



Building Awareness & Advocating Change for People with Disabilities



Support the READI Act

The Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion for Disasters (READI) Act provides solutions for persons with disabilities and older adults during the ever-increasing number of disasters in the United States.

This bill would equip states with greatly needed services during an era when natural disasters repeatedly occur and wreak havoc on persons with disabilities. The consequence of lacking necessary services leaves states in a vulnerable place: financial situations are worsened and thousands upon thousands of residents are left in precarious situations.

The READI Act will take steps to preemptively address such problems for persons with disabilities; the bill establishes accommodations and policies to adequately serve Americans with disabilities during such crises.

Go to <https://www.summitilc.org/actionalerts/> and let Congress know you support this vital piece of legislation that reinforces the rights and needs of people with disabilities, older adults, and others with access and functional needs before, during, and after disasters and emergencies.

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New Advocacy Campaign 5 For 5!

The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) is leading a nationwide effort to ask Congress to invest \$500 million in community living & independence for people with disabilities.

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) have been underfunded for decades, leading to individuals with disabilities lacking access to critical services and support! Many areas in the U.S., especially in rural communities, do not have access to a CIL. CILs need more funding in order to expand their service areas to address unmet needs.

CILs enable individuals with disabilities to live in their homes with their families where they can work, attend school, worship, and participate in other community activities. CILs are hubs of disability information, resources, services, and advocacy. CILs are vital to the whole community. They also create tremendous savings for taxpayers.

To learn more about NCIL's 5 for 5 advocacy campaign to find out how you can get involved, please visit NCIL's 5 for 5 campaign website at <https://5for5campaign.com/>



Montana Legislature 2023

House Bill 747

HB 747 is a bill that would update Montana's disability parking laws by increasing the fine for individuals who illegally park in disability accessible parking.

HB 747 is a much needed update to Montana law and aside from increasing the potential penalty for those who may illegally park in a disability accessible parking space/access aisle, it helps to provide much clarity to disability parking laws that have long been confusing and hard for law and parking enforcement officials to enforce.

HB 747 has passed the House and was heard in the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee on March 30 where it is currently awaiting executive action.

House Bill 2

HB 2, which is the state's budget bill, has passed through the House and Section B, the section that funds the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is currently scheduled for hearings in the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, April 6.

HB 2 contains funding for all divisions within DPHHS, including funding for several IL priorities such as funding for the Guidehouse provider rate study for home and community-based services, such as Community First Choice and Medicaid Waiver programs, Vocational Rehabilitation, the Montana Telecommunications Access program, Independent Living, and more.

We encourage all interested parties to ask legislators, and specifically members of the Senate Finance Committee, to fully fund disability programs contained within HB 2. This includes fully funding the Guidehouse provider rate study, funds for 8 rehabilitation technicians within Vocational Rehabilitation, and reversing the reduction of funds for the Montana Telecommunications Access program. You may visit <https://www.summitilc.org/actionalerts/> to learn more about contacting legislators.



Please Support HCBS Funding for Seniors and People with Disabilities

People with disabilities rely on Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) to live independently in their communities. HCBS help people with disabilities with everyday support, like getting around the community, employment support, dressing, bathing, taking medication, and much more!

But due to the fact that Medicaid must fund institutions, and home and community-based services are optional, states don't have the funding to support everyone in the community. This means that:

Over 650,000 people are stuck on waiting lists, Direct care workers are underpaid due to stagnant wages, and too often, unpaid family caregivers are filling in the gaps in service – it's a crisis!

We need Congress to take action NOW.

Go to <https://www.summitilc.org/actionalerts/> to ask your members of Congress to support the Better Care Betters Jobs Act, which will help to fund HCBS by putting \$300 billion toward these critical programs, because #CareCantWait.



MISSOULA GIVES

"Missoula Gives is just around the corner, and it's more important than ever to get involved and spread the word. In case you did not know, Missoula Gives (also in conjunction with Bitterroot Gives) is a great opportunity for the local community to give to nonprofits in the area. Any nonprofit can sign up and can benefit from Missoula's philanthropic community.

Last year, we raised an incredible \$11,257 with the help of our generous supporters! We are so grateful for your support, and hope to see you again May 4th and 5th, where we plan to reach our \$15,000 goal.

We encourage you to help us spread the word and create your own fundraising campaign to aid us in raising funds. If you head over to Summit's page on the Missoula Gives

website, located at <https://www.missoulagives.org/organizations/summit-independent-living>, you can click the "Fundraise" button at the top of the page. There you can fill out your information and set a goal for yourself on how much you'd like to raise on behalf of Summit. Tell your story and encourage your family and friends to donate. Every dollar helps us to better serve Missoula's disabled community through our programming, events, and services!

Be sure to check out the campaigns created by other organizations for inspiration, or email Madison Morgan at mmorgan@summitilc.org if you have any questions or need help. Thank you all for your continued support of our efforts. We look forward to seeing the impact you all can make this Missoula Gives."

SUMMIT STAFF

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Aleyna Raymond

Ravalli County

County Coordinator

Alan Fugleberg

Independent Living Specialist

Alice Mainwaring

Peer Support Specialist

Mary Millin

Lake County

Independent Living Specialist

Susan Morris

Independent Living Specialist

Mariah Armstrong



Ronan Office Update

The Lake / Sanders County office in Ronan reopened on February 3 to provide in-person independent living services, and activities. General public office hours are from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. Alan Fugleberg, Ravalli County Coordinator, is serving as Interim Lake/Sanders County Coordinator. He works from the Ronan office two days per week, usually on Mondays and Tuesdays.

During the winter months, the Ronan office hosted a Kootenai language class, presented by Alexis Johnson, and a Salish Language class, presented by Camas McClure that have now ended. The Arts and Crafts group continues to meet in-person on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

Mariah Armstrong-Johnson, IL Specialist; and Allyshia Manuel, Peer Advocate, participated at the Go Red for Women event at Kwataqnuq Resort in Polson on February 10. And Alan Fugleberg, Interim County Coordinator participated in the Lake County Spring Job Fair in Polson in March.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the Ronan office's ability to engage in public outreach across Lake and Sanders counties. A rigorous outreach campaign is in the beginning stages across the Ronan office's service area. The Ronan office recently joined the Ronan Chamber of Commerce, and Polson Chamber of Commerce, and staff will be participating in Chamber and other community activities in the coming months. The Ronan office will be participating in Polson High School's first Navigating the Road to Life Transition Fair on May 12 at the Polson Boys and Girls Club.

For more information please call 406-215-1604



SUMMIT BOARD

Molly Blair
Susanne Meikle
Gabrielle Broere
Peter Drakos

Michelle McLane
Kelly Sellars
Sherene Ricci
Tom Seekins

Hamilton Office Update

The Ravalli County office has been busy with a number of community activities. For example, in January, Ravalli County Staff and Peer advocates participated in Legislative Day in Hamilton. Moreover, in March, IL Specialist Alice Mainwaring, and our new Peer Advocate, Gerald Mainwaring participated in the Scott Street walk audit in Missoula that promoted accessibility for community planning efforts taking place in the Northside Neighborhood.

The Ravalli County office in Hamilton is offering additional activities in The Refuge. These include the HERO squad that meets on the first and third Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Art Expressions that meets on Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.; People First meets on Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., and Thank Goodness It's Art Friday continues to meet on Fridays from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The Hamilton office expects to add additional activities later this spring.

Long-time Summit employee Mary Millin is now serving as Peer Support Specialist. In her new role, she will be assisting with coordinating peer meetings and activities in Ravalli County. The Ravalli County office recently welcomed two new peer advocates. They are Gerald Mainwaring, as was mentioned earlier, and Dominick Silverio.

For more information please call 406-363-5242

Kalispell Office Update

As the temperatures rise and the snow begins to fade away we start thinking about outdoor activities, spring flowers, and summertime barbecues. We also start thinking about Summit activities.

Our peer advocates are meeting monthly and they are planning an in-person art group which will be starting up in May! For this art group we plan to incorporate recycled materials into our art projects. Recycling turns things into other things, which is like magic!

Our youth group, YODA, continues to meet in person twice a month. We enjoyed a Valentine's party in February and have welcomed a few new members.

For more information or if you are interested in joining us for the YODA meetings or Art group please call Please contact Dianna at:

406-257-0048, ext. 3.

Help Build the Future of Summit



For nearly 42 years, Summit Independent Living has provided a wide range of services designed to give people with disabilities the tools needed to improve self-determination, self-confidence, self-responsibility, and gain knowledge, skills and access to community resources in order to help facilitate and encourage all people with disabilities to take charge over their own lives.

Currently, Summit's Missoula operations are divided between two hard-to-find locations. While the need for our services and the popularity of our activities continue to grow, our current offices have no room for program expansion and lack direct access from public transportation routes. That is why our non-profit purchased a highly visible and readily accessible property on South Russell Street with plans to build a new building to better serve and advocate for western Montana residents with disabilities. Then COVID-19, along with other tragedies, struck that forced us into a holding pattern.

Now, we are seeking your input as we build back up and look towards the future of what Summit looks like, where our home resides, as well as where and how we can best be of service to people with disabilities and the communities we serve. Summit dreams of bringing all of our Missoula operations under one roof, joining a neighborhood of thriving community non-profit partners, and establishing a permanent home that serves as a model for inclusivity that allows consumers, staff, and the community to thrive with dignity and enable people to make vital connections and live their lives to the fullest. A forever home that is tailor-made for all abilities where community members can easily reach us via bus, trail, and bike as well as a home that generates new possibilities for collaboration, creativity, public events, and more.

As we start anew in figuring out what the future holds for Summit, we are excited to engage you in helping us develop this community vision and finding a forever home for Summit's core services and our popular social engagement and activity center, BASE, that will meet all of our current and future space needs, allow Summit to become more centrally located and ingrained within the Missoula community, and where we can carry out our mission and the philosophy of independent living more effectively.

Please join us on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, from 4pm to 6pm in the Cooper Space at the Missoula Public Library, located at 455 E. Main St., for a community visioning meeting to help Summit plan for the future and determine what lies ahead on our path forward to finding our forever home, whether that is continuing to pursue a new building on South Russell Street, or something different entirely.

In preparation for the meeting, we ask that you consider what Summit means to you, your loved ones, and the community as a whole. Has Summit helped you and/or your family live more independently, brought you a sense of friendship and belonging, or inspired you to be more active in your community? How does all of this translate into what Summit's future holds and how can we incorporate all of these things into a forever home that provides dignity for people with disabilities and is welcoming of all community members? We invite you to come share your story, your thoughts, and your ideas and together we will reach new summits.

For more information, please contact Tami Hoar at 406-728-1630.



BASE EVENTS

725 West Alder, #4 Missoula, MT

BASE stands for home base, like in hide and go seek. In life, you have to establish a BASE first, that's where we come in.

All Abilities Yoga on Zoom

Wednesdays 4pm-5pm

BASE Game Night

(Call to verify dates and times)

Art Group

Fridays 1pm-3pm

Acting Workshop

Select Fridays 4pm-5pm (Call for Details)

BASE Film Crew (Call for Details)

FREE Improv Workshop

Every Thursday (Call for Details)

BOLD Group

2nd Wednesday monthly 5:30-7:30pm (Call for Details)

For BASE schedule updates and additional events go to

www.summitilc.org/calendar

or check the BASE Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/base725>

To get involved or to share ideas of new BASE programs, contact BASE jhoward@summitilc.org.

Contact BASE:

www.basemissoula.org

Phone: 406-215-1080

CLASSIFIED ADS

2014 Dodge VMI Conversion Van

Grand Caravan, 59,000 miles
\$30,000 obo, call: 406-543-2345

Shoprider power chair

300lb capacity. Needs battery & charger.
Free (406) 728-1630

Symmetry Stander, Quickie Powerchair, Invacare Powerbed, Hoyer lift

Comfortable, easy-to-use seat stander Call/leave message: Tejeanne (406) 865-0221

Power Scooter

\$500 obo. Please contact Adrian:
(406) 263-8650

Adult Tricycle

Schwinn 26" tricycle, bike pump included.
\$500obo (406) 721-1698

Wheelchair Lift

Ricon wheelchair lift model #S1231
G00100100. \$400obo.
Contact: Cory (406) 471-3314

Silver Spring wheelchair ramp 10' L x 36" W

Made of high-strength light weight aluminum. \$297obo. Contact:
tamera144@gmail.com or 406-363-4898

Smart Talker text scanner

Slightly used, \$700. Contact Larry at 406-633-4036 or ketch1969@gmail.com

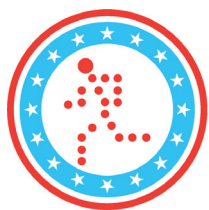
Nova Walker, Quontum 600 power wheelchair, Commode, 2 Transfer Benches, Beezy Manual Wheelchair. Call Gary (406) 224-5527 or garylee032051@gmail.com

Garaventa Super-Trac Portable Wheelchair Lift for stairs. Purchased new for \$12,000 and used only a few times. Will sell for \$2,500 OBO. Contact Jacob Francom, Troy Public Schools, jfrancom@troyk12.org, (406) 295-4520.

To get listed contact Tyler Stosich at (406) 728-1630 or email tstosich@summitilc.org.

Or, list and find items on the MonTECH exchange: <http://montech.ruralinstitute.umd.edu/mtdb/>

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NW ASSOCIATION
FOR
BLIND
ATHLETES

MISSOULA BEGINNER HIKE

Northwest Association for Blind Athletes is organizing a group hike for community members that are 18 years and older with a visual impairment or blindness.

Terrain:

Up to 9.8 miles and follows a paved walking path.

There is an elevation gain of 226 feet.

Where:

Kim Williams Nature Trail John H Toole Riverfront Park (via S 4th St E)
Missoula, MT 59801

When:

Sunday, April 16, 2023 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Registration is due by Monday, April 10, 2023.

To register, please call or email Casey Prentice

Phone: 208.609.3873

Email: cprentice@nwaba.org

<https://nwaba.org/events/montana/>

BECOME AN ADVOCATE



Scan to sign up for email alerts, view posted alerts, or even see what legislation we are tracking.



The Montana Centers for Independent Living Action Alert system is an email listserv and online portal designed to inform you about current local, state, and national issues that affect the lives of people with disabilities.

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