

**IMPORTANT FACTS
ABOUT INDEPENDENT
LIVING CENTERS**

Facts About CILs

1. Independent Living saves money in contrast to living in a nursing home.
2. CIL Collaboration with other Agencies Maximizes Effectiveness.
3. Independent Living offers IL skills to gain and sustain employment, keeping persons with disabilities away from public assistance rolls as they become tax paying citizens.

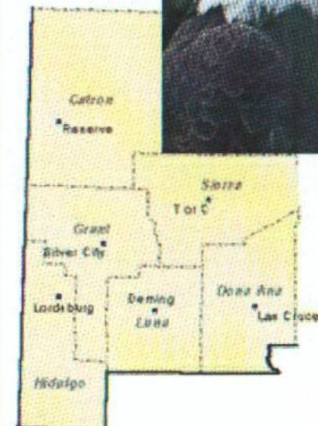
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WWW.THEABILITYCENTER.ORG**



**The Ability Center for
Independent Living**

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**THE ABILITY
CENTER FOR
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LIVING**



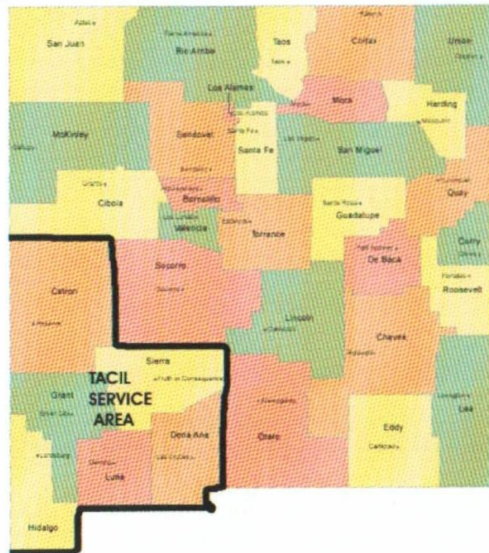
*Improving the Quality of Life of
Persons with Disabilities by em-
powering them with the atti-
tudes, skills, knowledge, and
practices to live independently
in Society.*

HISTORY

Established in 1989, The Ability Center for Independent Living (TACIL) is a Consumer-controlled 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization funded through Part C of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and as amended in 1992. TACIL services the New Mexico Counties of Doña Ana, Luna, Sierra, Grant, Catron, and Hidalgo.

As a Center for Independent Living (CIL), TACIL's goal is to maximize the potential and abilities of individuals with disabilities so they may lead productive lives in their communities. TACIL accomplishes this goal through its 3 programs:

1. The Independent Living Program;
2. The Traumatic Brain Injury Life Skills Program; and
3. The Social Security Representative Payee Program.



INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

The IL Program is mandated to provide the following core services:

ADVOCACY

Self Advocacy (personal advocacy): service where Consumers are taught how to achieve change in one's own life by advocating on one's own behalf.

Individual Advocacy: service on behalf of, for, and most importantly with a Consumer.

Systems Advocacy: service that works to create broad based change within a system, agency, community implementing strategies to increase availability and accessibility of services and resources, and creating equal opportunities for large numbers of people with disabilities.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Information and Referral consists of providing information to the public and people with disabilities on various topics of personal interest, such as architectural accessibility, adaptive equipment, civil rights, communication aids, housing, personal care, transportation, etc.

PEER MENTORING

Peer Mentoring allows persons with a disability to meet someone in a similar situation who has learned strategies to live life independently in the community. This service is accomplished in both individual and group settings.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING

Independent Living Skills Training teaches persons with disabilities methods to develop the necessary skills to take control of their lives and promote their participation in community activities. Plans are individualized and can be provided in group or individual setting.

Other TACIL Initiatives:

- SCHOOL-TO-WORK TRANSITION
- COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON ACCESSIBILITY
- NURSING HOME TRANSITION/PREVENTION
- PRE-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
- EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
- EXERCISE AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- SUPPORT GROUPS
- ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY LIFE SKILLS

The Traumatic Brain Injury Life Skills Coaching Program provides Life skills training to persons who experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury. Our trained coaches go into the Consumers homes and re-teach them how to perform basic daily functions like cooking meals to keeping appointments. TACIL's TBI Program has received numerous commendations and gained the confidence of other service providers for its dedication and results.

SOCIAL SECURITY REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE PROGRAM

The Social Security Representative Payee Program ensures Consumers' basic needs are met by paying Consumers' rents, grocery bills, and utilities. Working in conjunction with Consumers, budgets are devised 4 times per year in order to teach Consumers budgeting skills. Consumers are also taught about savings and knowing to distinguish between a need and a want. Gradually, Consumers make the growth to where they start successfully managing their finances under the supervision of TACIL.