

**ARCIL, Inc.**  
**Mission Statement**

**ARCIL Is dedicated to the advancement,  
and full participation of persons with disabilities  
in all aspect of life.**

# **What is an Independent Living Center**

## **A Center for Independent Living is...**

- 1. Consumer-controlled – majority of board and staff are people with disabilities.**
- 2. Community-based – serving a defined geographic area.**
- 3. Cross-disability – serving people with all types of disabilities, and all ages.**
- 4. Nonresidential – does not operate or manage housing or shelter.**
- 5. Private non-profit agency – 501(c)(3) status**
- 6. Designed to provide an array of IL services.**

# **Independent Living Philosophy**

**Our philosophy has 5 components.**

## **1. Consumerism**

- The consumer is the locus of control.**
- Those who know best the needs of people with disabilities are the people themselves.**
- The Consumer can best determine what they want for themselves.**
- Opposite of the “Medical Model”**

## **2. Freedom of Choice**

- Making a life decision requires unbiased information on all the options.**
- Family members, caseworkers, and medical providers don’t always know “what’s best.”**

### **3. Least Restrictive Environment**

- **Modern sociologists define “disability” as the interaction between a person’s body and their environment.**
- **The environment we live in must adapt to our bodies.**

### **4. Dignity of Risk**

- **Learning requires taking risks.**
- **If you are making “Informed Choices” you understand the risks and consequences.**
- **You’ll never know what works and what doesn’t if you never try.**

## **5. Individual Paradigm**

- **What skills does the consumer already possess?**
- **What knowledge does the consumer already have?**
- **How can this skill set be useful in achieving his or her goals?**
- **What information and skills does the consumer need to acquire to accomplish his or her goals?**

# **Center Core Services**

**1. Information and Referral**

**2. Independent Living Skills Training**

**3. Peer counseling**

**4. Individual and Systems Advocacy**

**5. Transition Services (3 actual services)**

- Facilitate the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community-based residences, with the requisite supports and services.**
- Provide assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that the individuals may remain in the community; and**
- Facilitate the transition of youth who are individuals with significant disabilities, who were eligible for IEPs under section 614(d) of IDEA, and who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to postsecondary life.**