

Independent Living Program



About the Independent living Program:

For individuals with significant disabilities Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Independent Living program promotes and supports a philosophy of independent living that includes consumer control, individual and systems advocacy, peer support, equal access, self-help and self-determination.

VR achieves this outcome through its partnerships with 16 Centers for Independent Living (CIL) and the Florida Independent Living Council (FILC). Both CILs and the FILC were created by federal and state legislation to support individuals with disabilities in maintaining or increasing their ability to live independently.

CILs and the FILC are managed by boards whose membership must be comprised of a 51% majority of persons with disabilities.

To reach the Independent Living Program Administration at Vocational Rehabilitation Headquarters

***call 850-245-3492 or
e-mail ILProgram@vr.fldoe.org***

What are Centers for Independent Living (CIL)?

A CIL is a local not-for-profit that is consumer-controlled and provides a minimum of five core services that support independent living outcomes for persons with disabilities.

Each CIL offers additional independent living services as determined by the needs of the community and the individuals seeking assistance. CILs provide services to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence and productivity of individuals with disabilities. The overall goal of services provided by CILs is to achieve the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into mainstream American society.

Five Core Services Provided by Florida CILs

- Information and referral
- Independent living skills training
- Individual and systems advocacy
- Peer counseling
- Transition (which includes):
 - ↳ Transition from a Nursing home to the community or diversion of individuals from institutional placement;
 - ↳ Transition of Youth 14-24 years old to post-secondary life/opportunities



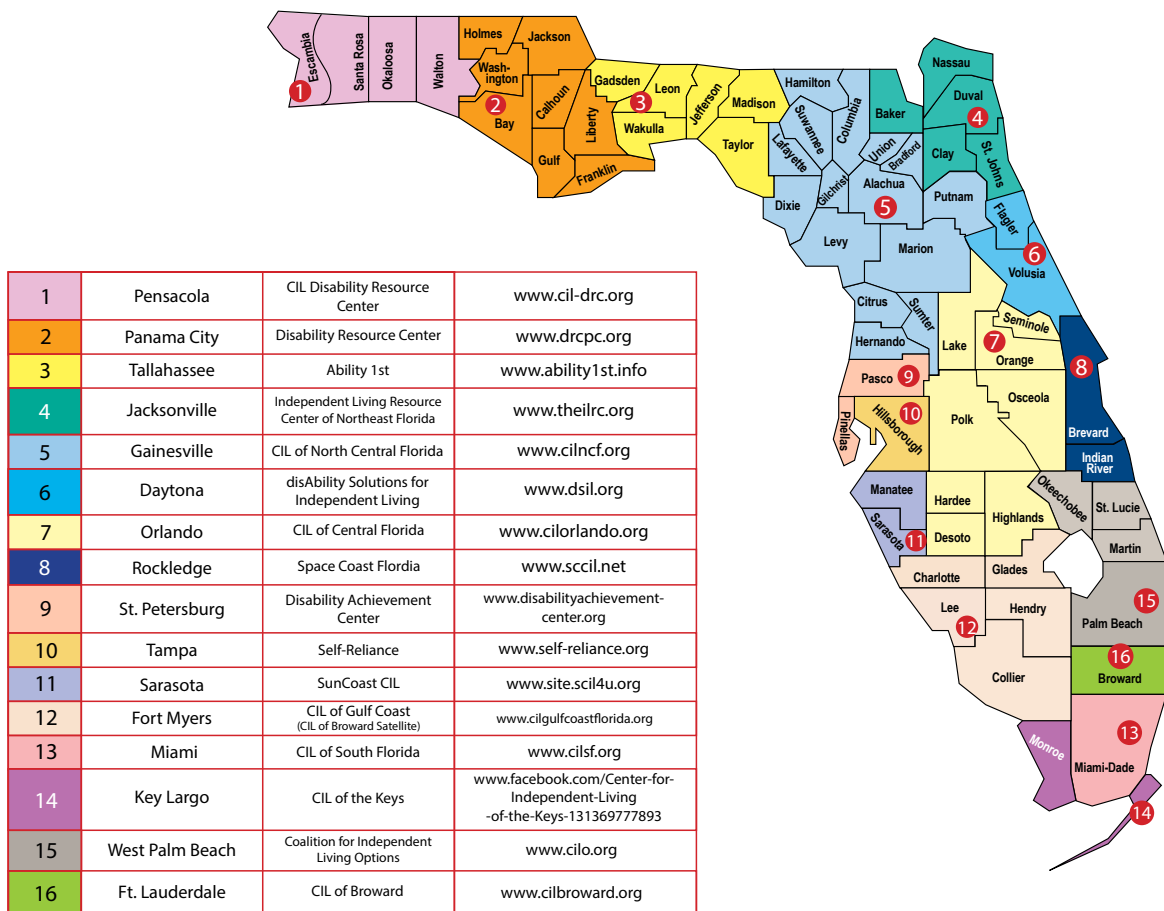
The Florida Independent Living Council

To further guide and support independent living services for Floridians with the most significant disabilities the Florida Independent Living Council (FILC) has the responsibility of developing the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Council Members are appointed by the Governor to ensure the independent living needs of persons with disabilities are represented through the SPIL statewide. The SPIL requires that the FILC gather input from across Florida on the independent needs of persons with disabilities. Independent Living Services that support individuals' achieving goals in education, employment, affordable housing or transition from nursing homes to the community are addressed by the SPIL.

In addition to FILC's responsibility to gather information to develop the SPIL, Council Members also evaluate the existing state plan and confirm the FILC and SPIL meet requirements to identify underserved populations. The SPIL provides direction to the Council and CILs on initiating outreach to identify and reach underserved populations so that they can benefit from independent living services. Once the SPIL has been completed it must be signed by the Chair of the Council, the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation and 51% of the Directors of Florida's CILs.

For more information on the Florida Independent Living Council call 850-488-5624 or go to www.floridasilc.org

Map of Florida's CILs



The Independent Living services provided under the Florida Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program described in this flyer are funded, in part, with Federal funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. For purposes of the VR program, 78.7 percent of its funding is through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For Federal Fiscal Year 2018, the total amount of grant funds awarded were \$161,765,853. The remaining 21.3 percent of the costs (\$43,781,610) were funded by Florida State Appropriations. For purposes of the Independent Living program, Federal funds paid 19.3 percent of the total costs. In FFY 2018, the VR agency received \$1,122,363 in Federal Independent Living funds.

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