

NICIL

*Northwestern Illinois
Center for Independent Living*

Serving NW Illinois since 1985
Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living
412 Locust St.
Sterling, IL 61081
815-625-7860 or visit our website at www.nicil.org

Programs:

Programs Offered at NICIL:

- Personal Assistance Program
- Community Reintegration Program
- Independent Living Program
- Education and Outreach Programs
- Deaf Services Program

Detailed information regarding Programs is located under separate cover.

Services:

Services Offered at NICIL:

- Advocacy
- Peer Support
- Information and Referral
- Independent Living Skills
- Transitional Services

Detailed information regarding Services is located under separate cover.

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Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living (NICIL)
Programs and Services

Programs

Personal Assistance Program

The Home Services Program (HSP) offers individuals with disabilities, who are at risk of unnecessary institutionalization, the alternative of in-home assistance where home care does not exceed the cost of a health care facility. HSP does provide an option, which addresses needs, and preferences that allows the individual to enhance their abilities and lead a more satisfying life.

In addition NICIL trains Personal Assistants who an important part of the success of the consumer abilities to live their independent lives. A Personal Assistant {PA} is an individual who assists people with disabilities activities of daily living that a person with a disability cannot do themselves. This service allows individual to remain in their home and live independently is our Personal Assistant Program.

Community Reintegration Program (CRP)

Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living (NICIL) Community Reintegration Program (CRP) is designed to reintegrate individuals between the ages of 18 to 59 who are interested in moving back into the community from a nursing facility setting. The Illinois Department of Human Services – Division of Rehabilitation Services (DHS/DRS) and the Illinois Housing Development Authority, funds these programs. CRP is able to provide services and purchase items to establish a home in the community. The program is partially reimbursed by Medicaid.

Our goal is to identify the services and support systems that a nursing facility resident may need in order to move into his or her residence and to live independently again. This may include a series of independent living skills trainings.

The Community Reintegration Program is intended to be a ONE-TIME only process to help with the initial set up of basic living arrangements. When a referral to the program is received, our CRP Specialist will meet with the potential participant, explain the program, and assess the need for the services and support the individual will require for a successful transition.

This program is very well organized, monitored, and regulated so that those individuals who do qualify for the program will have a successful transition. The program will includes family involvement, additional independent skills training, and more support for other NICIL programs to enhance the success rate for each individual.

Education and Outreach Program

Educating the world about people with disabilities, the barriers and challenges to be faced, and conquered them is an important role for NICIL. We offer a variety of education programs and we continue to look for the opportunities that satisfy our consumers.

Deaf Service

A Deaf Services Coordinator is available to educate the community at large through custom designed presentations or training including but not limited to:

- TTY Training
- Sensitivity Training
- ADA Title II responsibilities
- Obtaining interpreter services

Our Deaf Services coordinator works with our deaf and hard of hearing consumers and incorporates all of the NICIL programs into this work as necessary.

As with any program at NICIL our consumers are the driving focus in the decision making process of deciding what programs or service that is needed/necessary for their success. The NICIL team is the supporting factor in the process.

Services

Advocacy

NICIL will advocate for the implementation of current laws, promotion of needed legislation and improvement of existing systems for people with disabilities while working to diminish negative attitudes that may threaten to impeded equal access.

Individual advocacy includes:

- Helping people find appropriate resources to solve problem
- Assisting people with disabilities in dealing with conflicts
- Helping people to find ways to negotiate various support systems

Systemic advocacy includes changes on a broad level:

- Working with community at large to remove both physical and attitudinal barriers that prevent people with disabilities from accessing and participating in our community
- Working with local authorities to improve the enforcement of ADA and other relevant laws
- Building strong relationship with local, state, and federal elected officials

Peer Support

NICIL has a deep understanding of the needs and solutions to advance the lives of people with disabilities. At NICIL, a majority (51% or more) of our staff and Board of Directors have a disability. NICIL is a team of determined and caring individuals prepared to arm consumers with the tools and expectations necessary for them to guide their life now and in the future.

Peer support is an integral part of the independent living philosophy.

There are times when people with disabilities simply need the assistance of someone who has faced similar barriers and successfully achieved their goals. Peer support is not designed to replace professional counseling but it can serve as an additional support in improving the lives of people with disabilities. Support can come from one-on-one peer work with NICIL staff, board members, consumers, or community support groups.

Information and Referral

Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living (NICIL) responds to inquiries from people with disabilities, family members, other service providers, the business community, and the public on programs, resources and other issues related to disabilities.

Questions cover a broad range of disabilities – related topics including, but not limited to:

- Accessibility Requirement
- Personal Assistive Technology
- Employment Services
- Accessibility Housing
- Transportation
- Community resources

We do more! We encourage our customers and their families to call the NICIL office for additional support.

Independent Living Skills Training

NICIL's Independent Living Skills Training work with our consumers to achieve empowerment for people with disabilities to attain new skills and techniques so they are able to participate in daily living, recreational/social opportunities, and vocational/volunteering activities. Working with the consumer we develop a skills goal that they want to achieve.

In addition to our core focus areas we offer program areas that include: Personal Assistance (PA Services), Community Reintegration Program, and Education/Outreach programs.

Transitional Service

The newest of our services at NICIL is actually services we have been providing for many years. Transitional services can best be described as consumers at a stage in which support from NICIL can add to the next phase in their lives or deflect. There are three (3) section of this service:

- Nursing Home Deflection – preventing a nursing home stay with help in the consumers home which is what we accomplish now in our Personal Assistance Program
- Community Reintegration – moving back into the community from a nursing home which is our program call Community Reintegration
- Transitional services – which is the support of a student from age 14 years till 22 years (less 1 day before their 22nd birthday) transitioning from high school to college or employment. This service includes NICIL but may also include other programs such as the school district, DORS Step Program, and many others

NICIL team members provide these services to our consumers as they desire and are ever mindful of the consumer control first and foremost.

Programs and services offered at NICIL are funded through a contract from the State of Illinois- Department of Human Services.