

MONTANA CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

ADVOCACY AND RESOURCE CENTERS

FOR MONTANANS WITH DISABILITIES

LIFTT | MILP | NCILS | SUMMIT

Independent Living is a philosophy and a movement of people with disabilities who work for self-determination, equal opportunities and self-respect for all people with disabilities. Independent Living means being in control of your own life, taking responsibility for your own actions, taking risks, and having the right to either fail or succeed on your own terms. It means participating in community life and pursuing activities based entirely upon self-determined interests and preferences. People want to grow up and live with our own families, go to the neighborhood school, use the same bus as our neighbors, work in jobs that are in line with our education and interests while being fairly and competitively compensated, and be able to start and raise families of our own.

To support these goals, Montana's Centers for Independent Living (CILs), non-residential, consumer-controlled, community-based, private, non-profit organizations that provide individual and systems advocacy services by and for persons with all types of disabilities, work with individuals of all ages and types of disabilities to obtain the services they need to preserve their right to choose, to live, and to fully and equally participate in society. CILs serve as a strong voice on a wide range of national, state and local issues and work to assure physical, attitudinal, and programmatic access to housing, employment, transportation, communities, recreation, and health and social services.

Montana's four Centers for Independent Living are:

Living Independently For Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT)

- Billings, serving 18 Southeastern Montana Counties

Montana Independent Living Project (MILP)

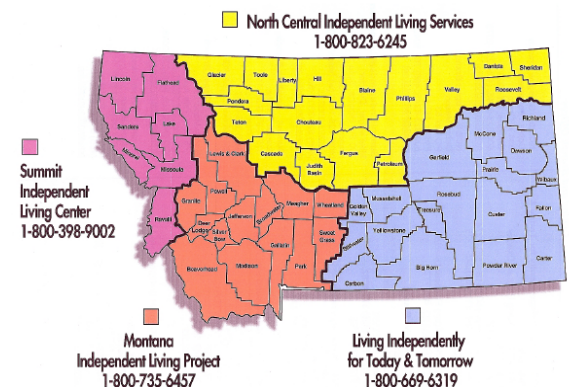
- Helena, serving 14 Southwest Montana Counties

North Central Independent Living Services (NCILS)

- Great Falls, serving 17 North Central and Eastern Montana Counties

Summit Independent Living Center

- Missoula, serving 7 Western Montana Counties



Legislative Priorities:

- ➔ To maintain current services and restore funding levels for **Home and Community-Based Service waiver slots** that are currently filled and being utilized. This includes providing funding for 80 slots that were appropriated during the 2009 session with OTO funds and reinstating the 2.22% funding reduction that was a part of the 5% reduction plan.
- ➔ To reinstate the 2.22% funding reduction to **Personal Assistance Services** that was a part of the 5% reduction plan that would reduce the amount of time PAS consumers have for meals to 4 hours per week or 11.5 minutes per meal.
- ➔ To maintain **Medicaid provider rates** at their current 2010 level over the next biennium rather than retracting those rates to 2009 levels and to support the continuation of funding for the **Health Care for Health Care Workers** program to provide health insurance coverage for direct care workers in Montana.
- ➔ To support the passage of HB 485, which appropriates \$50,000/year of the biennium to support the **Montana Youth Transitions Project**, creating a seamless system of support among families, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies for youth going through the transition from high school to adult life.
- ➔ To support the funding request for the **Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities** program, which has been a highly successful program thus far and is vital for Montanans with disabilities to be able to go or return to work
- ➔ To ensure that any **mail balloting** legislation include provisions that guarantee accessibility in voting and all other electoral processes for people with disabilities, especially the right to a private, accessible ballot.
- ➔ To prevent the state from turning the Medicaid program over to a private, for-profit managed care firm, which has not had adequate, meaningful stakeholder involvement or planning on how such a change would affect long-term care services and the community jobs in this industry, which add millions per year to local Montana economies.