WHAT IS A CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING?

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Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois
Introduction:

My name is Dawn Richardson and I go by Shelly. I am the director of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois or SILC.

I have been with SILC since 2017. Before SILC, I was employed at IMPACT the Center for Independent Living located in Alton, where I served as a Community Reintegration Specialists -- now referred to as Transition Coordinator -- for the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program.

SILC works with the 22 Centers for Independent Living, and other agencies across the state, to write Illinois’ 3-year plan for independent living services which provides leadership, planning and education required to support independent living services for people with disabilities across the State.
Today’s Objectives:

Participants can expect to learn about:

- A Brief History and Philosophy of the Independent Living Movement
- The Network of CILs in Illinois
- The 5 Core Services offered by every CIL
- Other Services a CIL may offer
## History and Philosophy of the Independent Living Movement

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<tr>
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<th>Medical Model</th>
<th>Independent Living</th>
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<tr>
<td>How problems are viewed...</td>
<td>The person needs to be “fixed” or “cured” to “fit” into society</td>
<td>Persons with disabilities can exist &amp; function by themselves in various environments including the socio-economic, political, and cultural</td>
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<td>Solution to the problem...</td>
<td>Treatments, case management, volunteer or other work based on pity</td>
<td>Consumer control over options &amp; services, peer role models/leaders, advocacy, barrier removal, self help</td>
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<td>Role of the person...</td>
<td>Person with the disability is a “patient”, “client” or needs to receive charity</td>
<td>“consumers”, “customers”, or “users” of services and products just like anyone else</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who is in control?</td>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>The person with the disability or his/her choice or another individual or group</td>
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<td>Desired goals...</td>
<td>Maximum self-care with activities of daily living, employment via VR system, no “social misfits” or “manipulative clients”</td>
<td>INDEPENDENCE occurs because of control over options for living in an integrated community of choice, pride in unique talents, identity about disability is positive</td>
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In 1979, Gerben DeJong introduced a paradigm shift from medical model to independent living model.
Three Young Leaders ~ Wade Blank

In the 70’s, Wade Blank worked at Heritage Manor Nursing Home.

In 1974, Wade Blank founded the Atlantis Community.
Three Young Leaders ~ Ed Roberts

• In 1962, Ed Roberts applied to attend UIC Berkley
• While at UIC Berkley Ed founded the Rolling Quads
• In 1972, Ed Roberts founded the first Center for Independent Living in Berkley California
• In 1975, Ed Roberts was appointed as the Director of the California Rehabilitation Agency

Recommended viewing:
Crip Camp (currently available on Netflix)
The Network of CILs in Illinois
The 5 Core Services offered by every CIL

• Advocacy
  • Self Advocacy
  • Systems Advocacy
• Independent Living Skills
• Peer Support
• Information & Referral
• Transition Services
  • Transition from Institutional Setting to Community Living
  • Youth Transition Services
Other Services a CIL may offer

- Support Groups
- Employment Readiness Training
- Art and Craft Classes
- Blind Services Supports
- Deaf / Hard of Hearing Services Supports
- Teen and youth Groups
- Accessibility Consultation
- Personal Assistant Training and Referral
- And many more……….
Questions?
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SILCofIllinois.org

Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (INCIL)
John Herring, Executive Director
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Click here to find a Center for Independent Living (CIL) near you