



disABILITY Resource Center

A CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Who are we? What do we do?

What is a CIL?

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are agencies that are

- consumer-controlled
- private
- non-profit

They are designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities.

CILs are run by people with disabilities: at least 51% of the board and staff must have a disability.

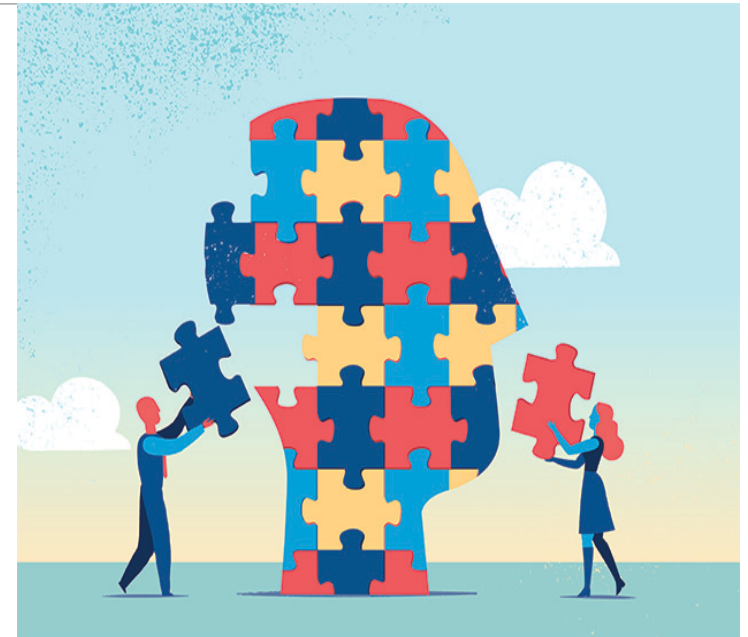
What can dRC do?

- dRC can connect you to the resources you need or provide them with training to do things independently.
- dRC provides an environment and mentors for consumers to connect with other people who have experience with similar barriers and skills.
- We provide an array of independent living services!

You can define disability, but don't let it define you!

Who do we serve?

- disABILITY Resource Center serves anyone with a disability in Knox, Blount, and Sevier County, regardless of disability type.
- Our spectrum of services cover individuals with physical, mental, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities; you do not have to have a “visible” disability to qualify.
- People of all ages may receive dRC's services, free of charge.
- We collaborate and connect with local agencies to maximize the resources available to our community.



The Independent Living Philosophy

➤ The **Independent Living philosophy** provides a foundation for our services and our mission. It says that every person, regardless of disability, has the potential and the right to exercise individual self-determination.

- We expect the same choices and control in our everyday lives that everyone else takes for granted.
- We want the same freedom to try, and fail, and learn from our failures.
- We want to grow up in our families, go to the neighborhood school, use the same bus as our neighbors, work in jobs that are in line with our education and abilities, start families of our own.
- We need to be in charge of our lives, to think and speak for ourselves.
- We must organize ourselves and work for political changes that lead to the legal protection of our human and civil rights.

**“All services are our
client’s choices, not
our choices.”**



Mission Statement

“dRC will provide services, support, and advocacy to people with disabilities; empowering them to live independently, and actively participate in their communities.”



dRC Services

The Five Core Services:

Transition (Youth
and Nursing Home)

**Information and
Referral**

Advocacy

**Independent Living
Skills Training**

Peer Support

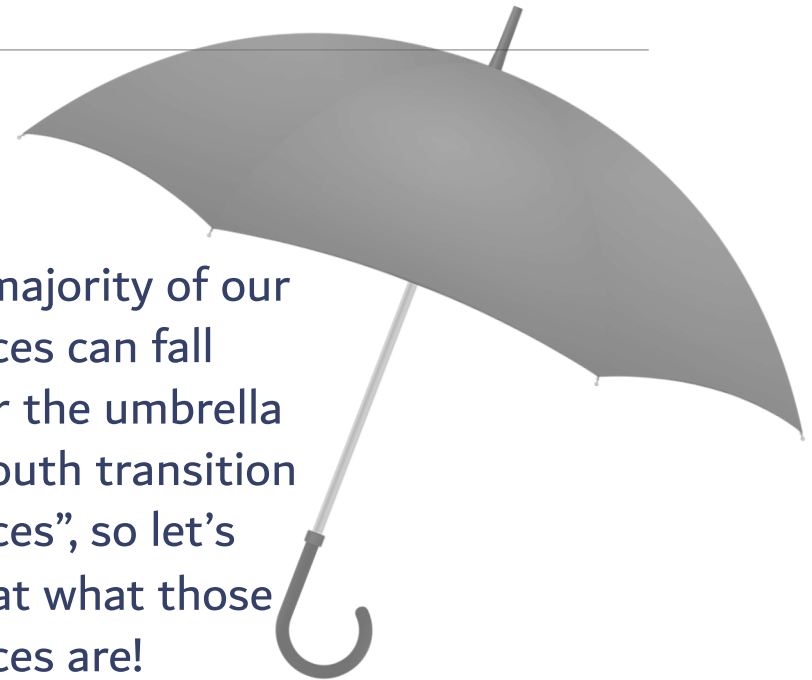


Transition

Youth Transition:

a process that prepares young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated, progressive series of activities and experiences which help them gain skills and competencies

The majority of our services can fall under the umbrella of “youth transition services”, so let’s look at what those services are!



Information and Referral



*Education, affirmation,
collaborative planning, and problem
solving.*

*Provides a road map for navigating
complex and confusing systems.*

For youth: we can provide
information and/or connect you to
programs/services that will help
you achieve your personal goals!

Advocacy

Individual:

This service assists people in becoming self-advocates by actively participating in the process to support one's rights, or in obtaining services needed for independence

Systems:

This service assists in creating reforms for changes in the system that will increase equality and inclusion for the disability community.



For youth:

We have just begun a partnership with the University of Tennessee's Imagine TN Project to provide a Youth Advocacy Group for students interested in disability rights.

Independent Living Skills Training

Services that develop, maintain and improve the community-living skills of a person, such as:

Cooking

Cleaning

Budgeting

Emergency Preparedness

Transportation

Employment

For youth: we can provide one-on-one virtual services that help you identify and work on transition related independent living skills.

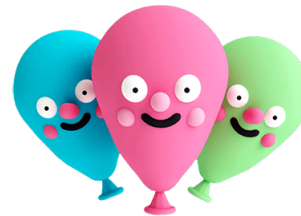


Peer Support

We work with anyone who is adapting to a disability or seeking to increase their independence.

Peer mentors can utilize their own personal experience with living with a disability to empower others in reaching their independent living goals.

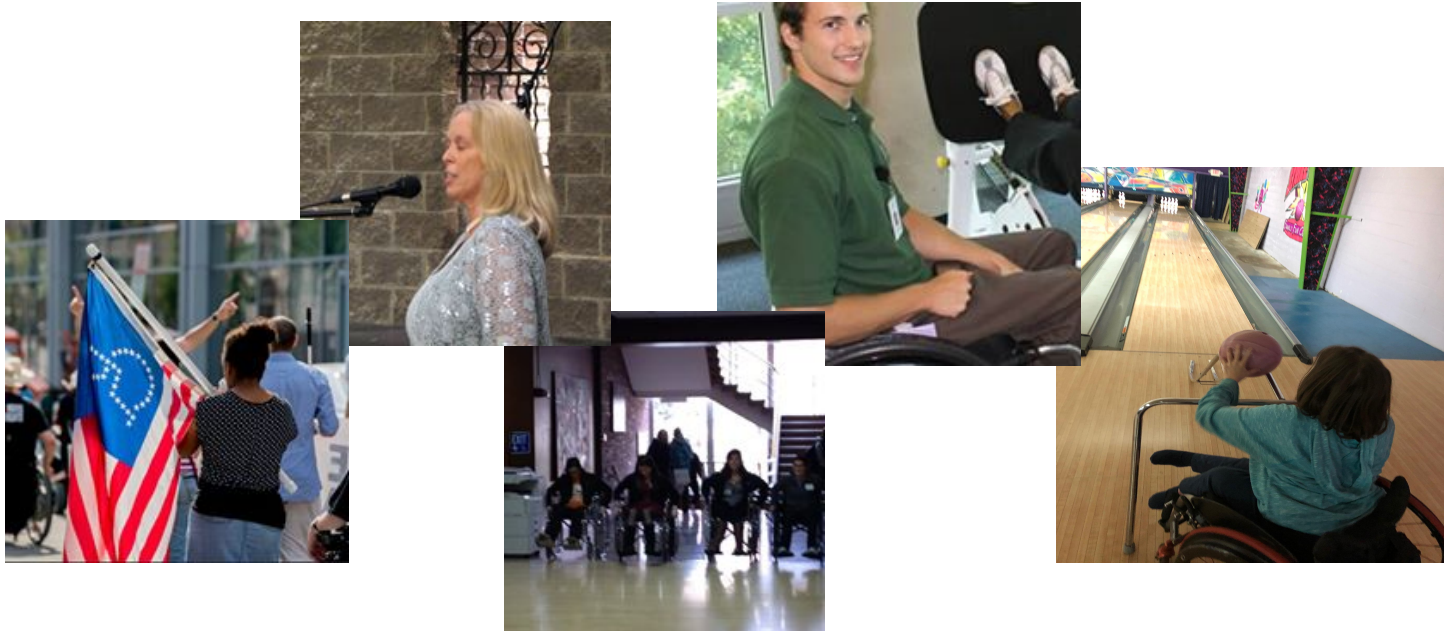
Peer support can be one-on-one and individualized for each client, or it can be provided through group activities



For youth: dRC is adapting to the current pandemic situation and starting a virtual peer-mentoring group for high school and college age student. We even have Chromebooks available to loan for free!

Our Vision

People with disabilities living independent and meaningful lives.



Examples of Success!

Young people that we have worked with have used dRC's services to:

- find employment
- get connected with disability services at their college
- prepare for transitioning out of their parents' home
- increase their circle of support
- gain experience volunteering
- and much, much more!



Contact Information:

It is easy to get connected!

Katherine Moore – Executive Director
Mike Scripa – Independent Living Specialist

Mary Lu Shipstad –
Information and Referral Contact



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Cecile Huddleston



Executive Director, Brother's Keeper in Johnson City, TN

Brother's Keeper is a year- round faith-based educational and enrichment program designed to **educate** adults with intellectual disabilities to **empower** them to **engage** with the community. Providing these adults with opportunities for life-long learning acknowledges that their potential to grow doesn't end on graduation day! This is not a one size fits all program or a day care. We provide opportunities for growth and development in a variety of areas of including academics, wellness, spiritual growth, and vocational, social, and life skills.

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