

Montana Statewide Independent Living Council Mission

To make independent living a reality for Montanans with disabilities by promoting and practicing a philosophy of consumer control, development of peer relationships and peer role models, self-determination, self-help, equal access, and advocacy in order to maximize independence, integration and full inclusion of persons with disabilities into mainstream Montana.



2010 Statistics

Total Served in 2010 = 2,408

Numbers Served by Disability Category

Cognitive Disability	=	401
Mental/Emotional Disability	=	400
Physical Disability	=	982
Hearing Impairment	=	63
Visual Impairment	=	98
Multiple Disabilities	=	241
Other Disability		223

Most Requested Services

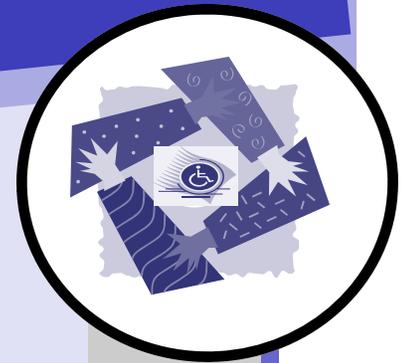
- Information and Referral
- Advocacy/Legal Services
- IL and Life Skills Training
- Personal Assistance Services
- Transportation
- Vocational Services
- Housing, Home Modifications, and Shelter Services

Total includes consumers served by the four Independent Living Centers funded by state and federal funds such as Title 7 Part B and C, Social Security, and Medicaid.



Montana Statewide Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living

*Independent
Living*





Transportation

What is Our Concern?

- In many communities, individuals with disabilities are excluded from their communities: they cannot access health care, go to work, participate in entertainment or educational opportunities, attend Sunday church or attend to basic needs such as grocery shopping.
- Everyone deserves to be fully included in society and have the freedom to go places when and where they choose.

Why is this Important?

- Streamlining the existing services will result in substantial savings and is the best way to take advantage of scarce resources.
- All of society benefits when more services are available — including people with or without disabilities, those with modest incomes and senior citizens.

What do we Suggest/Request?

- We request financial and system support for the current transportation services to be coordinated and expanded to increase access for everyone.
- People with disabilities as well as others that are transportation dependent need to be involved in the decision making.

\$ Independent Living Funding

What is Our Concern?

- Services provided by Independent Living Centers are critical to the independence of individuals with disabilities: transportation, independent living skills training, advocacy, discharge planning for those in nursing homes, and self directed personal assistant services.
- Independent Living Centers assist with the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the need for improvements.

Why is this Important?

- The population of individuals with disabilities in Montana is steadily increasing .
- State funds provide financial resources for the four Independent Living centers serving individuals with disabilities.
- Independent Living funding serves individuals with all types of disabilities.
- Without state funds, more people will be institutionalized, unemployed and without assistance; this could increase costs to other service providers in Montana.

What do we Suggest/Request?

- Some of the services provided by the Independent Living Centers are funded by state funds. We are requesting these funds be continued.



Olmstead Decision

What is Our Concern?

- In Montana, there are people who are in nursing homes and institutions who could and want to live in their own homes and communities.
- Housing options, personal assistants, and other services aren't available because the money paying for services is obligated to beds, not individuals.

Why is this Important?

- Individuals have the right to choose where they live.
- On average it costs less to allow an individual to live in their home with supports than it does to provide them care in an institution or nursing home.
- Montana needs to comply with the ADA as affirmed by the US Supreme Court Olmstead Decision.

What do we Suggest/Request?

- If their home is the most appropriate, least restrictive environment, then it's the right place for them to live.
- The Montana Independent Living Centers and other disability groups should be paid to assist with identification and transition of those that are moving back into the community.