All about Independence First

Brian Peters
Community Access & Policy Specialist
Center for Independent Living

- Service area of Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties
- One of eight CILs in the state of Wisconsin covering all 72 counties
- Many more across the nation & internationally

Resources for Living Independently with a Disability
All Ages
All Disabilities

www.IL-Wisconsin.net
The mission is to effectively facilitate empowerment of individuals with disabilities through: education, advocacy, independent living services, and coalition building. Independence First promotes diversity and multicultural participation in its operations and services.
We believe that each person with a disability has the right to be able to choose how to live their lives, and to make their own decisions.

We empower people to do that.

We are NOT “Case Managers.”

If a person wants to work with us, we will work with them. Their decision.
All Centers for Independent Living have over 50% of staff, and over 50% of Board being persons with disabilities.

This is the concept of “Consumer Control” in adherence to our grassroots history of independent living movement.
Who Do We Serve?

- People of any disability
- People of any age

Note: Graphs are for all CILS in WI
Core Services

- Advocacy (Individual & Systemic)
- Independent Living Skills Training
  - One-on-one
  - Workshop
- Information & Referral
- Peer Support
- Transition
  - Transitioning people out of nursing homes
  - Preventing placement into nursing homes
  - Youth transition into post-secondary education
Additional Programs & Services

- Aging in Place/Universal Design Consultation
- Assistive Technology Loan & Demonstration Center
- Benefits Counseling
- Computer Training
- Computer Recycling
- Disability Rights Technical Assistance
- Housing Consultation
- Personal Care Assistance
- Resource Center
- Youth Leadership & Training
Other Services

Business Services
- Accessibility Consultation
- ADA Technical Assistance/Education
- Computer Recycling
- Disability Awareness & Etiquette Training

Statewide Services
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Outreach Project
- Mobility Store
- Wisloan
- Telework
Most of our services are free to the consumer

Some are on a fee-basis charged to a third party (Medicaid, Social Security, IRIS, etc.)

Consultations and surveys are usually on a fee basis as well

Presentations to organizations through business services are also on a fee basis
Contact Information

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