



THE ISSUE

Independent Living Centers Help Control the State Budget

Connecticut's five Independent Living Centers (ILCs) help people of all ages, with all types of disabilities, live independently in the community. They operate with a mix of state, federal and private funding.

Historically, the ILCs received \$529,000 in state funding which was reduced in FY17, and cut further by the Governor to only \$200,000 in July. Gov. Malloy proposed to cut all funding for the Centers in February. The Democratic and Republican budget proposals would restore a portion of the necessary funding, but with the state now facing a \$5.5 billion revenue shortfall over the next two years that threatens any restoration.

The funding cuts have already forced layoffs and limits on services, including waiting lists up to 12 months. Without access to services, individuals with disabilities, who rely on the Centers to find and keep housing and jobs and to navigate other daily living challenges, could be forced into far more expensive nursing facilities.

In 2016, the State Independent Living Council, a Governor's appointed body, commissioned a US Census data-driven funding formula developed by the Indiana Business Research Center. The report concludes that \$5.5 million is the true cost to fully fund CT's ILCs. At a time when the state is scrambling to meet revenue shortfalls, what could the potential savings be if the Centers were fully funded? To access the report:

cacil.net/il-funding-formula

Success Stories

Services provided by Connecticut's five Independent Living Centers help individuals live the lives they desire and deliver a substantial return on public investment.

In FY16, for instance, the ILCs transitioned 233 people out of nursing facilities into the community, saving the state more than \$11 million and improving the quality of life for those individuals. Additionally, the ILCs helped hundred avoid costly institutions. By helping individuals across the state to get and keep jobs, the ILCs are contributing to the economy by supporting employees who earn and spend money and pay taxes.

One Client Story

A 30-year-old mother partially paralyzed in a car accident, came to an ILC in 2015 looking for help in transitioning out of a nursing facility. With the help of staff, she moved into an apartment, and found a job. She now works for a local grocery store, lives in the community and has custody of her 5-year-old daughter.

What are the Independent Living Centers?

ILCs are non-residential organizations that empower people with disabilities through information, counseling and support services:

- Develop lifelong independent living skills;
- Find and maintain housing in their community;
- Develop job readiness skills and accessing employment;
- Transition out of nursing facilities through Money Follows the Person (MFP) and other ILC programs;
- Gain access to services that prevent the need for placement in a nursing facility;
- Connect to appropriate technology to support independent living;
- Access health care & community supports, recreation, transportation and other resources, and services that promote independence;
- Get benefits counseling;
- Advocate for themselves and others.

Access Independence
80 Ferry Blvd; Stratford

Center for Disability Rights
369 Highland Street; West Haven

Disabilities Network of Eastern CT
19 Ohio Avenue; Norwich

Independence Northwest
1183 New Haven Road; Naugatuck

Independence Unlimited
151 New Park Avenue; Hartford

Fully fund the cost-saving
Independent Living Centers at \$529,000.

Connecticut Association of Centers for Independent Living | www.cacil.net