



WHAT IS A CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING?

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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

	MEDICAL MODEL	INDEPENDENT LIVING
How problems are viewed...	The person needs to be “fixed” or “cured” to “fit” into society	Persons with disabilities can exist & function by themselves in various environments including the socio-economic, political, and cultural
Solution to the problem...	Treatments, case management, volunteer or other work based on pity	Consumer control over options & services, peer role models/leaders, advocacy, barrier removal, self help
Role of the person...	Person with the disability is a “patient”, “client” or needs to receive charity	“consumers”, “customers”, or “users” of services and products just like anyone else
Who is in control?	Professionals	The person with the disability or his/her choice or another individual or group
Desired goals...	Maximum self-care with activities of daily living, employment via VR system, no “social misfits” or “manipulative clients”	INDEPENDENCE occurs because of control over options for living in an integrated community of choice, pride in unique talents, identity about disability is positive

Three Young Leaders ~ Gerben DeJong



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



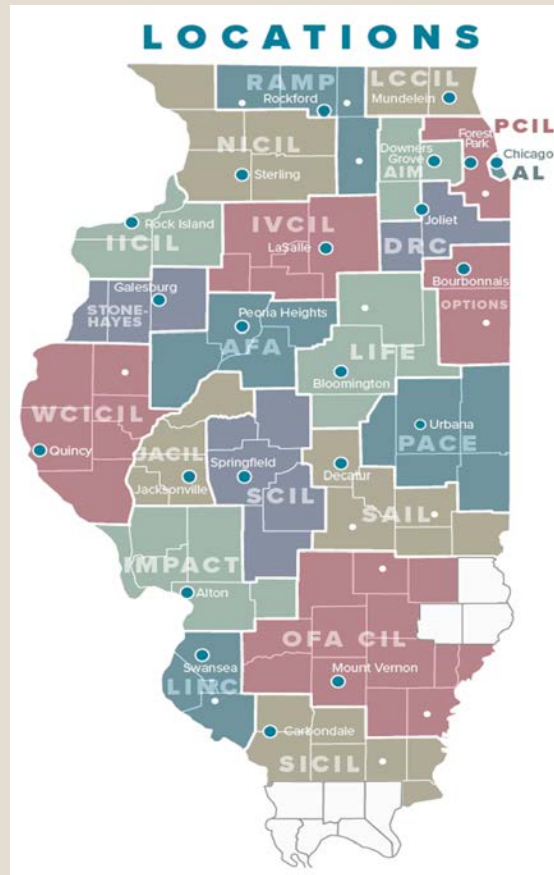
- In 1962, Ed Roberts applied to attend UIC Berkley
- While at UIC Berkley Ed founded the Rolling Quads
- In 1972, Ed Roberts founded the first Center for Independent Living in Berkley California
- In 1975, Ed Roberts was appointed as the Director of the California Rehabilitation Agency

Recommended viewing:

Lives Worth Living (<https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/lives-worth-living/>)

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?

Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois (SILC)

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SILCofIllinois.org

Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (INCIL)

John Herring, Executive Director

217-525-1308

INCIL.org

[Click here to find a Center for Independent Living \(CIL\) near you](#)