

Colorado•SILC



Paving Pathways


...To Independent Living Opportunities for People with Disabilities.

Independent Living in Colorado

A look at the four core services provided by independent living centers.

The Colorado Independent Living Council and Colorado's 10 independent living centers work together to ensure that every person with a disability in our state who wants to live independently has the resources to do so. We invite policy makers, state agency directors and managers, and the general public into a dialogue on these critical independent living issues.

www.coloradosilc.org



“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.”

The Atlantis Community, Denver

“Independent Living not only means equal rights, but also equal responsibility for citizens. Independence implies managing success as well as coping with failure. Many services, programs, charities, organizations and agencies in our community encourage dependency of people with disabilities and remove the risk of failure. The cycle of dependency, paternalism and control removes the common choices of individuals. Ultimately, only by taking similar risks can people with disabilities equally participate in the community.”

The Center for People with Disabilities—Boulder, Broomfield, Longmont

“Nothing About Me Without Me”

Southwest Center for Independence, Durango

“Independent Living is not doing things by yourself, it is being in control of how things are done.”

Judith Heumann, Former Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Independent Living in Colorado

Colorado's Independent Living Council collaborates to foster systems change by responding to issues from the disability community. We promote respect for independence and self-determination resulting in full inclusion of people with disabilities as equal citizens of Colorado.

The council is mandated by Title VII of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to develop the State Plan for Independent Living Services in partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, centers for independent living, and other stakeholders. The council's members are appointed by the governor.

Centers for independent living are nonprofit organizations mandated by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to provide people with disabilities the tools they need to be fully integrated into community life.

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Colorado Independent Living Council

What is independent living?

Independent living is simply that—living in your own home, in your own community, and making your own decisions. Independent living is being in control of your own life, taking responsibility for your actions, taking risks, and either failing or succeeding on your own terms.

Independent living really should be that simple, but people with disabilities, especially those whose disabilities are severe, will tell you that life can be very complicated. The most basic tasks, like grocery shopping or keeping a dental appointment, must often be planned days in advance and carefully coordinated with accessible public transport schedules.

While much has changed since the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act paved the way for improvements in access to housing, education, employment, and recreation, life is still very, very difficult for the majority of people with disabilities. Even though the technology is available, and study after study demonstrates that life in the community is much more cost-effective than life in an institution, too many people with disabilities—who would prefer to live independently—are confined to nursing homes.

People with disabilities demonstrate time and again that when they are allowed access to resources that

enable them to live in the community, they are able to give back to that community. Today in Colorado, people with disabilities are attending school and college, holding down jobs, and supporting their families. This was unthinkable back in the 1970s when the disability community first began to advocate for full inclusion—but there is still a very long way to go before people with disabilities enjoy full independence.



Independent living means living life on one's own terms.

Study after study demonstrates that life in the community is much more cost-effective than life in an institution.

What are the barriers to independent living?

Individuals with a disability face numerous financial, physical and emotional barriers to living independently, but the major community wide issues where changes in legislation and regulations could make a significant difference are the following:

Lack of employment—43.5 percent of Coloradans with disabilities aged 18-64 are employed, compared to 78.9 percent of people without disabilities.¹

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Lack of income—23.3 percent of Coloradans with a disability live in poverty, compared to 9.5 for people without disabilities.¹

Lack of affordable, accessible housing—in 2008, the average rent for a one-bedroom unit was 102.1 percent of SSI (supplemental security income for people with disabilities) making Colorado one of 22 states where rent exceeds SSI benefits.¹

Lack of reliable transport—Title II of the ADA requires public transport systems to provide wheelchair lifts and other access features, but in rural areas where there is no public transport, people with disabilities

must rely on special transport provided by nonprofit organizations or the kindness of family and friends.²

Lack of health and support services—people with disabilities receiving SSI are automatically enrolled in Medicaid, but relatively few healthcare providers accept Medicaid due to its low reimbursement rate. The biggest challenge to independent living for people with severe disabilities is securing and paying for the services of a personal attendant to assist with essential tasks such as bathing and dressing.

Any one of these barriers presents a significant challenge to independence, but taken together, they can create an impenetrable web of self-defeating and contradictory disincentives: It's hard to find or keep a job if you don't have transport; it's hard to find a place to live if you don't have an income; if you do have an income, you risk losing the SSI/Medicaid health care benefits that make it possible for you to live independently; and as few private insurers will accept individuals with such high needs, people with disabilities are trapped in a downward spiral of poverty and scarce resources.

Every day as a result of an illness, or traumatic event, another Coloradan is affected by a disability. This disability can occur at any age and in all racial and ethnic groups. It can happen to anyone, anywhere, and at any time.

Centers for independent living support people with disabilities in their pursuit to overcome these barriers now, while continuing to advocate for a barrier free society in the future.

What are Independent Living Centers?

Coloradans have played a key role in the independent living movement, beginning when Denver-based Atlantis was founded in 1975, only the second independent living center in the country. (The first independent living center was created in Berkeley, California, in 1972.) A group of young adults with disabilities from a Denver nursing

home, together with six staff members, concluded that no amount of outings to concerts or bingo games could normalize life for these young people.



There are 10 Centers for Independent Living in Colorado

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The real solution was to move into the community, in apartments within the city's neighborhoods, where they could choose their own meals, direct their own care, and determine their own priorities.



A fundamental principle in independent living is learning from someone who also has disability.

This was a revolutionary concept in 1975, but the people of Atlantis were able to convince the Colorado General Assembly to fund personal care assistance outside an institutional setting for the very first time in the state's history. ADAPT, a grassroots disability rights organization, got its start at the Atlantis Community Center in Denver. ADAPT is credited as being one of the principal architects behind the Americans and Disabilities Act of 1990.³

That independent spirit is still in play today as our state's ten independent living centers help individuals of all ages with all types of disabilities to obtain whatever services they need to fully and equally participate in society. Colorado has 638,654 people who live with a disability (U.S. Census, 2009). In 2010, 6,947 of them received services from the state's independent living centers.

Independent living centers are run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities. Federal law requires them to have a majority of individuals with disabilities on their governing boards and on their staff, including those in decision-making positions.

All centers offer four core services:

- Peer-to-Peer support
- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- Information and Referral
- Independent Living Skills Training

Other services vary from center to center, based on the unique needs of the community they serve, but generally include assistance with housing, education, employment, medical needs and personal attendant services.

Independent living centers have a dual responsibility to the people with disabilities in their community:

- to advocate for changes in local, state and national systems that have an impact on people with disabilities
- while working long-term on changing systems, to help people with disabilities live their lives to the fullest now!

PEER TO PEER SUPPORT

At the heart of the independent living philosophy is the peer relationship—people with disabilities assist other people with disabilities as role models, mentors and counselors. This fundamental concept of the independent living movement challenges the long-held view that “people with disabilities need care from their community” to one of “people with disabilities can determine the type of support they need to live in and contribute to their community.”

Although most independent living centers have “IL specialists,” peer counseling can be provided by anyone with a disability. Peer counselors provide services wherever they are needed—at the independent living center, at the consumer's home, and in hospitals or nursing facilities. There have also been many successful peer counseling sessions conducted over a beer at the local bar! Most peer counseling is one-on-one, but independent living centers also offer group counseling around shared disabilities such as brain injuries and blindness.

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Peer counselors support their peers in:

- living effectively with a disability
- setting goals
- solving problems
- making decisions

The most critical aspect of the peer counselor role is to listen to what consumers need and want—and then help them to pursue their independent living goals.

Spotlight on Brad, a Nursing Home Transition Coordinator

Brad was 27 years old when he was injured in a Motocross accident and became paralyzed from his shoulders down. At this point in his life he works at Connections for Independent Living in Greeley where he specializes in helping people transition from nursing homes to life in the community while providing peer support to others.

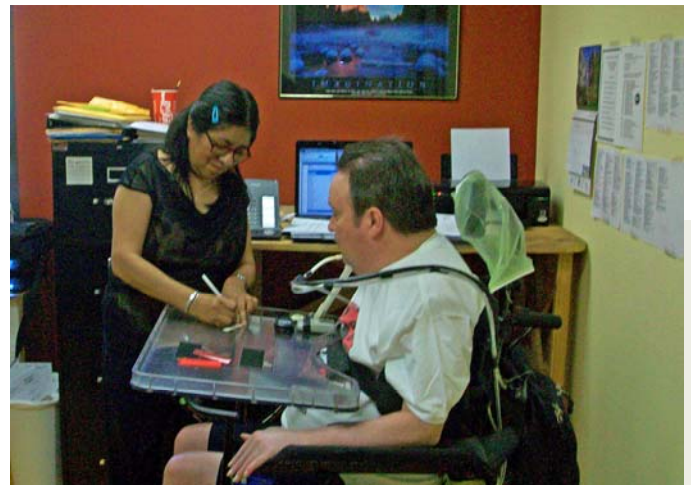
In the 22 years since Brad's accident, options for independent living have improved somewhat, but people with disabilities still face the same personal challenges. Brad describes what happened when he left Craig Hospital after five months of rehabilitation:

“For the last five years, I’ve been helping people transition from nursing homes to community living. I started by going ‘cold turkey’—just looking for people like me who wanted out and looked like they could make a go of it.”

Brad, peer to peer counselor

“It was the lowest point in my life. As we sat in the nursing home after I left Craig rehabilitation, my father had tears running down his face, and so did I. I spent a few months in rehab and the nursing home, and then I transferred to an assisted living facility. That was not as bad as the nursing home, but still not the life I’d expected to be living at 28 years old.

I didn’t know what I wanted to do. I didn’t know if I wanted to go to college. I talked with Voc Rehab and



Brad, hard at work in his effort to emancipate others from nursing homes and back into the community.

advocated to get the services I wanted. I came away with a bachelor's in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Northern Colorado. While getting my bachelors degree, I figured I better get some more education, so I went on to earn a master's in rehab counseling.

During that point I worked as an intern at a independent living center now known as Connections for Independent Living, along the way I discovered I was good at helping people. They offered me a job; I've worked at Connections since 1994. These days I

live in Greeley. It's a pretty easy city to get around in a wheelchair. I was able to buy my own home about ten years ago. It was tough to make it this far since my accident. When I got injured, everything I had went into collections. I had no credit.

It took well over 7 years to build that up, and that is similar to what people face when they come out of a nursing home today.

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For the last five years, I've been helping people transition from nursing homes to community living.



I started by going in "cold turkey" — just looking for people like me who wanted out and looked like they could make a go of it.

Now that the state's Health Care Policy and Financing Department has a program to fund transitions, there's a referral

process, and now the nursing home staff —by law— must ask each resident if they would like to move into the community. Nursing homes don't like that, and some of them don't comply, but I keep coming back.

It isn't easy for people to get out once they've lived in a nursing home for a long time. One of the biggest obstacles is finding their birth certificate and other vital information. A lot of people have no identification at all and they can wait weeks or even a couple months for things like their social security card that is needed to start the nursing home transition process.

It's a complicated process. It takes me about 75 hours to help nursing home residents complete all the paperwork, find an accessible home, arrange for personal care, and prepare emotionally for an independent life.

Every time I visit, they ask me how much longer it will take. In some cases they wait for months and months, and then when the day of the move finally comes, they are in shock.

It takes time to adjust, but I don't know anyone who has wanted to go back to the nursing home.

ADVOCACY

Independent living centers sprang from the advocacy efforts of thousands of people with disabilities pressing for their civil and human rights, and advocacy remains a central tenet of independent living today.

Centers for independent living provide the training, organization and support to enable their constituents to advocate for change at the national, state and local levels, and to protect the rights they already have under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and section 504, the Fair Housing Amendments Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other state and local legislation.

It is advocacy at the national level that brought about the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, but that landmark federal legislation would never have happened without the unremitting efforts at the community level that gradually changed the attitudes of voters and their representatives.

A combination of advocacy at the federal and state levels has led the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to adopt pilot programs or "Medicaid Waivers"

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that test the independent living movement's contention that it is less expensive to provide support to a person with a disability in the community than it is to warehouse them in long-term care facilities. At the local level, advocacy might mean attending council meetings to press for more accessible and more frequent public transport.

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Advocacy does not necessarily involve legislation—it is any concerted action that helps to change actions and attitudes. If enough people in wheelchairs—and their friends and family members—impress on a restaurant that while an accessible entrance through a garbage-strewn alley might be legal, but isn't welcoming, eventually the garbage will be cleaned up. (Or the restaurant will go out of business and a new one that respects the wishes of all its customers may move into the neighborhood.)

Changing laws is important, but seasoned advocates know only too well that just because a law is on the books, doesn't mean that it will be followed. Every day, independent living centers help consumers assert their right to an accessible home, an inclusive education for their children with disabilities, or the reinstatement of canceled health care benefits.



When people with disabilities are included, everyone in the community benefits!

Independent living center staff make calls to landlords, meet with school administrators and send emails to city councilors, but the most important thing they do is help consumers become their own advocates.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Through information and referral, independent living centers bring people with disabilities and community services together. Colorado offers numerous services

“It takes time to adjust, but I don't know anyone who has wanted to go back to the nursing home!”

for people with disabilities, but navigating the system of national, state, county and city programs can be daunting.

Even when programs are well publicized, eligibility rules for each separate service can be confusing and contradictory, and accessing one service can potentially render an individual ineligible for another. Information and referral services provided by the independent living centers help individuals with disabilities negotiate this complex system. Connecting people with disabilities with the right resources empowers them to reach full independence.

Together with the other core services, such as advocacy and skills training, information and referral is a critical component of the drive for independence. Information may be all that one consumer needs; another may need peer counseling to assess their needs and wishes and gain a better understanding of the options available; yet another person may then need help to advocate for their desires, or skills training to achieve them.

Independent living centers maintain a comprehensive database of community resources, supplemented with extensive personal contacts developed and maintained by their staff. Information and referral covers a wide range of topics, including:

Accessible and affordable housing

- Assistive technology

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- Disability benefits, such as Social Security, Medicaid, long-term care, and other state and county programs
- Disability rights
- Emergency Assistance
- Employment & Education
- Home Health Care
- Legal Assistance
- Peer Support Groups
- Recreation/Travel & Accessible Trails
- Resources for the Deaf and Blind
- Transportation

Spotlight on Chet & Debi Bailey

The power of information & referral combined with determined self-advocacy!

On February 18, 2011, Independent Living Specialist Henriette Gregorio received a call for help from Chet Bailey:

“My wife, Debi, has been ill from System Scleroderma for about 16 years. Last July I had to quit my job because of a heart condition and our plan was for me to do consulting as we pursued our online, home-based business. Debi’s illness was advancing much quicker than we expected and with all the care giving, I wasn’t able to do consulting work. By the end of August we were completely out of money and falling behind on our bills. Social Services were trying to enroll us in Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS) so that I could be paid as her caregiver, but they missed a step in the process and we still had no benefits by November.

I had been negotiating with my creditors on the assumption we would get state aid soon, and when that fell through, all hell broke loose. We were evicted from our store, and our motor home (which we live in) and our car were put out for repossession.

By the end of December Debi was having major seizures throughout the nights, and barely able to function throughout the day.

And without medical insurance we were only able to get very basic medical treatment (mainly talking to her doctors over the phone and adjusting meds based on her symptoms).

Near the end of January, Debi’s Medicaid came through and we were back on track to start CDASS around the middle of March. I can’t leave her for any length of time because of the uncontrolled seizures. My time is spent dealing with doctors, pharmacies, medical suppliers and home-care agencies; negotiating with creditors; as well as trying to keep our business from going under all while attending to daily house-hold needs.

Debi, Chet and Henriette met for intake at the Cripple Creek satellite office of The Independence Center on the same day that Chet called. Henriette takes up their story:

We spent three hours recounting history, details, needs, and simultaneously brainstorming for resolutions. Having already demonstrated a long history of persistent self-advocacy, Chet and Debi identified with me both immediate and long term goals, among them:



Independent living centers are integral to their communities.

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The typical activities of daily life that most people take for granted are new and strange (or long-forgotten) for people with disabilities emerging from a nursing home.

Immediate shelter: There were 72 hours ticking before their current home, a recreational vehicle, was to be repossessed.

Chet took tenacious notes about the three affordable housing areas in Teller County and the contact information I gave him.

Food: Supplies were exhausted and Debi had special dietary needs including gluten free foods which were difficult to get with diminished funds. Little Chapel of the Hills pantry directors, Ken and Judi Hesselberg, were contacted and arranged an emergency food box for the Baileys to collect that afternoon.

Income: I referred them to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to begin the application for business capital and vocational help.

Dental intervention: Neither Chet nor Debi had received oral care in many years and knew there were issues which they did not have the resources to cover.

I referred them to a dental program that provides a free evaluation, screening and dental cleaning for needy, qualified residents.

Accessibility: Debi was making do with a basic, manual wheelchair. I contacted Wheelchair Collections for Push International to request a more appropriate free wheelchair.

Vision care: Debi's medical condition affected her eyesight and so I referred her to Colorado Eye Associates, which has a program for low-income individuals.

Within 48 hours, Chet was close to acquiring the needed housing, but the landlord required

confirmation that CDASS income would soon be forthcoming.

As it was Friday afternoon, I advised him not to stop calling up the chain of command until he got a live person with a "yes" who would not only write

the letter, but fax it the same day to the property owner. Once their shelter was secured, the Baileys diligently followed up on every other referral I had suggested.

Chet is currently writing an instructional guidebook for those who are transitioning from full-time employment to fulltime care giving, just as he did for his wife.



At centers for independent living a majority of the staff are people with disabilities.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING

Independent living skills include every activity that people with disabilities need to live in their own homes, make their own decisions, and assume the responsibilities of a member of the community.

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Centers for Independent living provide a valuable service by providing training, and adaptive equipment.

Some of these skills can seem simple and straightforward, like washing dishes, but people with different disabilities may each have to learn very different and innovative approaches to this seemingly routine task.

Training in independent living skills is critical for people who have left an institution and are setting up home on their own. They may need to learn how to hire and work with a personal attendant to help with bathing, grooming and other intimate tasks. They may need to learn how to work with a service animal. If they have lived in a nursing home for many years, in addition to learning to manage the physical aspects of their disability independently, they will also need to learn (or relearn) how to manage a home and negotiate social interactions.

The typical activities of daily life that most people take for granted are new and strange (or long-forgotten) for people with disabilities emerging from a nursing home. Here are just a few of the independent living skills courses offered by the Colorado Springs Independence Center for people transitioning from a nursing home:

Your Own Place—searching for your own place, subsidized housing, applications, leases, deposits, utilities, housing related bills, insurance, furnishings, moving, home safety, decorating, landlord responsibilities, repairs, basic cleaning skills.

Kitchen Basics—organizing a kitchen, food storage, setting the table, nutrition and balanced diet, use of appliances, kitchen gadgets, stove/oven, measuring and reading recipes, making a shopping list (when you're not hungry), sticking to a budget, food safety and a clean kitchen.

Basic Money Management—Banking terms, how to open your own bank account, different types of accounts, writing checks, depositing money, withdrawing money, bank register and checkbook, bank statements, reconciling your checkbook, working with a budget, building a budget with limited income, saving money, credit and debit cards, identity theft, and credit reporting agencies.

Communication Technology—types of cell phones that help overcome barriers, telephone techniques, answering machines, texting techniques and e-mail etiquette. Twitter/Facebook, security do's and don'ts, appropriate information and Internet use and safety.

Careers and Employment—different jobs and careers, training, education, interest and skills, personal assessment, career assessment, preparing for employment, how do you decide what job to look for? get ready mentally, develop a search plan, set goals, follow the plan and adjust as needed to accomplish goals.

In addition to teaching the skills needed to maintain a home and a job, centers for independent living help people with disabilities enjoy community life. From adaptive gardening, to using the library, to joining a sports team or the local theater group, independent living skills are designed to ensure the full inclusion of people with disabilities in their communities.

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Spotlight on Chad

Chad is 32 years old and has a traumatic brain injury from a gunshot and has quadriplegia from a car accident. Since the car accident he'd been living at his mother's home. He thought he would be there the rest of his life. Whenever she went out of town, he stayed a spell at the nursing home. Last February was one of his nursing home stays. From another resident at the nursing home, Chad learned about Community Transition Services, and how it helps people who qualify to move out of the nursing home into their own apartment.

Chad wondered if he could live on his own. He started to ponder about this. It was kind of scary, no, it was real scary; but he thought he may not have this chance again and decided to go for it. With Community Transition Services, the transition coordinator guides you each step of the way. Financial help is available for the apartment deposit and for some essential items needed in an apartment. Sometimes a Section 8 voucher is available. The transition coordinator is also key in arranging for your home health care. Chad has been in his apartment for four months now, and is very happy he made the move. He says he should have done it sooner.⁴

Chad wondered if he could live on his own. He started to ponder about this. It was kind of scary, no, it was real scary; but he thought he may not have this chance again and decided to go for it.

What is the cost of independent living?

This brief has primarily addressed the **value** of independent living—to people with disabilities, to their families and friends, and to their communities.

The Independent Living Council and the state's ten Independent Living Centers are all passionately

committed to the goal of fully supporting each and every person with a disability in their goal of living a rich, full and productive life. However, in these difficult economic times, we believe it is imperative to make the case, not only for the **value** of independent living, but also for its **cost-effectiveness**.



Transportation options are crucial to living an independent life.

De-institutionalization

There has been no statewide study of the financial impact on Colorado as a whole, but the Atlantis Community, Inc. (ACI) in Denver has documented the fiscal outcomes for its agency over the past two years:

ACI utilized general fund dollars to conduct outreach in skilled nursing facilities to find consumers who wanted to live in the community. ACI has transitioned 14 individuals out of nursing facilities over the past two years and prevented another 80 from entering a nursing facility by the provision of home health care, home and community based services (HCBS) and independent living services.

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The savings to taxpayers (combined federal and state Medicaid funds) was approximately \$2,256,000 (\$1,128,000 each year).

Overall, the ten independent living centers saved well over the \$1.5 million that represents the annual general fund investment by the state. In addition, under Title VII-B of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), the designated state unit (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation) can receive \$9 federal for every \$1 from the state general fund. This results in over \$300,000 of additional funding for independent living.

Imagine a Community with No Barriers...

Colorado's independent living centers—and the four core services they provide—are a vital resource for people with disabilities. For more than three decades, the very determined staff and volunteers at our state's ten independent living centers have worked closely with equally determined consumers to overcome the multiplicity of barriers and "keep out" notices found in every community in Colorado.

These barriers persist more than 20 years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. More than a decade has passed since the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1999 *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision found that unjustifiable institutionalization constitutes discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act, stating that it "perpetuates unwarranted assumptions that persons so isolated are incapable or unworthy of participating in community life."

- Imagine a community with no barriers—a community where removing the curbs and installing automatic door openers is just the start.
- Imagine a state whose residents truly understand the value of allowing people with disabilities to direct their own lives and participate fully in their communities.
- Imagine if instead of making daily life even more difficult for people who already face innumerable challenges, we came together as a community

and asked "What can we do to help you unleash your potential?"

Our state's independent living centers are not just for people with disabilities—they are for everyone in the community. They offer all Coloradans the opportunity to build a state where each person is valued. They specialize in helping people with disabilities to overcome barriers, but they also invite questions on how to create a society free of those barriers. Independent living centers offer a wealth of knowledge on how to make housing, employment, transportation, education, and health care—every aspect of daily life—accessible and welcoming for all.

At the Colorado Independent Living Council, we imagine a day where there is no "disability community," only one community—Colorado. We invite you to join us.



Footnotes:

1-Statistics Describing the Population with Disabilities in Colorado: By County and CIL Catchment Area, Andrew J. Houtonville, Ph.D. available at www.coloradosilc.org

2-What Does it mean to Have a Disability in Colorado? A SILC Brief, available at www.coloradosilc.org.

3-Retrieved from Atlantis CIL website www.atlantiscommunity.com

4-Obtained from Colorado Springs Independence Center, Fall 2010 Newsletter

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Accomplishments

- 9,924 individuals were provided with information and referral services.
- 5,672 individuals requested independent living skills training, and 9,924 received services.
- 2,919 individuals with disabilities received advocacy/legal services through independent living centers. Of those served at centers, 1,577 had goals related to self-advocacy.
- Through the support of the centers, 964 individuals met their goal. There were an additional 590 individuals still working on their goals.
- 2546 individuals with disabilities requested peer counseling, and 2150 received the service.

(All Information retrieved from the 2010 Federal 704 report)

Colorado Centers for Independent Living

Atlantis Community, Inc.

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Center for Disabilities

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Pueblo, CO 81004
(719) 546-1271 Fax (719) 546-1374
Dr. Larry Williams, Executive Director

Satellite Location

1016 West Ave., #6
Alamosa, CO 81101
(719) 589-2224

Center for Independence

740 Gunnison
Grand Junction, CO 81501
(970) 241-0315 Fax (970) 245-3341
1-800-613-2271
Linda Taylor, Executive Director
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Satellite Location

17 North 6th St.
Montrose, CO 81401

Center for People With Disabilities

1675 Range
St. Boulder, CO 80301
(303) 442-8662 Fax (303) 442-0502
Ian Engle, Executive Director
www.cpwd-ilc.org

Satellite Location

615 North Main
Longmont, CO 80501 (303) 772--
3250

Colorado Springs Independence Center

21 East Las Animas
Colorado Springs, 80903
(719) 471-8181 Fax (719) 471-7829
Patricia Yeager, Interim Executive Director

Connections for Independent Living

1331 Eighth Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 352-8682 Fax (970) 353-8058
Beth Danielson, Executive Director

Disabled Resource Services

424 Pine Street, Suite 101
Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 482-2700 Fax (970) 407-7072
Nancy Jackson, Executive Director
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Satellite Location

640 East Eisenhower Blvd.
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(970) 667-0816

Disability Center for Independent Living

4821 East 38th Ave.
Denver, CO 80209
(303) 320-1345 Fax (303) 320-1355

Satellite Location

1646 Elmira Aurora, CO 80010
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Carol Reynolds, Executive Director

Independent life Center

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Southwest Center for Independence

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Colorado Independent Living Council

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Let's keep Colorado's
reputation as a great place to
live... for everyone!



Image Courtesy: The Chanda Plan Foundation
www.iamtheplan.org and Peggy Dyer Photography.

Paving Pathways

*...To Independent Living
Opportunities for People
with Disabilities.*

- Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities
- Adequate Housing
- Transportation Access
- Employment Opportunities
- Quality Personal Assistance Services
- ADA Compliance in Rural Areas
- Improving Availability of Disability Services in Rural Areas
- Youth with Disabilities and Transition from school
- Improve Deaf Services in Centers for Independent Living
- Accessible Voting Services
- Changing Attitudes of Human Service Providers
- Cultural Competency
- Making Adaptive Equipment More Available

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The Colorado Independent Living Council operates in partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Association of Colorado Centers for Independent Living.

