center
 Adams ([shared](#)), Arapahoe, Clear Creek,
 Denver, Douglas, Elbert, and Jefferson
 ([shared](#))
 Denver
<https://atlantiscommunity.org/>

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 Independent Living Program Director
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Center for People with Disabilities

Maria Stepanyan
 Executive Director

Heather Kamper
 Director of Core Services

Part C Center
 Adams ([shared](#)),
 Boulder, Broomfield,
 Gilpin, and Jefferson
 ([shared](#)), Weld ([shared](#))
 Boulder, with satellites
 in Broomfield,
 Longmont, and
 Thornton
<https://cpwd.org/>





Denise Meyer
 Executive Director

Vicki Mirowski
 IL Program Manager

Part B Center
 Ft. Collins, with a satellite office in Loveland
<https://www.disabledresourceservices.org>

CIL Characteristics for Certification

- Five Core Services
 - Information, Referral & Options Counseling
 - Advocacy – individual and systems
 - Independent Living Skills Training
 - Peer Support & Mentorship
 - Transition Services - LRE
 - Diversion from Institutionalization
- Consumer-controlled
- Community-based
- Cross-disability
- Non-residential
- Promote philosophy of independent living



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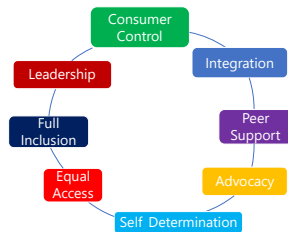
Centers for Independent Living

- Each CIL is a separate private community based non-profit, operating independently of each other with their own Board of Directors, staff, By-Laws, operating budget and services.
- All CILs must comply with federal mandates by providing five core services, have a Board and service staff of at least 51% people with disabilities, have diversified funding and maintain certification as a Center for Independent Living.



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Independent Living Philosophy



Self-Determination and Right to Risk

- Control over my own life circumstances including making "bad" decisions
- Direct my own services
- "Person Centered" vs "Person Driven"

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ACCIL - The Association of Colorado Centers for Independent Living



- The ACCIL is composed of the Directors of all of the Centers in Colorado. Each state has a similar network of CILs.
- The ACCIL is a 501(c)4, and a portion of their money goes to lobbying.





Colorado Office of Independent Living Services – Designated State Entity

The Office of Independent Living (Manager, Peter Pike) oversees compliance, represents the CILs at the state level, and provides support for fee for service activities and contracts.

[Statewide Independent Living Council \(SILC\) indicators and Designated state Entity \(DSE\) Assurances](#) required by WIOA



Fiscal Year 2023

Sources	SILC	CILs	DSE
Title VII Chapter 1, Part B (including state match)	\$101,615	\$220,166	\$16,935
Title VII Chapter 1, Part C	0	\$1,257,196	
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$48,000		
Colorado State General Funds		\$6,800,847	
OIB, SEEKS Grant, Other Grants, Fee-for-Service, etc.	Varies by Year	Varies by CIL	



National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils (NASILC)

- SILCs are federally mandated, so every state and territory in the US has a SILC.
- SILCs operate independently of each other, but the Colorado SILC is part of a larger network of SILCs.
- The purpose of each SILC is to determine the direction of the Independent Living (IL) Program for their state by identifying the needs of people with disabilities in partnership with their state's Centers for Independent Living (CILs).
- NASILC provides resources to SILCs across the nation and promote collaboration with their partners to advance IL values.
- NASILC provides education and offer peer sharing on the roles and responsibilities of SILCs and to encourage networking opportunities with various national partners.
- NASILC puts on the SILC Congress, which we send people to every year.





SILC Functions and Responsibilities

- Promote systemic reform to remove barriers to independent living
- Conduct research to inform policymakers and the general public
- Be a resource for people with disabilities and the communities in which they live
- Create the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) in collaboration with public and private stakeholders
- Partner with Colorado's network of Centers for Independent Living Work with the multiple groups that support independent living





Foundations

- Currently operating as a fiscal flow-through with the Office
- When the SILC became a registered non-profit with the State of Colorado that enabled us to hold a contract with CDLE as a sole source entity. After the contract is finished and executed, the SILC will have the same relationship with the Office as the CILs.
- ACL allows each state to operate per that state's laws. For Colorado, that means the SILC operates under an Executive Order (EO) from the Governor. Our EO's follow the Rehab Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA).
- Each SILC, per the Rehab Act and WIOA, is governor appointed through that state's Boards and Commissions.
- SILCs are prohibited from competing with the CILs





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The SPIL

- Every three years, the Colorado State Independent Living Council (CSILC), together with the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Network of Colorado Centers for Independent Living, submits a new state plan for independent living (the "SPIL") to the U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration.
- The work of preparing for the next three-year plan and implementing the current one is ongoing. The plan must include:
 - The state's goals, objectives, and strategies
 - A detailed description of how the state's "Part B" and other funds will be spent
 - An account of the outreach efforts to identify unserved and underserved populations
 - A detailed report of the services currently provided in the state
 - A description of the state's network of CILs
 - A narrative on the working relationships of providers in the state's IL network
 - SILC's budget
 - The process for evaluating progress on the SPIL





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The Current SPIL

- Increase partnerships and communication with state government agencies
- Active engagement and involvement in the development of rules, statutes, and other policy documents with a focus on housing, transportation, community living, accessibility.
- Provide educational opportunities in local communities to increase recognition that a civil and independent life for people with is seen by all as normal, attainable, and not an undue cost or burden to society.
- Continue with the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) while additionally exploring the possibility of: 1. Holding a virtual YLF; 2 Holding a hybrid of virtual/in-person YLF(s); 3. Adding another location in the western/central area of the state.
- Education activities on what it would mean to be a 723 state





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Youth Leadership Forum

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7h8T80lrYA>

YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM FAST FACTS 2023

THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM:
NO COST TO PARTICIPANTS
1-YEAR MENTORSHIP FOLLOWING THE EVENT
WILL PROVIDE LEADERSHIP TRAINING
IS FOR PEOPLE 18-25 WITH DISABILITIES
PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT RESOURCES AND INDEPENDENT LIVING



WATCH A YOUTUBE VIDEO ABOUT THE 2023 YLF
TO JOIN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7h8T80lrYA>

THE CURRICULUM FOCUSES ON:
PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP
EXPERIENCE OF DISABILITY
INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCES
LIVING ON MY OWN
CAREER AND EDUCATION GOALS
LEADING IN MY COMMUNITY
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING





