

# ACCES Independent Living Centers

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Board of Regents Meeting



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# Independent Living Centers

Over 400  
Independent Living  
Centers in the US

ILC Boards  
comprised of at  
least 51% people  
with disabilities

41 ILCs in  
New York  
State

## Independent Living Centers (ILCs) Vision

**People with disabilities are entitled to civil rights, options and control over choices in their own lives**

- ILCs are not-for-profit organizations run by people with disabilities.
- ILC provide five core services:
  - Advocacy- Individual and Systems
  - Information and Referral
  - Independent Living Skills
  - Peer Support and Mentoring
  - Transition- Institutional and Youth



# Disability Rights History

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- The Independent Living Movement was deeply influenced by the Civil Rights and Women Empowerment Movements of the 1950s and 1960s.
- Movements addressed similar issues:
  - Disgraceful treatment as a result of bigotry and stereotypes
  - Discrimination in housing, education, transportation and employment
- Movement strategies and tactics were also similar.





# UC Berkeley and Independent Living

- The Independent Living movement started in the early 70s at the University of California at Berkeley.
- Independent Living was founded by students with disabilities who attended UC Berkeley.
- The movement quickly spread across the Country.

# Activism

- In 1977 occupation of San Francisco's Federal Building by Independent Living activists became the longest take-over of a federal building in US History.
- This led to the release of Section 504 regulations banning discrimination against people with disabilities in federally funded programs.







# Independent Living Center Services

## ILC provide a variety of services:

- Individual advocacy to protect their rights or fight for needed resources
- Systems advocacy to advance civil rights and equal access
- Information and referral to local services that can assist in living independently
- Assist applying for various benefits (SSDI, SSI, Medicare, Medicaid, Public Assistance, SNAP, Section 8, etc.)
- Training and supports to live independently in the community
- Assist with exploring career options and find integrated competitive employment
- Training and assistance understanding the impact of employment on benefits

## Other Services



# ACCES support for Independent Living Centers

- ACCES provides state and federal funding to Independent Living Center
  - General Operations- \$15.9 million for ILC core services
  - Statewide Systems Advocacy Network (SSAN)- \$578,590 for the development of local partnerships increasing knowledge and visibility of independent living
  - Peer Integration Project- \$750,000 for ILCs to be co-located in ACCES District Offices providing peer supports to individuals with disabilities.
  - Core Rehabilitation Services (CRS)- Some ILCs also provide a variety of services availability to people with disabilities seeking to obtain or maintain employment. CRS services include assessments, community work experience, work try-outs, on-the-job training and supported employment.



# Questions?



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