

ANDRÉ JACQUE

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State Capitol - P.O. Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707-7882

*Testimony before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
State Senator André Jacque
January 29, 2020*

Chairman Testin and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 567, the Independent Living Center Update & Investment Act.

Wisconsin's Independent Living Centers (ILCs) are the only consumer-based, community based, not for profit, nonresidential organizations serving persons of any age, and with any type of disability in all 72 counties. Unique in the world of human services, ILCs are governed and operated by board and staff composed of a majority of people with disabilities. ILCs are a great investment, as they provide assistance to people with disabilities and older adults to access employment, transportation, housing and maintain/attain independence and health. These cost effective services contribute to keeping people out of costly institutions and nursing facilities (an average savings of 30% per person).

Wisconsin's 8 ILCs (as defined in state statute 46.96/federal WIOA/Sec.482 CENTERS) now have 3 additional services that they are required to provide: 1) transition of people from institutions to the community; 2) providing services to people who are at risk of entering institutions; 3) and facilitating the transition of youth with disabilities to postsecondary life. The current state of funding commitment does not address these additional services.

The 8 ILCs that serve all of Wisconsin have received no increase in state funding for 20 years, despite the increased operating costs each year. ILCs have all seen significantly increased requests for services. The average increase in requests for just core services is 229% over the last 20 years.

Wisconsin's ILCs are being asked to provide more services, for more people, and these requirements necessitate additional funding to be sustainable. Wisconsin's State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), approved by DHS and the federal Administration on Community Living states the annual amount of funding needed to adequately provide independent living services statewide is \$5,220,000. However, the current funding is \$2,850,296. Therefore, an additional \$2,343,100 of state funding is needed to meet the statewide service requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 567.



1/29/2020

To: Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Senator Testin (Chair)
Senator Kooyenga (Vice-Chair)
Senator Jacque
Senator Erpenbach
Senator Carpenter

From: Marci Boucher, IndependenceFirst, mboucher@independencefirst.org / 414-750-2958

Re: SB 567

Dear Senators,

IndependenceFirst is one of the 8 nonprofit Independent Living Centers (ILCs). We exist to empower individuals with disabilities to live independently in the community through 5 core services. We are here today requesting that you support Senate Bill 567 to increase our base funding for Independent Living Centers throughout the State of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin has eight (8) Independent Living Centers (ILCs) statewide. The ILCs are unique because they serve all disabilities and all ages, and are consumer-controlled, which means that over 50% of our staff and Board are people with disabilities. ILCs are non-residential nonprofit organizations. ILCs are mandated by the Federal government and Wisconsin state statute to provide the IL core services. There are around 450 Independent Living Centers across the United States. The ILCs are cost effective and a great investment as they assist people with disabilities to gain employment, maintain/attain independence and health, keep people out of costly institutions and nursing homes (saving 30% per person) and employ people with disabilities – all of which save money and invest in our communities. Yet the ILCs have not had an increase in state funding for over 20 years. Currently our funding for all 8 centers in Wisconsin is \$2,850,296 but our State Plan for Independent Living includes the base amount for ILCs to be at \$5,220,000. This is at a shortfall of \$2,343,100.

As you may know, in 2014 a new fifth core service was added to our mandate due to the passage of the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act, (WIOA) however our funding has not been increased. This new core service has 3 facets essentially adding three additional core services. Our Wisconsin state statute requires that we meet the federal requirements, so since 7/21/15 we have been providing the following 3 additional services: (see WI State Statute 46.96 and federal WIOA/ SEC. 482. CENTERS).

- (i) facilitate the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community-based residences, with the requisite supports and services;
- (ii) provide assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that the individuals may remain in the community; and
- (iii) facilitate the transition of youth (including students) who are individuals with significant disabilities, who were eligible for individualized education programs under section 614(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities

Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)), and who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to postsecondary life, including employment.

IndependenceFirst has over 20 workshops and programs providing a variety of classes available. Below are a few examples of how ILCs make a difference in people's lives.

One individual we assisted in 2019 was a young woman with photophobia (extreme sensitivity to light) who worked with our staff in order to help her navigate some of her functional limitations both at work and being outdoors. She wears sunglasses at all times, and was unable to look at her work computer monitor for more than a few minutes, and could not be outside at all on sunny days. ILC staff recommended several computer accommodations that helped a great deal, and provided a loan of Theraspecs anti-migraine glasses. They worked well, and she sent the following email comment, "I can't even begin to describe what it was like to really see a clear sky after three years, but I can tell you I was crying big dumb happy tears in public for a good ten minutes. Thanks to IndependenceFirst staff who made that possible. I can't tell you how much that means to me".

Our staff also worked with a woman with a learning disability who had been homeless for 2 years. She had difficulty understanding her social security benefits due to her disability and it resulted in her being evicted from her apartment. She lived in her car when she didn't have a friend's couch to sleep on. We worked with her in collaboration with Impact 211 to find available housing. Staff and the consumer went out to look for apartments together. After the 2nd apartment visit, she got approved and has re-established herself in a safe stable housing situation.

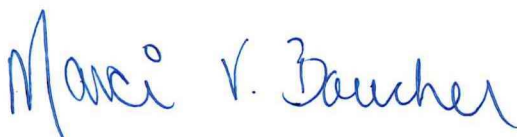
Another man we assisted with services was Daniel, who worked in a bank as a loan officer until he was in a car accident and became a quadriplegic. He was able to choose a Personal Care Worker of his choice who we employed. This allowed Daniel to return home from the hospital instead of being institutionalized. He also received some assistive technology and adaptive medical equipment to help with his daily needs. Daniel is now ready to begin independent living classes and wants to return to work.

Lastly, our staff worked with a young man who had amputations to both of his legs and needed assistance advocating for prosthetics. He and his Independent Living Coordinator made a list of all the steps that he would need to take to navigate the insurance process and make the appropriate appointments with his healthcare providers. During their meetings, the coordinator discussed how things were going and how to handle potential roadblocks. They also worked on building self-advocacy skills and coping with anxiety, and though the wait was longer than he was hoping for, the consumer finally received his prosthetics and was to build up his endurance so that he no longer needed to use a walker. He reported that his next goal was to run a marathon.

As you can see our work is very important in the community. Our state plan requires us to maintain or increase the amount of people we serve, especially in the rural communities. In the past 20 years, the increase in core services requested has risen over 229%. How are we to meet the demand without an increase in our base funding?

Thank you for considering Senate Bill 567 and I hope you all will support our funding increase

Thank you,
Marci Boucher



President and CEO
Independence**F**irst



Independent Living Resources
4439 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 787-1111

January 29, 2020

To: Senate Committee
Health & Human Services

From: Kathie Knoble-Iverson
Executive Director
Independent Living Resources, Inc. (ILR)

Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 567 to increase appropriation for DHS to make grants to ILC's

Good morning Senate Committee Members,

Independent Living Resources, Inc. (ILR) provides a wide variety of services at no cost to people of any age with any disability in a 13 County area of South/Southwest Wisconsin. I was part of a 5-year grassroots effort to provide an Independent Living Center in the only area not served by an ILC in the State which resulted in ILR beginning providing services in July 1994.

ILR's focus has always been to help improve the lives of people with disabilities by removing/minimizing barriers that stifle success. ILR and other Independent Living Centers in Wisconsin accomplish positive outcomes far beyond that of other agencies by employing staff with disabilities and empowering people to be in control of their services. ILCs do not things for people but with people. Statewide, people being served by an ILC accomplish 75% of all their goals.

Samples of outcomes:

- Prevent evictions/loss of housing
- Secure safe, affordable housing
- Find employment
- Access needed healthcare
- Secure health insurance
- Learn to use public transportation
- Find assistive technology that keeps a person safe in their home
- Find assistive technology that assists a person to work

Website: www.ilresources.org • **E-Mail:** advocacy@ilresources.org • **FAX:** (608) 787-1114
TDD/TTY: (608) 787-1148 • **Toll Free Voice:** (888) 474-5745 • **Toll Free TTY:** (888) 378-2198



Independent Living Resources
4439 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 787-1111

- Develop coping skills and support system to avoid substance use
- Assist children to develop age appropriate coping skills
- Assist families to develop/participate in Individual Education process
- Assist youth to learn skills to maintain a home of their own
- Provide hope that life can/will improve

Over the last 25 years ILR has developed areas of expertise resulting from local needs identified in our service area.

- Homelessness/Housing issues
- Support for people with Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder
- Recruiting/Train/Maintain 26-28 Peer Specialists on staff and 100% of staff with lived experience with a disability
- Managing a MHSUD Peer Run Drop-in Center. Served 561 unduplicated people in 2019

There continues to be a huge demand for our services especially in MHSUD services but our capacity to respond is limited by lack of funding. ILR would like to start a program for Farmers who need MHSUD support, but we would need additional funds to do so.

Thank you for this opportunity to share information about ILR. I have attached a couple of personal stories that show what people can accomplish with the right kind of support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keshie Knoble Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Website: www.ilresources.org • **E-Mail:** advocacy@ilresources.org • **FAX:** (608) 787-1114
TDD/TTY: (608) 787-1148 • **Toll Free Voice:** (888) 474-5745 • **Toll Free TTY:** (888) 378-2198

1. IL staff worked with a consumer who had mold issues at her previous residence. The consumer was able to move to a subsidized unit in West Salem and needed accommodations and modifications in the apartment so it was accessible and safe. With assistance from staff the consumer wrote a request for the following items.

- A taller toilet
- Shower and toilet grab bars
- Bar Style handles and knobs throughout
- A reverse set up refrigerator (fridge on top and freeze on bottom)
- A spray nozzle for the kitchen sink

All the items were approved and the consumer was so relieved that she did not have to “fight” for these requests.

2. ILR received a call from a woman who was working with one of the local Managed Care Organizations and had been in a nursing home. She was to be discharged from the nursing home but did not have any housing secured and would have been homeless upon discharge. An ILS was able to work with the woman to advocate to maintain staying in the nursing home until she could secure housing. There were multiple meetings with the nursing home staff, social workers, and MCO staff and involvement of an ombudsman to further help with advocacy. Ultimately, the woman was able to stay with her daughter for a short amount of time and through working with the ILS, they were able to find housing at a subsidized apartment.

3. ILR received a referral for bus training for a person who is blind. The consumer did not grow up in this area and has been disappointed in the available public transportation services in the area. The consumer did not want to rely on paratransit and was not comfortable asking bus drivers for assistance. After not finding anything of use on the La Crosse MTU website, the ILR employee contacted MTU and their disability services director. After a lot of conversation back and forth, the disability services director created a screen-reader friendly version of the MTU schedule. He sent this to the ILR employee first, before it was released to the public, for review and to ensure it worked with screen reader software. The consumer was happy with the outcome and is now able to “read” the bus schedule which has increased their independence and confidence. The ILR employee and the consumer have been able to progress with their bus training now that the schedule itself is no longer a barrier.

4. Independent Living Resources was approached by a couple who live as a blended family and have several children. Together they provide care for two children with developmental disabilities and who require the use of a wheelchair for mobility. The couple shared that they had been using two separate vehicles to transport the children. This was costly, stressful but most of all difficult for the children who needed physical assistance to get out of their chair and into the car. Their wheelchair would then need to be folded and lifted into the trunk of the car for

transport. The couple called ILR looking for any resources that would allow them to purchase an adaptive vehicle. ILS informed the couple about the Wis Loan program.

The WisLoan program is supported through ILC's in Wisconsin and assists individuals to apply for a personal loan to purchase adaptive equipment that will allow them to live with increased safety and independence.

After hearing about the program, they were interested in applying immediately. They were sent information on the loan requirements, Independent Resource's role and overall loan process. The family was also referred to other resources that could help pay for modifications to the van so that they would only be responsible for obtaining financing for the vehicle itself.

ILS met with the couple, filled out the paper application and made copies of all required documents. This is an extensive process. The couple did an excellent job providing necessary documentation and following up with other service providers who could provide funding assistance. The WISLOAN application was submitted electronically and within 8 weeks, the couple was approved for a loan to pay for a 34,000.00 van. The van will include 20,000.00 worth of modifications paid for by Children's waiver and other private and non-profit funders. The new modified van will accommodate the two chairs and will allow the family to attend outings together as a family.

5. An ILS worked with a consumer who is 18 and living with Cerebral Palsy. He is currently living with his Aunt who was also his Representative Payee and guardian (when he was a minor). The consumer knew that he received SSI but did not know where any of this money was going. He asked ILR for help with becoming his own payee. The consumer and the ILS applied through social security, after their first sit down meeting at the Social Security office, the employee at Social Security called the ILS and told her that they were going to deny the consumer the right to be his own payee because of his speech problems. They stated "that he was just too hard to understand, and that would make working with him difficult." They also said that the consumer was not his own guardian even though they had provided Social Security with the paperwork stating that he was. They also said that the consumer was not able to appeal this and that his Aunt would need to be present to make any changes.

The ILS then emailed his Representative's office and they were able to get us connected with a Supervisor at Social Security. The consumer and ILS explained to her what the ILS was told about the consumer's case and advocated that he should not be denied just because he has a difficult time with speech. She agreed and made them another appointment to reapply for him to be his own Payee. She entered notes in on his case so the next employee they met with would not do the same thing as the first. The consumer is now his own Payee, enrolled in Western Technical College, and is now receiving services through DVR. The ILS is continuing to work with the consumer on navigating other transition issues (housing, budgeting, and self-advocacy in college).



January 29, 2020

TO: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Midstate Independent Living Choices, Inc.

Zoe Kujawa, zkujawa@milc-inc.org, 715-344-4210

RE: Senate Bill 567

Midstate Independent Living Choices (MILC) is a consumer- based, community based, not for profit, nonresidential organizations serving persons of any age, and with any type of disability in 11 counties. MILC is governed and operated by board and staff composed of a majority of people with disabilities.

MILC was founded in 2000, and since that time we have not seen an increase in Independent Living funding, and yet, we have been required to provide more services to more people. We have seen an increase in the number of consumers seeking our services by over 200% in 20 years, with no additional funding.

Wisconsin's 8 ILCs (as defined in state statute 46.96/federal WIOA/Sec.482 CENTERS) now have 3 additional services that they are required to provide: 1.) transition of people from institutions to the community; 2.) providing services to people who are at risk of entering institutions; 3.) and facilitating the transition of youth with disabilities to postsecondary life. The current state of funding commitment does not address these additional services.

Wisconsin's State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), approved by DHS and the federal Administration on Community Living states the annual amount of funding needed to adequately provide independent living services statewide is \$5,220,000. However, the current funding is \$2,850,296. Therefore, an additional \$2,343,100 of state funding is needed to meet the statewide service requirements

Because of this, I am asking this committee to support Senate Bill 567.

Based on Wisconsin statistics there are over 55,447 people with a disability living in our mostly rural 11 County service area. We are only serving 2,786 people. If we had adequate funding we would be able to reach a larger number of our underserved population. Many times people have to wait to receive services from us because we are at staffing capacity. If we received adequate funding we could hire staff and provide the services that are needed. Below are a couple of examples of services we offer, that could benefit many more people with disabilities in Wisconsin.

We currently have three drop-in centers in two counties, Wood and Portage. These centers are member directed, recovery oriented environment for adults with mental health issues/illnesses and/or substance use disorders. We provide a place that offers respect, understanding, encouragement and hope for those who desire a positive community within which they can improve their lives. Members learn skills in job searching, interviewing, employment, daily living skills (i.e. cooking, cleaning, safety, budgeting, etc.), interpersonal skills, coping and social skills.

One of the top concerns currently being addressed in many counties throughout Wisconsin is that of mental health and substance abuse. One of the greatest detriments to mental health is isolation. We offer a place for people to go and have meaningful daily experiences, to break the isolation and improve their mental health. This service is free to the people who use it and is available to any adult in the area who needs help in these areas.

Monthly member evaluations are conducted to ask questions about the effectiveness of services and focus on areas such as: If members received support at our drop in centers that has helped them avoid hospital/emergency therapist visits. The results of our surveys indicated there were 98 incidences when members attended the drop in center instead of going to the hospital. The approximate savings to Wood and Portage Counties in 2019: **\$98,000** (98 visits at an average stay of \$1,000 per night for only 1 night). We believe that this is a vital part of our community; it is cost-saving for the state and directly serves people living in the area. If we had additional funding we could provide this service to many more people in other counties in our service area.

One member wrote on her survey: "I am so grateful to you. Without the safe, supportive environment MILC has provided, I would have gone in-patient so many times. Sometimes at night I get really bad flashbacks, and I think about hurting myself. But I tell myself I just need to hold on until I can go to ROCC Point. And I do hold on, and I make it another day."


After a horrific car accident our consumer became a wheelchair user for the first time and needed help transitioning back to his home from a nursing home. He needed extra supportive home care and personal care, therefore we connected him to our Personal Assistance Program and hired workers. He also needed help with making his bathroom accessible, so we helped him with an assessment and let him borrow assistive technology from our Loan and Demonstration Project. But his biggest challenge was the emotional distress he was under. He stated he was afraid of being alone now, that he was anxious all the time with crippling fear and was suicidal. After many discussions, it was decided that he would benefit from an emotional support animal. We helped him pick out a dog from the Humane Society that he fell in love with and helped him obtain Roxy's certification for an emotional support animal status. One challenge emerged, Roxy was nervous around his wheelchair. Our staff took a wheelchair to the Humane Society and educated the staff on how to help Roxy become accustomed to the chair. Currently our consumer and Roxy, are living happily together. Our consumer stated that he does not know what he would have done if he did not have Roxy and MILC in his life.

The ILCs are a great investment as they provide assistance to people with disabilities and older adults to access employment, transportation, housing and maintain/attain independence and health. These cost effective services contribute to keeping people out of costly institutions and nursing facilities (an average savings of 30% per person).

I have included three testimonials from MILC consumers that have benefited from our services.

Please support Senate Bill 567.

Thank you,



Zoe Kujawa
Executive Director

January 22nd, 2020

To whom it may concern

I am but one of, perhaps hundreds, of people who have utilized the services of Mid-State Independent Living Choices. My anxiety, and depression that I have to deal with day in, and day out, has gotten to the point, in the past, where my ability to even function normally was severely impaired.

Let me say this:. If it weren't for MILC, I would still be in a very bad position, to this day. It is because of this organization, that I have been able to find strength within to function normally, as I used to, before things got so bad, I felt like I couldn't do much of anything, felt helpless

With that being said, I ask that you consider increasing funding for MILC,

A concerned citizen

To whom it may concern,

I am very thankful for the Daily Living Skills training my son has been receiving for about a year from Midstate Independent Living Choices of Stevens Point.

Having moved to Marshfield from small town and rural settings, and having experienced health improvements, my son had increasingly unmet needs that included skills that would give him more freedom and independence. He needed to be able to leave our home alone for a short time and stay safe. Because of the way he needs to learn, and my energies being stretched as his primary caregiver, I reached out to MILC asking whether they could help. They immediately responded and we were able to work out a plan for him to begin receiving training in this area.

My son's DLS provider is experienced with serving the disability community and has been giving him not only the specific training to meet his goals, but also answering questions and addressing needs that have come up as he moves toward a higher level of independence.

The service that my son receives from MILC is a high quality service, from a compassionate and knowledgeable provider. It has met my son's need for freedom and independence to be able to leave our home alone, safely cross a very busy street, safely and appropriately shop at a department store, make a small cash purchase, and know how to relate to customers and employees to ensure his needs are met. The DLS provider has also helped us navigate through the practical and emotional issues that arose as all these changes were taking place, and was able to offer a variety of suggestions for handling our situations.

This service has been invaluable to us and has been a key part of my son's maturing personally and relationally in the past year. I don't know of any other way my son's needs could have been met, because the time, knowledge, and dependability that were needed for this process were otherwise not available to him.

It is my hope that MILC and places like it continue to provide these and other needed services to individuals who need outside help to learn independence skills to safely and meaningfully connect with their community.

Sincerely,

Patricia Caudill

January 22, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am thankful for my Daily Living Skills provider because he helped me learn how to cross the street safely, and he helped me learn how to be safe while I am shopping in Target. He also helped me learn how to be safe while I am riding bike on the bike trail up the street from us. He also helped me know what to write in a letter to a neighbor, and I mailed the letter to him. I am thankful for everything my Daily Living Skills provider taught me.

Sincerely,

David Charles Caudill

options

for independent living^{inc}

•••Taking control of tomorrow•••

To: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

From: Sandy Popp, Director of Independent Living Services, Options for Independent Living 920-393-1043

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Re: Support of SB567 – Statewide Increase for Independent Living Centers

Dear Committee Members,

I am here today to ask for your support of Senate Bill 567, which allows an increase in state funding for Wisconsin Independent Living Centers (ILCs). You have heard background on what services Independent Living Centers provide, the money we save the state as a result of those services, and the fact that there has not been an increase in our funding to provide those services despite the addition of the three core services.

But I would like to tell you my personal story. I am a product of independent living services. I would not be where I am today without the services provided to me at an ILC. I came to Green Bay when I was 26. I had been diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis at the age of 19 and soon felt and saw the debilitating effects of the disease. After many years of living with my parents and having them care for me, I knew it was time to move on and move out to be become more independent.

I used a scooter at that time so I knew I needed a place to live that was accessible. On a referral from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation I met with an Options staff. They were able to work with me to locate an accessible apartment. After I moved into Green Bay, Options asked me to volunteer for them. Within a year I started a DVR work program at Options, and then I was hired by Options a year later.

The services Options provided me not only included housing location, but also peer support, which was invaluable. I was actually working at Options with people who had disabilities who were confident, independent and self-supporting! Knowing other people with disabilities could work and maintain independence was so important for building back my self-confidence. I started out very part-time and worked my way up to full-time. As a result, I was able to discontinue my SSI and housing benefits. I am now the Director of IL Services at Options, part of the management team.

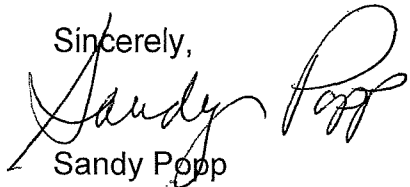


These things happen all the time with the consumers we serve. I have seen individuals with disabilities become more independent, confident, and self-supporting as a result of IL services. That is what Independent Living Centers are all about! Empowering people with disabilities to lead independent and productive lives in their communities! And unlike many non-profit organizations in the state who work with individuals with disabilities, ILC's are mandated to have over half of our staff and Board as people with disabilities. Why? Because working with someone with a disability adds that valuable peer component and credibility many people need to see. As with me, when you see someone who has faced a barrier and moved forward, it shows you can too!

To quote Rep. Macco when he toured Options last November, he said "You are not working to give people a hand out, but a hand up." And that is what we are doing. In order to support people with disabilities in Wisconsin with our services, especially in our rural areas, we need additional funding. The costs of continuing our services has risen, the cost for mileage, employee benefits, etc., has also risen. Yet, the funding we receive has not, especially now that we have to cover three additional services under the fifth core service of transition. I hope that you will support this request for funding and assist Wisconsin Independent Living Centers in empowering people with disabilities and at the same time, save Wisconsin money.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Popp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

Sandy Popp

Director of Independent Living

Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers

North Country Independent Living

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Suite 28
Superior WI 54880
715-392-9118 (V/TTY)
715-392-4636 (fax)
800-924-1220 (toll-free)
www.northcountryil.org

Midstate Independent Living Choices

3262 Church St. Ste 1
Stevens Point WI 54481
715-344-4210 (V/TTY)
715-344-4414 (fax)
800-382-8484 (toll-free)
www.milc-inc.org

Options for Independent Living

555 Country Club Road
P.O. Box 11967
Green Bay, WI 54307
920-490-0500 (V)
920-490-0600 (TTY)
920-490-0700 (fax)
888-465-1515 (toll-free)
www.optionsil.com

Center for Independent Living Western WI

2920 Schneider Ave E
Menomonie, WI 54751
715-233-1070 (V/TTY)
715-233-1083 (Fax)
800-228-3287 (toll-free)
www.cilww.com

Independent Living Resources

4439 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-787-1111 (V)
608-787-1148 (TTY)
608-787-1114 (FAX)
888-474-5745 (toll-free)
www.ilresources.org

Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers

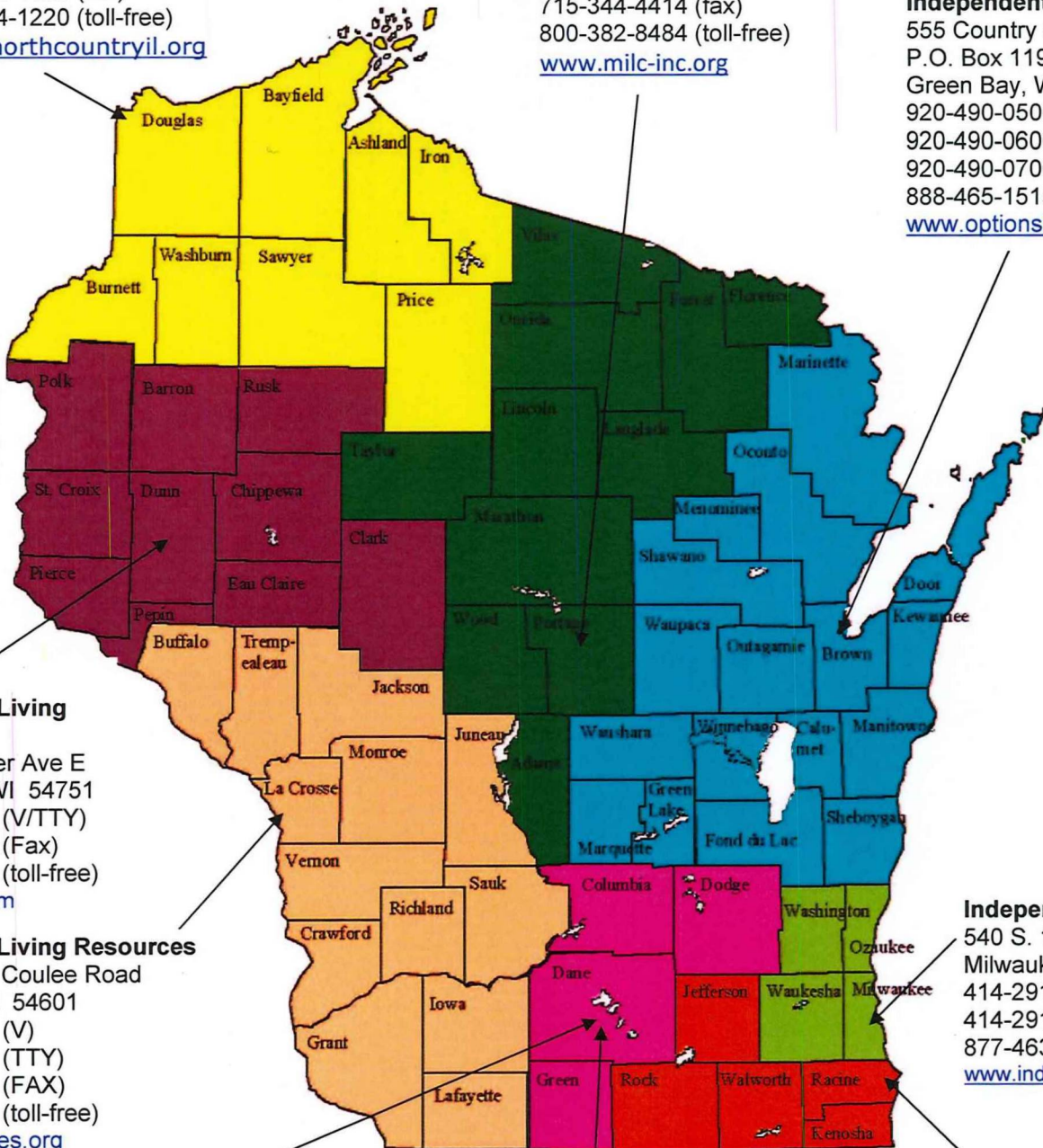
3810 Milwaukee St.
Madison, WI 53714
608-444-3842 (Cell)
www.il-wisconsin.net

Access to Independence

3810 Milwaukee St.
Madison, WI 53714
608-242-8484 (V)
608-242-8485 (TTY)
608-242-0383 (FAX)
800-362-9877 (V) (toll-free)
www.accesstoind.org

Society's Assets

5200 Washington Ave.
Suite 225
Racine, WI 53406
262-637-9128 (V/TTY)
262-637-8646 (FAX)
800-378-9128 (toll-free)
www.societysassets.org



Wisconsin's Independent Living Centers

A GREAT INVESTMENT

Independent ANY AGE
Living CENTERS
COALITION
COUNCIL
W I S C O N S I N

ANY DISABILITY

STATEWIDE

What Makes an Independent Living Center (ILC)?

- ILC governing boards and staff are composed of a majority of people with disabilities
- ILC services are available to people of any disability, and any age, with no income eligibility
- ILC services are provided statewide.
- ILC services are complimentary to other services including managed care organizations, IRIS Consultant Agencies, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

WISCONSIN'S ILCs BY THE NUMBERS

HOUSING

2,131
people
assisted

TRANSPORTATION

11,025
people
assisted

EMPLOYMENT

764
people
assisted

172 ILC
employess
with
disabilities

BENEFITS

1,396
people
assisted
to reduce
or
eliminate
benefits

ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY

3,388 people
assisted with
AT and home
mods

52
WisLoans

PERSONAL CARE

2,554
individuals
received
personal
and
supportive
home care
through
ILCs

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

18,375 people received Information and Referral Services

3,748 people received Independent Living Skills Training

1,014 people received Peer Support

1,829 people received Individual Advocacy Services

78 people received assistance relocating from facilities back to the community

4,460 hours of Community and Systems Advocacy

Funding for ILCs

Wisconsin, along with the federal government, has provided funding for Independent Living Centers for more than thirty years. However, despite a continued and increasing demand for services, the state appropriations have remained the same since 1999. Wisconsin's ILCs are serving more people, at a higher cost, with no state funding increase for over 20 years. In order to continue serving Wisconsinites with disabilities, and meet increasing demand, we are requesting an increase of \$2,343,100 annually. This will meet our state plan base funding needs.

1999 State Funding
\$1,583,500

2019 State Funding
\$1,583,500

Amount of State Funding
Needed \$2,343,100

For more information, contact Maureen Ryan at 608-444-3884, or moryan@charter.net

Wisconsin's Independent Living Centers (ILCs)

- Three additional core services are required to be provided by ILCs as of 7/21/15 due to the passage of the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA). Our Wisconsin state statutes require that we meet the federal requirements. Therefore, Independent Living Centers' state and federal contracts require the 3 following additional core services without any additional funds (see WI State Statute 46.96 and federal WIOA/ SEC. 482. CENTERS).

(i) facilitate the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community-based residences, with the requisite supports and services;

(ii) provide assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that the individuals may remain in the community; and

(iii) facilitate the transition of youth (including students) who are individuals with significant disabilities, who were eligible for individualized education programs under section 614(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)), and who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to postsecondary life, including employment.

- Wisconsin's State Plan for Independent Living (approved by DHS and ACL/HHS) includes the amount of ILCs' base funding needed at \$5,220,000 currently we are at \$2,850,296. Therefore we are requesting an additional \$2,353,100 to meet the required amount of base funding.
- ILCs are the only consumer directed organizations that provide services to all ages and all disabilities statewide.
- The ILCs are cost effective and a great investment as they assist people with disabilities to gain employment, maintain/attain independence and health, keep people out of costly institutions and

nursing homes (savings of 30% per person), and employ a majority of staff members who are people with disabilities – all of which save money.

- All 8 ILCs have received no increase in state funding for 20 years yet costs to operate increase each year. The COLA alone is estimated at over \$760,000.
- All 8 ILCs continue to experience an increase in requests for services each year. The statewide average for the increase in core services over the last 20 years is 229%.
- In summary, Wisconsin's ILCs are being asked to provide more services for more people without an increase in funding, which is unsustainable. Plus we have a new federal and state requirement to provide an additional service. Our cost to provide this additional service requires additional funding.

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Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers Board of Directors – FY 2020

Access to Independence

www.accesstoind.org

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Madison, WI 53714
608-242-8484 (V)
608-242-0383 (fax)
800-362-9877(toll-free)(V)
608-234-4484 (video)

Jason Beloungy, Executive Director
jasonb@accesstoind.org
Shari Brunes, Assistant Director
sharib@accesstoind.org

Counties served: Dodge, Green, Dane, Columbia

Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin (CILWW)

www.cilww.com

Main Office
2920 Schneider Avenue E
Menomonie, WI 54751
715-233-1070 (V/TTY)
715-233-1083 (fax)
800-228-3287 (toll-free)

Tim Sheehan, Executive Director -
sheehan@cilww.com
Kyle Kleist – Assistant Director
Kleist@cilww.com

Counties served: Polk, Barron, Rusk, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin, Eau Claire, Clark

Independent Living Resources (ILR)

www.ilresources.org

Main Office
4439 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-787-1111 (V)
608-787-1148 (TTY)
608-787-1114 (fax)
888-474-5745 (toll-free)

Kathie Knoble-Iverson, Executive Director
kathie.ki@ilresources.org
Sara Eckland, Assistant Director
sara.eckland@ilresources.org

Counties Served: Crawford, Richland, Sauk, Iowa, Grant, LaFayette, Vernon, La Crosse, Monroe, Jackson, Trempealeau, Buffalo, Juneau

IndependenceFirst

www.independencefirst.org

Main Office
540 S. 1st Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
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414-291-7525 (fax)
877-463-3778 (toll-free)

Marci Boucher, President/CEO
mboucher@independencefirst.org
Deb Langham, Chief Operating Officer
dlangham@independencefirst.org
Counties served: Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington and Ozaukee

Midstate Independent Living Choices (MILC)

www.milcinc.net

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3262 Church Street, Suite 1
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715-344-4210 (V/TTY)
715-344-4414 (fax)
800-382-8484 (toll-free)

Zoe Kujawa, Executive Director
zkujawa@milc-inc.org
Eric Riskus, IL Program Director
eriskus@milc-inc.org

Counties Served: Marathon, Wood, Portage, Adams, Taylor, Lincoln, Langlade, Oneida, Vilas, Forest, Florence

North Country Independent Living, Inc. (NCIL)

www.northcountryil.org

Main Office
69 N 28th St, Suite 28
Superior WI 54880
715-392-9118 (V/TTY)
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800-924-1220 (toll-free)

Jill Nyberg, Executive Director
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Liz Gilbertson, Assistant Director
liz@northcountryil.org

Counties served: Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Price, Sawyer, Washburn, Burnett



Options for Independent Living, Inc.

www.optionsil.com

Main Office

555 Country Club Road
P.O. Box 11967
Green Bay, WI 54307
920-490-0500 (V)
920-490-0600 (TTY)
920-490-0700 (fax)
888-465-1515 (toll-free)

Sue Premo, Executive Director

suep@optionsil.org

Sandy Popp, Director of IL Services

sandyp@optionsil.org

*Counties served: Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Brown,
Calumet, Sheboygan, Fond Du Lac, Green Lake,
Marquette, Waushara, Winnebago, Outagamie,
Waupaca, Shawano, Menominee, Oconto, Marinette*

Society's Assets, Inc. (SAI)

www.societysassets.org

Main Office

5200 Washington Ave., Suite 225
Racine, WI 53406
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262-637-8646 (fax)
800-378-9128 (toll-free)

Karl Kopp, Executive Director

kkopp@societysassets.org

Karen Olufs, Director of Independent Living Services

kolufs@societysassets.org

*Counties served: Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, Jefferson,
Rock*



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2920 Schneider Ave SE
Menomonie, WI 54751

2004 Highland Ave Ste H
Eau Claire, WI 54701

312 W. Knapp St.
Rice Lake, WI 54868

Western Wisconsin

January 29, 2020

TO: Wisconsin Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: The Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, Inc. (CILWW)

Kyle Kleist, Assistant Director, kleist@cilww.com; (715) 233-1070

RE: Hearing to Consider Senate Bill 567

Distinguished committee members;

CILWW is a non-profit Independent Living Center providing advocacy and other services in ten counties in West Central Wisconsin for the past 40 years. You have heard testimony already from Directors of the other Independent Living Centers (ILC's) in Wisconsin on the need for the additional funding to allow ILC's to provide all five-core services as required under federal and state statute. This is especially true when providing the new fifth core service of transition, which requires ILC's to work with persons transitioning from institutions. This transition assistance applies not only to persons with disabilities in nursing homes, but also to person in jails and other institutions.

Let me tell you about a unique opportunity that CILWW is engaged in to work directly with persons with disabilities in transitioning from jail in Dunn County. In 2018, Dunn County received a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Justice with a goal of reducing recidivism. Dunn County developed the Jail to Community Reentry program and chose the approach of developing a mentoring program that incorporated persons with lived experience and were also trained Peer Specialists, i.e. persons who had both mental health and substance use and had been in jail. When the county released a request for proposal for agencies to contract in hiring for the Peer Specialist mentor positions, CILWW submitted a proposal that was accepted. This opportunity fits with the new fifth core service requirement of working with persons with disabilities in jails and prisons and with our current strategic plan, which included outreach to persons with disabilities involved in the criminal justice system. In 2018, CILWW worked with the Dunn County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council and Department of Human Services in hiring one fulltime and one part-time Peer Specialist. This has turned out to be a great partnership between the Dunn County Jail, Criminal Justice Collaborating Council, Human Services and our Center.

In what we have come to call our Reentry program, the two Peer Specialists have worked with over 100 self-identified individuals as having mental health or substance use issues. They have worked to provide participants with resources prior to and after release, mentored them in a stable recovery from substance use, and provided classes for both men and women in the jail in dealing with both addiction and trauma. The Peer Specialists work to establish self-identified goals with participants and work with them in both the jail and after release to achieve those goals.



Phone 800.228.3287 | Fax 715.233.1083 | cilww@cilww.com | www.cilww.com

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312 W. Knapp St.
Rice Lake, WI 54868

To date, over 80% of participants involved in the Reentry program have achieved their goals of working on a path toward recovery, receiving needed mental health services, and finding stable housing and employment. Currently it cost \$88.67 per day to keep a person in the Dunn County Jail. For every person the Reentry program works with, think of what a cost savings this is to the taxpayers of Dunn County in the number of persons that are no longer returning to jail and instead moving to a productive life as a taxpayer themselves. If all the ILC's were able to do more outreach with persons with disabilities involved in the criminal justice system, think of the cost savings this would be to the State of Wisconsin. With the additional funding for centers to provide all the core services, including the fifth core service of transition, the network of Centers would be able to do more outreach, training and technical assistance to replicate this very successful pilot initiative.

For CILWW specifically, additional core service dollars would be allocated to expand our program to surrounding counties and engaging the stakeholders in those criminal justice systems. Additionally, it would require hiring additional highly trained individuals with disabilities.

Finally, our center has learned in 40 years of providing services to people of all disabilities of all ages, that a small investment of public resources can lead to significant and long-term savings. The center operates a Personal Services Assistance (PAS) program offering Personal Care, Supportive Home Care, and Respite services. This largely self-directed program allows individuals to remain and thrive in the community of their choice and thus avoiding high-cost institutionalization, largely borne by public taxpayer funds.

Thank you for your time today.

Kyle Kleist, Assistant Director

Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, Inc.

NORTH COUNTRY INDEPENDENT LIVING

Empowering People with Disabilities

69 N. 28th St., Ste 28 Superior, Wisconsin 54880
715-392-9118 V/TTY · 800-924-1220 V/TTY
www.northcountryil.org

Serving Ashland, Bayfield,
Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price,
Sawyer and Washburn Counties

January 29, 2020

To: Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Re: Senate Bill 567

North Country Independent Living staff consists of over 75% people with disabilities. The Board of Director's consists of over 66 % people with disabilities. Our services are provided to people with disabilities in 8 counties, including 4 tribal communities, in rural Northwestern Wisconsin.

The geography of our rural service area consistently requires an average of at least an hour's time of staff travel to meet with consumers, who are people with disabilities, to provide services. This geographical barrier poses a constraint on staff time and agency financial resources. This is just one of the financial challenges many independent living centers deal with on a daily basis. Despite these and other challenges faced in our rural service area, many consumer successes are achieved. With an increase in funding, more of these successes could be achieved on a sustainable basis.

Since July 2015, Independent Living Centers(ILC's) are federally required to provide transition services. Wisconsin statutes require that we follow these federal standards. ILC's have not received an increase in funding to provide these services. One type of transition services involves serving youth with disabilities who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to transition to postsecondary life, including employment, housing and independent living.

North Country Independent Living is also involved and committed to providing services to Native Americans with disabilities in the four tribal communities that are part of our service area. These communities are located in highly rural areas. A 3-year federal demonstration grant has recently ended, making the continuation of services in these communities challenging.

Each year we strive to serve as many people with disabilities as we can within our region of Wisconsin. Unfortunately, we are not able to meet all the needs in our service area. Last year we provided services to 1,033 people. As part of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), we also documented a total of 15,929 unserved people with disabilities in our 8 county service area, as follows: (Ashland-1,744 Bayfield-1,554 Burnett-1,659 Douglas-5,070 Iron-697 Price-1,636 Sawyer-1,806 Washburn-1,763)

A Success Story related to Post-Secondary Youth Transition:

A young man with learning and mental health disabilities, was homeless and barely finished high school but did with North Country's tutoring and guidance. With additional support, he went from couch-hopping to living with a friend in an apartment in Superior, holding a job, and advancing in that employment! With North Country's help, he regained control of his benefits and is wisely utilizing a corporate Representative Payee to do his banking and bill paying - something previously foreign to this young man.

(over)

Another Post-Secondary Youth Transition Success Story:

ILS worked with the Consumer who was 17 years old and in high school and had ADHD. Consumer was unsure what he wanted to do after he graduated. He knew he wanted to be independent, but was not sure how to do so. Consumer worked with ILS to expanded his knowledge on many topics such as independent living skills, money management, and employment. He was able learn in depth about housing, emergency preparedness, where to find resources, rights and responsibilities as a person with a disability, checking and saving accounts, paying bills, scams, SSI benefits, and preparing for employment. Throughout this process he filled out a housing application, went to speak to the landlord where he wanted to move to, and visited his bank to get information about opening his own account. Since ILS worked with this Consumer he has taken charge of his benefits and is now working to move out on his own.

A Success Story from our recent 3-Year Native American Independent Living Grant:

An Independent Living Specialist(ILS) received a call from a Consumer. The Consumer was calling from a mental health crisis bed, following a mental health crisis. The Consumer needs were multiple. Initially, the most urgent was transition from mental health crisis bed to the community as the Consumer experiences chronic homelessness. The ILS found emergency housing resources for the Consumer. The ILS worked with Consumer over several months on Peer Support, Mental Health, Housing, Social Security, and Health Care issues. The Consumer got approved for an apartment despite initial denials and the ILS worked with the Consumer to establish other health supports and needed Social Security appointments.

Another Native American Independent Living Success Story is:

An Independent Living Specialist (ILS) was conducting an outreach on Assistive Technology and encountered a tribal member with a disability. The individual was having difficulty remembering when to take her medications. The ILS worked with the Consumer and Caregiver to find a system to remind and notify the Consumer when it was time to take her medications. After demo and loan of assistive technology items from North Country, the family purchased the items and have been using them successfully.

Supporting Senate Bill 567 is a smart investment for people with disabilities in the state of Wisconsin, including people in rural areas and in tribal communities. There is more work to be done. Please help us to continue doing good things with people with disabilities in northwest Wisconsin.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jill Nyberg
Executive Director
North Country Independent Living

January 29th, 2020

To: The Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Karl Kopp, Executive Director
Society's Assets, 5200 Washington Ave #225, Racine, WI 53406
kkopp@societysassets.org
www.societysassets.org
(262) 637-9128 x 3600

Regarding: Supporting **SB 567** - relating to grants to independent living centers and making an appropriation.

Society's Assets is a nonprofit agency founded in 1974 that serves southeastern Wisconsin. We are part of the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC). There are eight (8) Independent Living Centers (ILCs) in Wisconsin's seventy-two (72) counties. The ILCs provide services, supports, and systems advocacy for people of any age or disability.

As you know, **SB 567** has **bi-partisan** support and needs to move forward out of committee so it can provide the financial resources to:

- 1) **facilitating the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from institutions to home and community-based residences;**
- 2) **providing assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that the individuals may remain in the community; and**
- 3) **facilitating the transition of youth who have significant disabilities to post secondary life.**

Why this is important?

A story pertaining to #1

There is a woman; we will call "Jane", who is in a nursing home. Jane called us asking for help. She requested to go back home to live with her disabled son, and disabled mother. After meeting with Jane, we have taken the lead role in coordinating with all the healthcare stakeholders the transition to have Jane leave the nursing home. The home she wants to transition to needs some modifications. The property owner is more than willing to allow things like the widening of a doorway 4 inches. The cost to be in the nursing home is about \$11,000 month. Jane needs to be back in her own home to help care for her son and mother who are disabled. Jane has another son who will support her as a caregiver. **If Jane does not return home, all three of them will have to go into an institutional setting, which will cost the State about \$30,000/month or \$360,000 a year.**

A story pertaining to #'s 2 and 3

As the Executive Director at Society's Assets, I am thankful for the history of this agency. The story bears repeating. Society's Assets Founder, Dan Johnson, was born Christmas day 1947. He lived with his parents and sisters outside of Racine, Wisconsin. As a high school freshman, Dan played

(side 1 of 2 – see backside)

football and was a member of the wrestling team. On November 22nd, 1963 President John F. Kennedy's was assassinated. The entire country was in shock. However, the decision by Dan's wrestling team to meet that Saturday for practice that would change Dan's life forever. During practice, Dan's wrestling partner came in low. As Dan attempted to jump over him, his legs tangled, and he landed hard between the mats. At that moment, Dan could not move or feel his legs. He had fractured his vertebrae and damaged his spinal cord. He was paralyzed and would not walk again. He would require a wheelchair for mobility and dependence on others for all of his daily activities; bathing, dressing, toileting, and transfers.

In the 1960s, there were few services available for families with a disabled member. Dan's family struggled both financially and emotionally. His parents used the time that Dan was in rehabilitation to modify their house so their son could return home.

After high school graduation, Dan attended the University of Wisconsin–Parkside. Dan's first job was as a manager trainee, and was able to purchase his first home in Racine at the age of 25. Dan made it his life's work to advocate for people with disabilities and to ensure they have access to all opportunities the same as any other person. Dan had many professional accomplishments including: **Founding Society's Assets, one of the first independent living centers (ILCs) in the state; and 36 years of employment at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.** Among his many accomplishments, he and his wife were foster and adoptive parents. He passed away in March 2017. His accomplishments and success was due in part to the support of family and friends. Without that, it could have been a much different story. Imagine if after his injury, he was placed in an institutional setting. **The cost to the State over 56 years would have been estimated at \$3 to \$4 million. This bill will help Independent Living Centers reach out and help the youth of Wisconsin.**

The examples I have shared with you are a very small fraction of the hundreds of issues individuals with disabilities experience in Wisconsin.

Thank you for considering moving forward with this important bi-partisan legislation and for protecting all individuals with disabilities in Wisconsin from not only being placed prematurely in an institutional setting but helping the transition of youth to post-secondary life.



January 29th, 2020

Wisconsin State Senate
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Testin, Chair

Testimony in Support of SB 567

Dear Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Jason Beloungy, and I have the privilege of being the Executive Director of Access to Independence. Access to Independence is the independent living center that serves all of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, and Green counties, which includes the building we are assembled in today. I am also a person with a mental health disability.

As the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC), and as the director of Access to Independence, I am here today to ask for your support of Senate Bill 567.

The independent living network in Wisconsin is a tremendous resource for all people with disabilities, of any age. Through the testimony provided today, you have heard about the value that our eight centers bring by being the only consumer-controlled organizations that cover the entire state of Wisconsin. Being cross-disability, and consumer-run, is impressive, but what's as impressive is the array of quality services that we consistently provide throughout our great state.

Since you have had the opportunity to hear about the direct impact our work has on people's lives, I would like to briefly share an example of the impact our work has on communities served across the state. Independent living centers in Wisconsin provide technical assistance to organizations, programs, and businesses, to ensure that all people with disabilities have equal access. For example, Access to Independence is currently partnering with Downtown Madison Inc, and the City of Madison's Disability Rights Commission. This collaboration is an effort to improve inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities who attend the numerous festivals and events in our capital city. Additionally, Access to Independence is assisting Downtown Madison Inc. with improving the inclusion and accessibility of their numerous monthly meetings and events. That community-impact work is felt by more than those who receive our services, and extends well beyond any reporting period.

Next Page

PHONE: 608.242.8484 **Email:** info@accesstoind.org **Website:** www.accesstoind.org





Access to Independence has the privilege of serving most of Senator Erpenbach's district, and of the counties we serve in his district, we have provided empowerment and independence to nearly 1,500 people with disabilities. While that seems like a solid number of people served by an agency of only 13 people, in four counties, that is only about 2% of all people with disabilities in our region.

Statewide, independent living centers served nearly 22,000 people with disabilities in the last year. That too is a solid number of people, but unfortunately, that is just 3% of people with disabilities statewide. That is why SB 567 is so important. Independent living centers have a tremendous impact, and are a great investment, but are limited by the resources we have. You as legislators can help us have greater impact in all of your districts by passing SB 567, giving us the resources we need to increase the empowerment and independence of people of any type of disability, and of any age.

Thank you,

Jason J. Beloungy, Executive Director
Access to Independence, Inc.

jasonb@accesstoind.org

608-242-8484, ext. 233

608-445-8250

Next Page

PHONE: 608.242.8484 Email: info@accesstoind.org Website: www.accesstoind.org





The Arc Wisconsin
P.O. Box 201
Stoughton, WI 53589

T 608.422.4250
Lisa Pugh, State Director
pugh@thearc.org
arcwi.org

January 30, 2020

To: Senator Testin, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Lisa Pugh, Executive Director - The Arc Wisconsin

Re: Support for SB 567 - grants to independent living centers

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony today on SB 567.

The Arc Wisconsin is a statewide organization that advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. We have 14 Wisconsin chapters and are connected to a network of more than 600 chapters across the country. The Arc is the oldest and largest disability rights advocacy organization in the nation.

Wisconsin Independent Living Center (ILC) services are extremely valuable to people with I/DD in their local communities because their services are available to people throughout the lifespan, there are no income eligibility restrictions and services are provided statewide. This meets a need particularly throughout rural Wisconsin where few other disability organizations have a presence.

ILCs in Wisconsin serve more than 1,100 people with I/DD annually which amounts to about one-third of all the people with disabilities they support. They have assisted nearly 1000 people with disabilities overall to access or retain employment.

Since 2015, due to the passage of the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA), ILCs across Wisconsin have been charged with supporting youth with significant disabilities to transition to postsecondary life, including employment. This has been a critical area of need as prior to passage of WIOA, few youth with I/DD had the supports required to get a community job.

Since the passage of WIOA and with the help of transition education and support from ILCs, Wisconsin youth are getting more work experiences, particularly during the summer when school is out, resulting in better overall post-school employment outcomes. In 2017 alone the percentage of youth with intellectual disabilities engaged in work or post school education increased to 71.6% (up from 66% in 2014).

All 8 ILCs continue to experience an increase in requests for services each year (reporting an average increase in core services of more than 200% in the last 20 years), yet funding has not increased in that same timeframe. ILCs need additional state funding in order to continue to adequately support people with I/DD.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Independent Living Centers (ILCs)

help people of all ages with all types of disabilities live independently at home in the communities of their choice.

Service Outcomes

- 18,375 people received Information and/or Referrals
- 3,748 people received IL Skills Training
- 1,014 people received Peer Support
- 1,829 people received Individual Advocacy
- 4,460 hours of Community and Systems Advocacy resulted in accessibility of public services and businesses.

Community Living

- 2,131 people received housing services including identifying preferences and resources, locating assistance, determining affordability and assessing safety.
- 11,025 people received transportation services, including help with rights and funding.
- 3,420 people received assistance finding personal and supportive homecare.

Economic Support

- 172 people with disabilities, the majority of staff, were employed by the ILCs.
- 764 people with disabilities received employment services.
- 1,396 people with disabilities received services to reduce public benefits by returning to work.

Assistive Technology

- 9,501 people received Assistive Technology and Home Modifications (AT) services to help them live independently .
- 23 people acquired AT through micro-loans administered by ILCs, borrowing \$292,133.

www.Wis-IL.net



The ILCW coordinates the development and evaluates implementation of Wisconsin's State Plan for Independent Living. It also collaborates with other stakeholders and disability organizations in support of the plan objectives.

Our Vision

Full inclusion of people with disabilities in society.

Independent Living Council of Wisconsin, Inc.

3810 Milwaukee Street
Madison, WI 53714
Voice/Relay: 608-256-9257
Toll Free: 866-656-4010
ilcw@ilcw.org
ILCW.Wis-IL.net



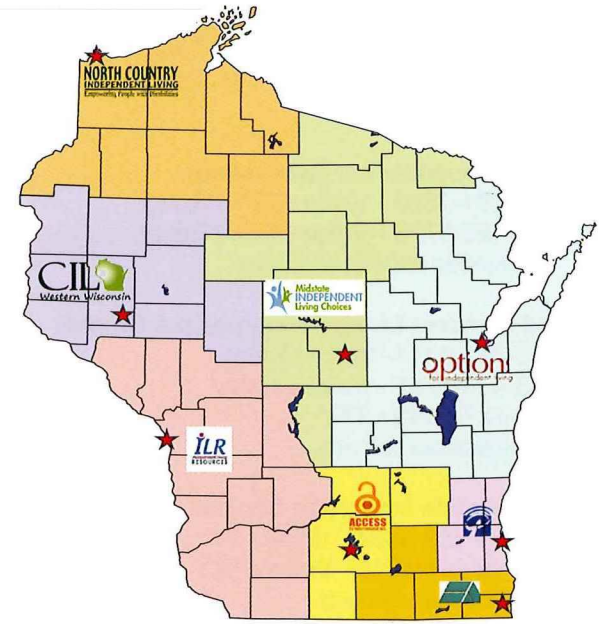
The Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC) is the not for profit statewide association of the eight ILCs in Wisconsin. WCILC facilitates and promotes the collective work of the Wisconsin ILCs through a unified statewide voice.

Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers

3810 Milwaukee Street
Madison, WI 53714
Voice/Text: 608-444-3842
moryan@charter.net
WCILC.Wis-IL.net



Wisconsin Independent Living Network Centers Coalition Council



Resources for Living Independently with a Disability

All Ages
All Disabilities

www.Wis-IL.net

Wisconsin Independent Living Centers (ILCs)



Access to Independence (Madison)
608-242-8484 - Voice / Relay
800-362-9877 - Voice / Relay
608-234-4484 - Videophone
www.accesstoind.org



Center for Ind. Living for Western WI (Menomonie)
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www.cilww.com



IndependenceFirst (Milwaukee)
414-291-7520 - Voice / TTY / Relay
877-463-3778 - Voice / TTY / Relay
www.independencefirst.org



Independent Living Resources (La Crosse)
608-787-1111 - Voice / Relay
888-474-5745 - Voice / Relay
608-787-1148 - TTY
www.ilresources.org



Midstate Ind. Living Choices (Stevens Point)
800-382-8484 - Voice / TTY / Relay
715-344-4210 - Voice / TTY / Relay
www.milc-inc.org



North Country Independent Living (Superior)
800-924-1220 - Voice / TTY / Relay
715-392-9118 - Voice / TTY / Relay
www.northcountryil.org



Options for Independent Living (Green Bay)
888-465-1515 - Voice / Relay
920-490-0500 - Voice / Relay
920-490-0600 - TTY
www.optionsil.com

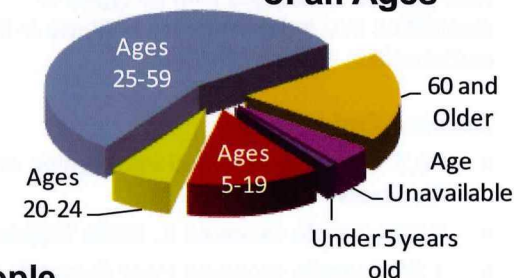


Society's Assets, Inc. (Racine)
262-637-9128 -Voice /TTY/Relay
800-378-9128 -Voice/TTY/Relay
www.societysassets.org

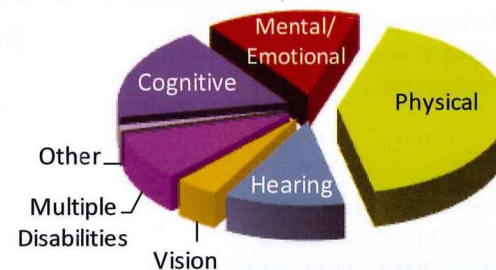
ILCs promote and practice the independent living philosophy

- **Consumer Control:** People with disabilities control the ILC *and* their services
 - Consumers control their services
 - Most staff, including management, have a disability
 - Governed by Board of Directors, most of whom have a disability
- **Self-advocacy**
- **Development of peer relationships, mutual assistance and peer role models**
- **Equal access for individuals with disabilities in society, to all services, programs, activities, and facilities, whether public or private, regardless of the funding source**

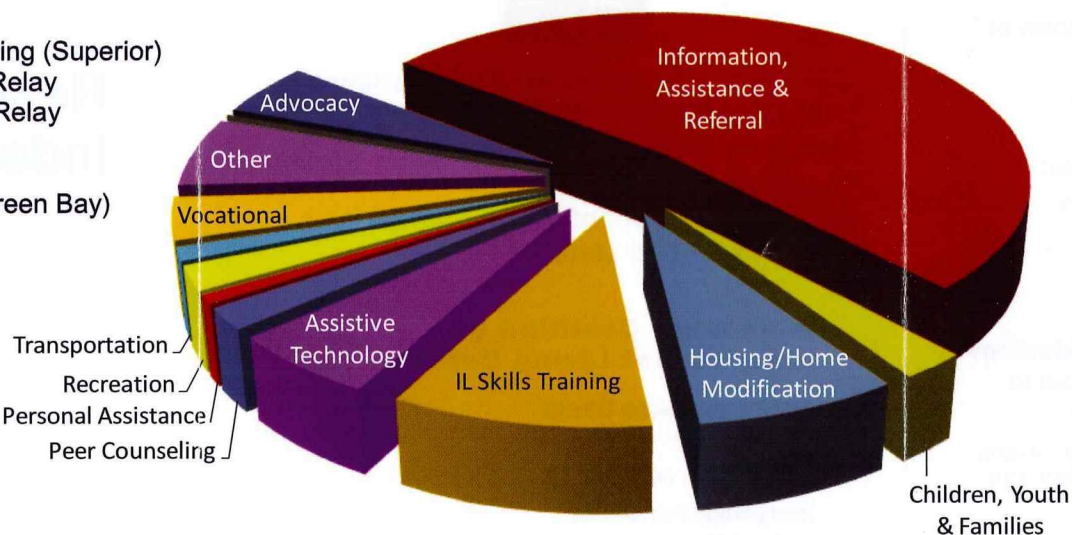
ILCs Serve People of all Ages



ILCs Serve People with all Disabilities



Individual Services



Services at all ILCs

- Information, Assistance and Referral
- Peer Support
- Individual & Systems Advocacy
- Independent Life Skills Training
- Services that promote access to community life for people leaving school or institutions or at risk of institutionalization

All Wisconsin ILCs provide Assisted Technology, Community Education and other services

Contact your local ILC