

Independent Living Funding

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are nonprofit organizations in place to provide broad services, supports, and resources to help Missourians live and remain independent at home. Every county in Missouri is served by a CIL. CILs serve people with *all* disabilities and those of *any age*; they are disability resource experts that are well-connected to assist those who are born with a disability, acquire a disability in life, or develop an age-related disability.

CILs in The Community¹

- All CILs provide 5 Core Services:
 - Information and Referral
 - Independent Living Skills Training
 - Peer Counseling
 - Individual & Systems Advocacy; and
 - Transitions Services
- Many CILs in Missouri go above and beyond these core requirements by offering employment services, assistive technology demonstrations, personal assistant services, youth advocacy, and housing and utility assistance.
- The services CILs provide are crucial to ensuring people with disabilities can live and work in their communities with needed supports instead of in nursing homes and other institutions.
- Missouri CILs have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. CILs are providing personal protective equipment, food, and other needed supplies to participants who are high risk and unable to access necessities independently.

Current Funding

- Missouri CILs are funded at \$239,695.
- The 2014 National Base Level Funding Study data found that CILs should be funded at \$570,000.²

Recommendations

The Missouri Legislature should increase the Independent Living funding to \$570,000, the number recommended by the federal government. This increase will ensure that CILs are able to meet the needs of people with disabilities living in their area by providing crucial services.

¹ <https://acl.gov/ils-programs>

IMG: <https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/news%202018-08/ILProgramsIG.FinalWeb.pdf>

² <https://www.april-rural.org/index.php/advocacy/cil-funding>