

Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council

Helping people with disabilities live independently

INDEPENDENT LIVING PHILOSOPHY

The independent living movement is based on the philosophy that people with all types of disabilities should have the same civil rights as those without disabilities. They have a right to control their lives, based on a choice of options that minimizes their reliance on others.

HISTORY

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended in Section 705, required the establishment of the Statewide Independent Living Council. The Centers for Independent Living were founded in the late 1960's at University of California at Berkeley. Federal funding for operations for independent living became available in 1978.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership consists of a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 22 persons with a minimum of 51 percent being persons with significant disabilities. Members represent a range of geographical areas and disabilities. The governor of Missouri appoints the membership.

PURPOSE

- To develop, sign and submit in cooperation with Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB), the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).
- To monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL.
- To support the Centers for Independent Living (CIL) and advocate for disability rights and related issues.
- To gather and disseminate information, conduct studies and analyses, develop model policies, conduct training on IL issues, provide outreach to unserved and underserved populations, and to work to expand and improve Independent Living services.