



IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH INDEPENDENCE

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 authorized federal funding for Independent Living Centers and created SILCs (Statewide Independent Living Councils). Centers for Independent Living (CILS) are nonprofit organizations in place to provide broad disability services, supports, and resources to help citizens of this state live and remain independent at home in their own communities. **CILS are disability resource experts that are well connected to assist those who are born with a disability, acquire a disability in life or even an age related disability.** Missouri centers are statewide organizations that cover every county in our state to ensure every citizen has a center for independent living to go to for assistance.

- ❖ Since FY11 CILS have faced years of funding issues with cuts, withholds and partial restores. In **FY22** the final piece of our funding was restored to our **FY17 Level**. However, each year we are cut \$200,000 with the ILC Fund not bringing in enough revenue (Traffic Violations). See Page 693.
- ❖ **According to a 2014 National Base Level Funding Study Centers should be funded at \$570,000 per Center. Most Missouri Centers are currently funded at \$255,862. This is a \$314,138 SHORTFALL per center.**
- ❖ Last year Centers provided **95,383 services** to **18,736 Consumers**.
- ❖ Centers serve a large population of **Seniors** with services that assist them in Aging in Place. **The following numbers of seniors were served over the last few years: FY20 – 9,693; FY21 – 9,425; FY22 – 9,694.**
- ❖ With the new **Master Plan on Aging**, Centers will play a vital role in continuing to serve our older population. To do this effectively we will need to be **FUNDED** at or near the **National Level**.
- ❖ **Centers use the State’s money WISELY.** We work diligently to assist People with Disabilities (PWD) and Seniors to remain living in their own homes.
- ❖ **Missouri Centers for Independent Living** Employ **672 FTE** employees to provide Independent Living Services, of that **462 FTEs (69%)** are People with Disabilities (PWD)

Centers are Mandated to Provide FIVE Core Services:

1. Information & Referral
2. Independent Living Skills Training
3. Peer Support
4. Advocacy
5. Transition Services
 - *From high school to workforce or higher education
 - *From nursing home/institutional care into the community

HB2.230
General Revenue Request
\$1,000,000.00 (NEW)
\$200,000 (Fund Switch to GR pg. 693)
TOTAL \$1,200,000.00
MOVING Centers Closer To the
National Base Level

In addition to these mandated services, each center may provide additional services based on community needs specific to their demographic and population. This may include, but not limited to supports to find affordable, accessible housing, home modifications, adaptive equipment, home automation, aging in place services, recreational activities, assistive technology, youth services, or work force development as several centers assist PWD in learning job skills and helping them find employment - All in fulfillment of their mission to empower and teach people with disabilities how to be as independent as possible.

Why is it so important to maintain funding for Centers for Independent Living?

- Centers for Independent Living serve people with **ALL Disabilities** and those of **ANY AGE**.
- Centers for Independent Living Specialize in Resources and knowing where to find resources for many types of disabilities. **We work with individuals, senior centers, mental health organizations, schools and communities.**
- Centers for Independent Living are a **Large Asset for the new Master Plan on Aging as well as the Elementary and Secondary Education System.** We have resources on IEPs, assistive technology, mental health, independent living skills training, transition planning, employment and many other services/resources.
- **Missouri Centers for Independent Living are partners to the state agencies and other support organizations to assist in linking and streamlining the process for community options and resources for all citizens with disabilities.**