



# Fact Sheet



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## Independent Living Budget Information and Position *Proper Funding for the Centers for Independent Living (CILs)*

### FUNDING REQUEST

**\$2.82 million total (line item in the L&I budget)**

- \$2.25 million for state-supported CILs (existing funding)
- 3% cost-of-living adjustment
- \$500,000 total for two (2) new CILs to expand the network in underserved areas

### HISTORY OF STRONG LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Rendell Administration is proposing a \$450,000 funding cut (equally \$50,000 per CIL).
- This is the fourth straight year the Rendell Administration has proposed a cut.
- Each year, the Legislature wisely supports CILs and provides level funding.
- Threats of budget cuts waste the time and resources of advocates and Legislators, plus prevent the need for additional funding from being addressed.

### RECOMMENDATION

**Send a clear message to the Administration that the Legislature supports funding for Centers for Independent Living, and the annual threats of funding cuts are counterproductive and unacceptable.**

- Support restoration of the \$450,000 (20% cut) to the CILs' budget line item in the Department of Labor and Industry budget.
- Support a 3%COLA
  - Based on 3% average of the CMS Home Health Market Basket Index (HHMBI).
  - Unlike most service providers, CILs have not received a COLA in recent memory.
- Support an investment of \$500,000 to establish two new CILs (a priority in the State Plan for Independent Living co-signed by the PA SILC and the Dept. of Labor and Industry).

### CILs ARE AN EXCELLENT INVESTMENT

*Independent Living* is the philosophy that those living with a disability – whether physical, intellectual, or mental – are entitled to the same human and civil rights enjoyed by others. As a result, CILs are:

- Non-profit, non-residential, community-based organizations.
- Located throughout the Commonwealth; there are 18 CILs in Pennsylvania and 9 are state-funded.\*
- Helping more than 10,000 Pennsylvanians with disabilities move toward independence and employment.

### JUSTIFICATION

Continued support will ensure that Independent Living in Pennsylvania will provide opportunities for people with disabilities. Examples of CIL services are:



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- Information and Referral
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Peer Support
- Advocacy
- Community Integration/  
Nursing Home Transition