



325 John Knox Rd., Bldg C, Ste 132 · Tallahassee, FL 32303

Ph: (850) 575-6004 · Fax: (850) 575-6093 · www.floridacils.org

Florida Association of
Centers for Independent Living

Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living, Inc. FACIL Legislative Agenda 2019

Centers for Independent Living Funding

The Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living (FACIL) requests \$2.5 million in increased funding for Florida's Centers for Independent Living (CILs). The requested \$2.5 million will be used to help Florida's 2.5 million people with disabilities gain independence and obtain a greater quality of life. CILs are underfunded yet asked to provide more services every year. CILs are a last stop for people with disabilities who have unsuccessfully sought all other sources of assistance but fallen through the cracks. CILs are the safety net for our state's most vulnerable populations.

In Florida, CILs are especially critical as they play a key role in disaster preparedness and response for individuals with disabilities who live independently in the community and are not enrolled in one of Florida's Medicaid waiver programs. Without CILs, many of these individuals would have nowhere to turn for help navigating the system before and after disasters.

The need for additional funding is demonstrated by national research conducted by the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL); is supported by the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), and included in the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) which is required by Florida law (s. 413.393, F.S.) and was approved by a majority of CILs in Florida.

Compliance with the Sadowski Act

The Sadowski Act passed in 1992 increasing the doc stamp tax paid on all real estate transactions and placing these monies in a dedicated state and local housing trust fund. These dollars are intended to support housing for low to moderate income individuals in Florida including people experiencing homelessness. Unfortunately the Legislature frequently

The Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living facilitates collaboration among member Centers for Independent Living and other stakeholders, resulting in a unified statewide voice advocating for equal rights for people with disabilities.

allocates these dollars for other purposes. Because the lack of affordable housing is a major impediment to independence for people with disabilities, the Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living (FACIL) joins the Sadowski Coalition and Sadowski Affiliates in urging the Florida Legislature to use all of Florida's housing trust fund monies for Florida's housing programs.

U.S. Senate Bill S. 3679, READI for Disasters Act

People with disabilities are more at risk for loss of life, loss of independence, and violation of civil rights than the general population during times of disasters, response, and recovery. Because Centers for Independent Living work directly with this population, we have witnessed first hand these tragedies here in Florida where Hurricanes are so frequent. With more than 2.5 million people with disabilities living in our state, this is an issue that demands immediate attention.

At the Federal level, Senator Casey along with Senators Klobuchar, Duckworth, Blumenthal, Van Hollen, Murray and Hassan have introduced the "Readying Elders and Americans with Disabilities Inclusively for Disasters Act" or the "READI for Disaster Act". FACIL encourages Florida legislators to reach out to U.S. Senate members to ensure S. 3679 – READI for Disasters Act passes.