

Oregon State Independent Living Council

Promoting choice, access and inclusion for people with disabilities

WHAT IS THE SILC?

SILC is the acronym for State Independent Living Council. In Oregon, the SILC is established by Executive Order of the Governor. The Council consists of up to twenty-one voting members, the majority of whom are persons with disabilities. The Council includes current or past consumers of Independent Living (I.L.) services, representatives of Centers for Independent Living (CILs), private business representatives, other persons with disabilities, parents, guardians and advocates of and for individuals with disabilities. Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB), Oregon Disabilities Commission (ODC), and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRS) have ex-officio appointments.

The SILC:

- Advises on Independent Living issues in Oregon, including policy review and comment
- Identifies Independent Living service needs in the State of Oregon
- Reviews and evaluates Independent Living services provided by CILs
- Coordinates information with other disability organizations
- Surveys consumer satisfaction with existing services

The SILC believes that disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society, pursue meaningful careers, and enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of American society.

WHAT IS THE SILC's MISSION?

The Mission of the SILC is to promote choice, equal access, and full inclusion of people with disabilities, throughout the State of Oregon.

SILC members work as individuals, as a Council, through partnerships with Centers for Independent Living and other agencies, and through its committees to further the SILC Mission.

WHAT IS INDEPENDENT LIVING?

Independent Living means that people with disabilities have the opportunity to make decisions about their lives and pursue activities of their choosing. Measures of true Independent Living are the opportunity and ability of a person with a disability to direct and personalize services to meet individual situations. Nationally, the Independent Living movement is a key component of disability advocacy. Most states have a series of Centers for Independent Living, which provide essential services for persons with disabilities. In Oregon, there are ten Centers for Independent Living.

WHAT IS A CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING?

Centers for Independent Living are organizations run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities. The mission of each CIL is to help people with disabilities to live as independently as possible in communities that understand and value their contributions. CILs provide four core services: 1) information & referral, 2) advocacy, 3) Independent Living skills development, and 4) peer counseling. Other services are provided by CILs based on individual needs of the community and their consumers. CIL services move people away from dependence and toward independence.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT INDEPENDENT LIVING IN OREGON?

Contact the CIL closest to you, or call or write to the Oregon SILC: 500 Summer St NE E-87, Salem, Oregon 97301 Voice: (503) 945-6204 ~ FAX: (503) 945-8991 ~ E-mail: oregon.silc@state.or.us

The SILC is looking for committed disability advocates who believe that disability is a natural part of the human experience. Please contact us if you are interested in an application packet.