



Doing our part to stop the spread

DIRECT

Center for Independence

ENCOURAGE - EQUIP - EMPOWER

#stopthespread



About Our Center

Founded in 1980, DIRECT is a private, nonprofit organization **operated by and for people with disabilities**. DIRECT is part of a national network of Centers for Independent Living (CIL) focusing on:

- Advocating for disability rights and justice
- Empowering individuals to achieve independent living goals

DIRECT collaborates at the local, state, and national levels to advance the disability rights movement. With our mission, vision, values, and services grounded in the Independent Living philosophy, DIRECT dedicates its efforts to ensuring people with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of life.

Our Mission

DIRECT Center for Independence, Inc. advocates voice, choice and independence for people with disabilities.

Our Vision

Universal access and opportunity for all people with disabilities.

See next page for a list of programs and services →



Your Voice • Your Choice • Your Life

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Our Programs & Services

Core Services (provided by every CIL nationwide)

- 1) **Advocacy** — Assist individuals in learning to speak up for themselves and assert their rights; Organize efforts that eliminate discrimination, break down barriers, protect personal and legal rights, raise awareness, and effect positive change
- 2) **Independent Living Skills Training** — Small group and one-on-one training that offers opportunities to learn and practice the wide range of skills needed to live independently in the community
- 3) **Information & Referral** — Comprehensive information and appropriate referrals that link people with disabilities, their families, friends, professionals, and others to community resources
- 4) **Peer Mentoring & Support** — Opportunities for individuals to work with each other one-on-one and/or in groups to share life experiences and exchange information, set and pursue independent living goals, explore options and make informed decisions
- 5) **Transitioning** — Assistance in moving adults out of nursing facilities and other institutional settings or in moving youth from high school to higher education, employment, and/or out of parents' homes to live independently in the community

Additional Services

Counseling DIRECTIONS — Subsidiary of DIRECT that provides mental/behavioral health counseling

Home Access Program — Provides home modifications that help to eliminate/mitigate barriers to increase safety and independence at home

Linkages — Provides information and advocacy to employers on the benefits of hiring workers with disabilities; Maintains an online database of employment openings for job seekers with disabilities

Rehabilitation Instructional Services — Small group and one-on-one training programs designed for vocational rehabilitation participants



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