

Local Resources

One of the five (5) core services provided at Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living (NICIL) is Information and Referral (I&R) Services. While we do our best to assist every individual with disabilities and their communities who contact NICIL, we are only able to provide so many services and resources.

Here is a list of some of the community partner agencies whom we work with to provide services that we are unable to provide in-house at NICIL. Please note, this list is not exclusive and is ever growing / being updated. For more information on a partner agency listed below or for personalized resources, contact the office at 815-625-7860.

Illinois Department of Human Services - <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx>

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) provides a variety of wavier program and services related to an individual's health and overall well-being. Some examples of what you may work with DHS for include assistance with the cost of childcare (Child Care Resource & Referral), applying for Medicaid or SNAP benefits (Family Community Resource Center), help looking for work or in home care if you are a person with disabilities (Rehabilitation Services), Mental Health Services, and much more.

For a full list of services provided by DHS or to find your local office, visit <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12>

IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services - <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/?item=29727>

NICIL is a sub-contractor of the IDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services, who are also known as DRS or DORS. DRS provides employment services (Vocational Rehab) as well as in home care (Home Services Program) for individuals with disabilities. One of the purposes of DRS is to keep individuals with disabilities, who do not need full time care, out of long-term care facilities and to promote independent living. For more information about DRS or to apply for services, contact our office.

Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (INCIL) - <https://incil.org/>

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are a federal requirement and are in each of the 50 states across the United States. CILs are non-residential, community based, social service agencies run for people with disabilities by people with disabilities. There are currently 22 Centers for Independent Living in Illinois. Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (INCIL) is a collaboration of all of the CILs in Illinois. INCIL provides resources and helps the Centers advocate for services for people with disabilities.

Illinois State Board of Education - <https://www.isbe.net/>

The Illinois State Board of Education provides resources related to education for teachers as well as parents. Resources include information about Supporting Educators, Special Education Law / Services, Nutrition Department, and so much more. When working with families to provide IEP Advocacy and Support, NICIL often

recommends referring to the ISBE website for the “Parents Guide to Special Education” handbook as well as conflict resolution process which could include filing a complaint.

Lifescape Community Services - <https://lifescapeservices.org/>.

Lifescape provides the Community Care Program (CCP) under the Department of Aging (DOA) for most of Northwestern Illinois. Lifescape works with seniors to provide in home care, nutrition services, adult day program, senior mental health services, and more. Not every program is offered in every county but they cover the service area of Boone, Carroll, Dekalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties. Lifescape also acts as the Adult Protective Services (APS) agency, taking concerns of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of senior citizens or individuals with disabilities.

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency (NICAA) - <https://nicaa.org/>

Similar to Tri County, NICAA provides the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program for Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties. They also offer Golden Meals, a home delivery meal service for seniors, LIHEAP, Home Repair and Accessibility program, as well as additional services.

Senior Resource Center - <https://www.seniorresourcecenter.net/>

Similar to Lifescape, Senior Resource Center (SR Center) is the Community Care Program (CCP) for Jo Daviess and Stephenson County. They also provide Adult Protective Services (APS) receiving calls of concern for abuse, neglect, and exploitation for individuals with disabilities and senior citizens living in Jo Daviess or Stephenson Counties. Along with being the CCP and APS agency, SR Center provides Case Management, Information and Assistance, Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) (Medicare Counseling), Transportation, and other services.

Sinnissippi Centers - <https://sinnissippi.org/>

Sinnissippi Centers Inc. provides a variety of services for individuals of all ages focusing on behavioral healthcare. Along with providing counseling services in an individual or group setting, they also own multiple Recovery Homes, and offer a Peer Support program. Sinnissippi Centers also have a supervised living apartment in all of the counties that they cover which includes Carroll, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties.

Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois (SILC) - <https://silcofillinois.org/>

The mission of SILC is to provide leadership, research, planning and education required to support independent living services in Illinois.

Tri County Opportunities Council - <https://tcochelps.org/>

Some of the programs offered at Tri County include the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Housing program, LIHEAP (heating assistance), Weatherization, Foster Grandparent Program, and more. The cover Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside Counties.