

Indiana State Funded Network of Centers for Independent Living

Understanding the Landscape of Independent Living In Indiana-Summary Report

Services Demographics

Program Evaluation and Expansion

Cost Savings

Consumer Focus Group Information

Fiscal Year 2008

A copy of the full 48 page report is available and can be obtained by visiting the Indiana Council On Independent Living website at www.icoil.org. It can also be found on the website of any of the CILs involved in the network.

www.atticindiana.org

www.futurechoices.org

www.ilcein.org

www.ircil.org

www.sicilindiana.org

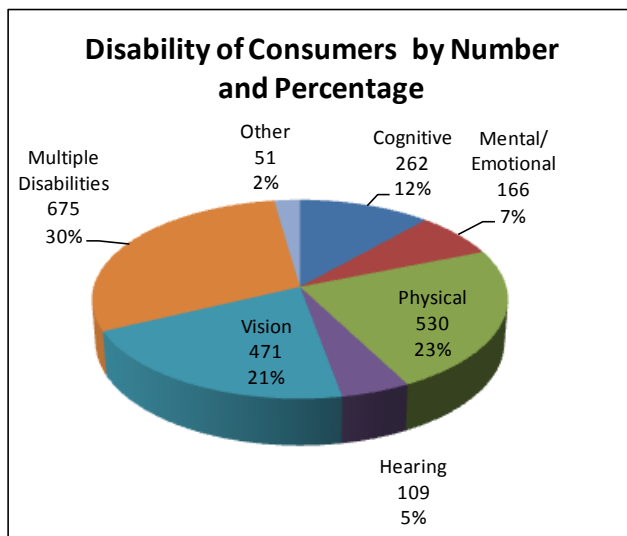
www.the-league.org

www.willcenter.org

Background of Indiana State Funded Network of Centers for Independent Living:

The Indiana State Funded Network of Independent Living (INSFCIL) was officially formed in 2007 in response to seven Independent Living Centers' desire to work collaboratively on behalf of those living with disabilities in the State of Indiana. INSFCIL's membership is comprised of the following seven centers: ATTIC, Inc. (Vincennes), Future Choices, Inc. (Muncie), Independent Living Center of Eastern Indiana (Richmond), Indianapolis Resource Center for Independent Living (Indianapolis), Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living (Bedford), The League for the Blind and the Disabled (Ft. Wayne) and The Wabash Independent Living and Learning Center, Incorporated (Terre Haute).

The mission of INSFCIL is to create inclusive communities across Indiana where people with disabilities have choice and control in their lives.



INSFCIL Consumer Data:

Collectively, INSFCIL served **1,943** disabled Indiana residents in fiscal year 2008 (October 1, 2007-September 30, 2008). Of these, **1,148** were new consumers of IL services in fiscal year 2008 and **795** of these were consumers whose services carried over from fiscal year 2007. INSFCIL serves all people with disabilities from birth to death.

INSFCIL assisted individuals who were identified as having Cognitive, Mental/Emotional, Physical, Hearing and Vision disabilities. In

addition, INSFCIL served those identified as having Multiple Disabilities and those who identified as having "other" disabilities. The majority of those served identified as having multiple disabilities. Physical disability represented the highest number of those served, followed by those with a visual disability.

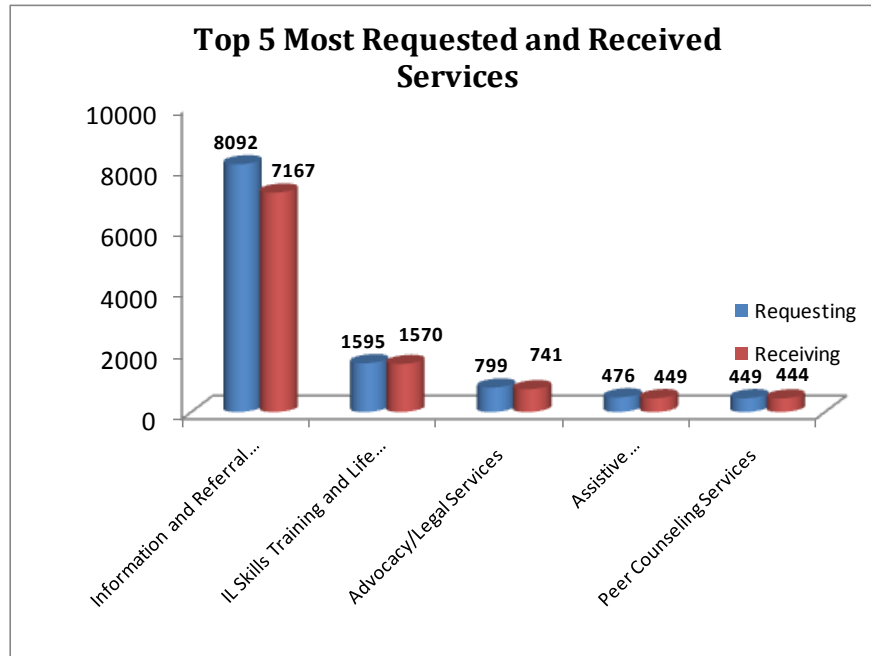
Individual Services provided by Independent Living Centers in Indiana:

Established under Title VII Part C of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and amended in 1992, Centers for Independent Living are required to offer the following core services: Information & Referral, Advocacy, Peer Counseling or Support, and Independent Living Skills Training. Centers for Independent Living can also provide other services as they deem necessary and that meet the needs of consumers in their community. Additionally, INSFCIL provides the following services to people with disabilities in Indiana: Assistive Technology; Children's Services; Communication Services; Counseling and Related Services; Family Services; Housing, Home Modifications, and Shelter Services; Independent Living Skills Training and Life Skill Training; Mental Restoration Services; Mobility Training Services; Personal Assistance

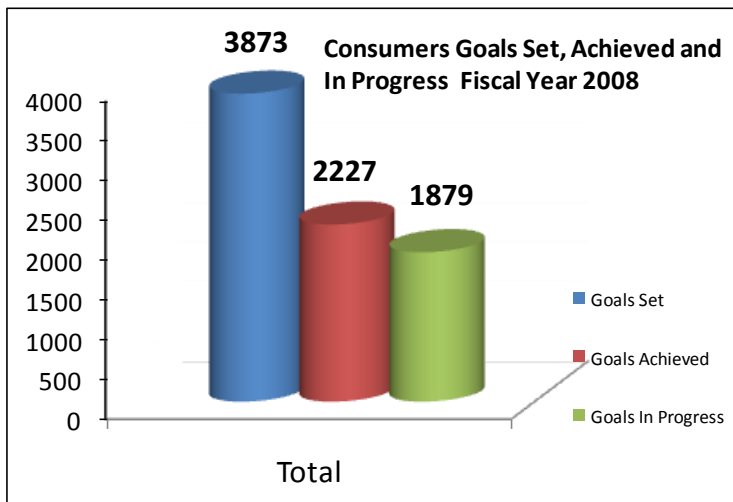
Services; Physical Restoration Services; Preventive Services; Prostheses, Orthotics, and Other Appliances; Recreational Services; Rehabilitation Technology Services; Therapeutic Treatment; Transportation Services; Youth/Transition Services; Vocational Services; and Other Services.

INSFCIL Requested and Received Services for Fiscal Year 2008:

For fiscal year 2008, INSFCIL received 13,276 requests from consumers for services in the previously listed categories. During this same time period, INSFCIL provided 11,874 services. This represented an attainment rate of 89.4%. The top five most requested services follow:



Increased Independence in a Significant Life Area:

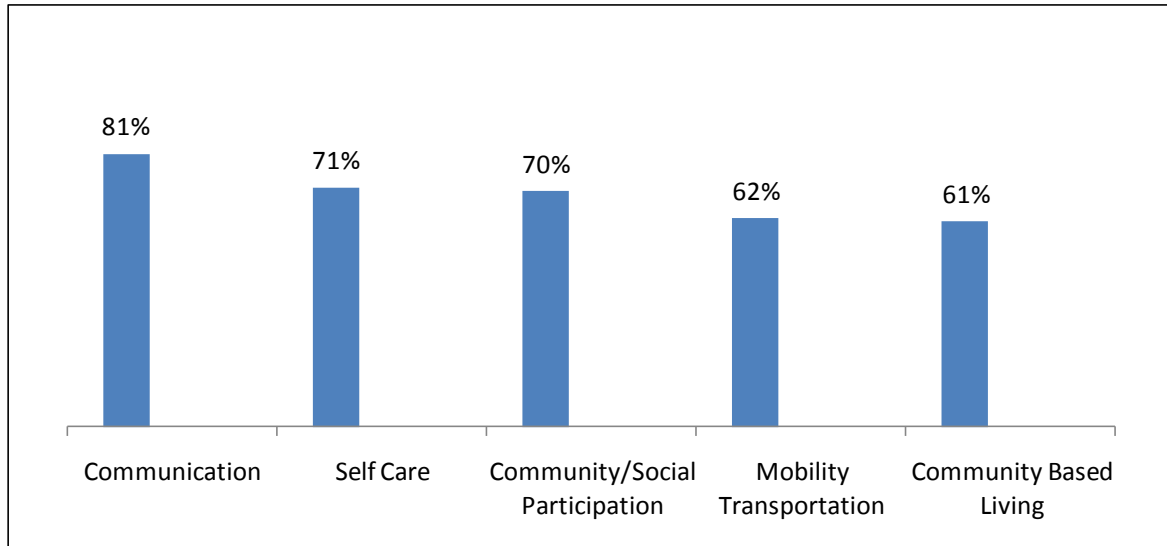


As part of supporting people with disabilities, INSFCIL works to assist consumers in increasing their independence.

Throughout fiscal year 2008, consumers set 3,873 Significant Life Area Goals. Of these goals set, 2,227 had been attained. An additional 1,879 goals were still in progress. This represents a goal attainment rate of 57.5% for consumers.

Top 5 Most Set Goals:

Consumers set individual goals most related to the following areas: Self Advocacy; Informational Access; Self Care; Community/Social Participation and Community Based Living. Consumers had the highest attainment rates with the following goals: Communication, Self Care; Community/Social Participation;



Mobility Transportation; Community Based Living.

Cost Savings Analysis for the Indiana State Funded Network of Centers for Independent Living

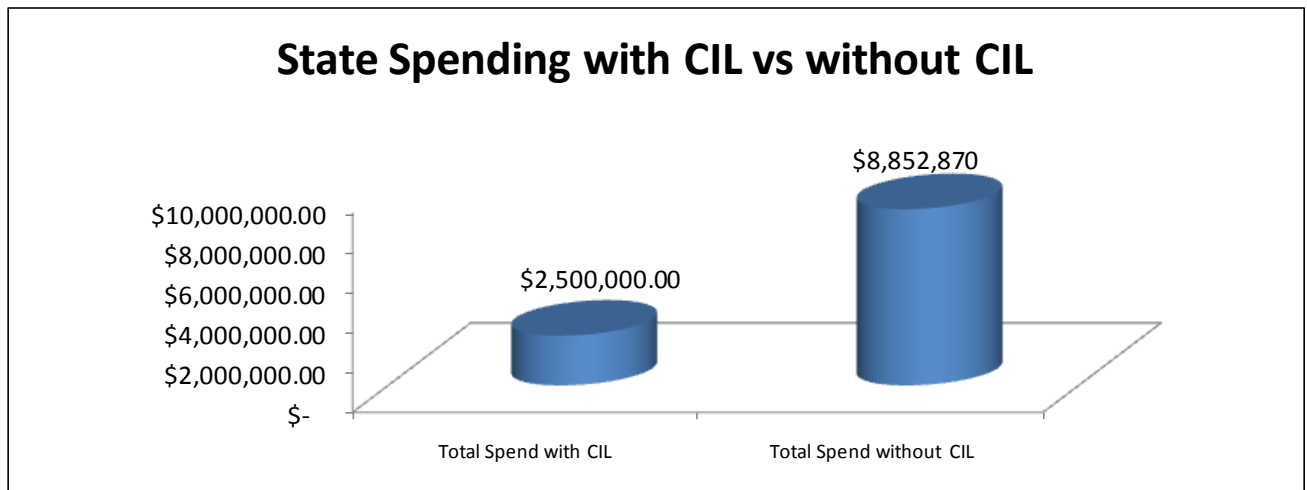
The Indiana State Funded Centers for Independent Living, while relying on tax dollars for some of their funding, also create cost savings for state tax payers. Cost savings result from individuals living independently outside of institutional settings, from helping youth transition into independent living and gainful employment, and from helping adults with disabilities maintain gainful employment. Conservative estimates of these savings are presented below for the following areas: deinstitutionalization, preventing institutionalization, sustained independent living, educational transition, and employment support.

All costs savings are expressed in 2007 dollars and savings data is estimated in two ways. First, total savings of state and federal dollars are calculated. We also present a second estimate of savings of Indiana tax dollars.

Total cost savings are estimated to be \$23.99 million and savings to the state are estimated at \$8.85 million. Approximately \$2.5 million dollars were appropriated from the state general fund. This resulted in a total savings (combined federal and state savings) of approximately \$9.59 for every state tax dollar spent on the Indiana State Funded Centers for Independent Living. Of this combined total, the state recognizes a savings of about \$3.54 for every state tax dollar spent on the Indiana State Funded Centers for Independent Living.

FY 2008 Cost Savings	Total Savings	State Savings
Cost Savings from Deinstitutionalization	\$1,436,064	\$558,652
Cost Savings from Preventing Institutionalization	\$8,616,097	\$3,146,669
Cost Savings from Sustained Independence	\$13,708,676	\$5,081,806
Cost Savings from Employment Services	\$225,085	\$65,743
Total FY 2008 Cost Savings	\$23,985,921	\$8,852,870

In addition to the savings enumerated in this brief report, there may also be savings resulting from individuals gaining employment and thus paying taxes. These are revenues which the state would not be receiving in the absence of this program. At this time, the average wage of those who gain employment is unknown, therefore the amount of this savings cannot be computed. Also, individuals who gain employment may have private insurance and no longer be eligible for Medicaid; however, without any information regarding the level of income of those who are employed, this is also difficult to estimate. Obtaining the needed information would help sharpen the savings estimates presented in this report.



Consumer Comments on the Indiana State Funded Network of Centers for Independent Living:

The Indiana State Funded Network of Centers for Independent Living (INSFCIL) conducted seven separate focus groups at each of the Centers for Independent Living member organizations and talked with 78 different consumers. Consumers were gathered to ask their opinions and suggestions for the CIL within their service area. The focus groups were conducted by outside independent facilitators who were unknown to the consumers present. Consumers were asked to speak freely about their experiences. Notes were recorded and collected by the facilitator.

When you think of (CIL name) what is the first thought that comes to mind?

- **Peer Support-** Peer support through support groups as well as through INSFCIL employees who are disabled is important and appreciated by consumers.
- **Living Independently-** Consumers very much identify with INSFCIL's role in empowering them to live independently. A few consumers also mentioned how CILs had transitioned them from institutional care.
- **Staff-** Staff was highly regarded and affiliated by all consumers. Staff were given high praise and noted for their "friendliness, helpfulness" and for their expertise.
- **Advocacy-** The advocacy services were discussed in terms of system advocacy (ie advocating on behalf of all people with disabilities) as well as through personal advocacy (ie "empowering individuals" and teaching skills so that consumers could care for themselves).
- **Expertise-**INSFCIL was also recognized as an expert in helping people with disabilities. CILs were praised for staying "up to date" on new information regarding services and aid for people with disabilities.

Please describe in your words who (CIL name) exists primarily to serve – its core constituents.

- **CILs Serve As A Safety Net For Those Who Cannot Get Services Elsewhere-** Consumers resounded this opinion by describing the service to consumers who were "disenfranchised," "forgotten," and "little people."
- **CILs serve All People With Disabilities-** The fact that INSFCIL serves all age groups, all disabilities and any person with disabilities was something that each focus group mentioned as an important characteristic.

What is INSFCIL's greatest strength(s) or biggest asset(s)?

- **Flexibility-** Consumers noted favorably that INSFCIL services were flexible and "without all the red tape" of other similar agencies.
- **Staff-** Consumers very much identify with the staff and the level of service they offer to their consumers as a significant "strength" of INSFCIL.
- **Learning By Example-** Peer support and "learning by example" or "teaching by example" was also noted as a significant strength of INSFCIL.
- **Offering Hope-** Consumers routinely commented on INSFCIL as being inspirational and providing "hope." One consumer reflecting this said: "Hope they give to the consumer. They make it possible for the consumer to try new things, to go places, to be mobile, to get out of bed, to get out of the house."

In your opinion, does INSFCIL have things that they should pay more attention to?

- **Awareness-** Consumers noted in each focus group that the awareness of their specific CIL was low. Additionally, consumers noted that the awareness of CILs in general was low amongst other service providers and other people with disabilities who may not be involved with a CIL.
- **Collaboration/Referral-** Related to awareness, collaboration and referrals from other service providers was noted as being an area of improvement.
- **Spread Too Thin/Not Enough Staff/ Too Many Counties/ Too Few Staff-** It was noted that staff were “spread too thin” and covered too many counties.
- **Technology-** Many consumers noted that INSFCIL could leverage its use of technology more effectively by providing computer training and support to consumers so that they could effectively communicate more readily.
- **Space Issues/Location-** Because INSFCIL serves many different counties and does not have a physical location in each county they serve, consumers find it difficult to locate services in the outlying areas.

In your opinion, should INSFCIL expand its services even further? Into what areas? Why or why not? Consumers were very specific that they did not want expanded services at the expense of current services programming. Consumers identified the following areas for expansion, provided more staffing support was available:

- **Transportation-** Consumers in each focus group mentioned a need for transportation, regardless of the geographic location or whether or not public transportation was readily available.
- **Advocacy-** Consumers acknowledged that recently INSFCIL has been more active and effective in system advocacy. Although consumers noted that advocacy efforts needed to be further increased.
- **Depression/Grief Counseling-** Many consumers suggested that INSFCIL offer depression services and grief counseling for people with disabilities, particularly those who were newly disabled.
- **More Opportunities for Socialization with Other Consumers and Peers-** Consumers noted that they would like more opportunities for social interaction with other consumers and peers.

What trends (economic, social, political, technological) -- are you aware of in the city, state and nation that might have a positive or negative impact on the success of INSFCIL? What impact do you see? Consumers presented the positive and negative aspects of the current trends:

- **Funding and The Economy:** Resoundingly and not surprisingly, consumers were concerned about the funding cuts at the federal and state levels and how they might affect INSFCIL’s service provision.
- **Economic Downturn Increases The Need For Services:** Many consumers felt that the more economic need that was felt throughout the state would result in more people seeking services.
- **Increasing Advocacy And Awareness Of Issues Affecting People With Disabilities-** Consumers felt that recent efforts to educate legislators and the general public have resulted in heightened awareness and support for people with disabilities.

What is unique or distinct about INSFCIL services compared to other local organizations that offer similar services?

- **Comprehensive Services For All People With Disabilities-** Consumers noted that a distinguishing factor in INSFCIL service provision was that the organization served all people with disabilities.

- **People, Staff-Perseverance To Solve Problems-** In comparing INSFCIL services to other service providers, consumers noted that the staff and “people” (including volunteers) of INSFCIL were extremely accommodating and friendly.
- **Philosophy of Empowering Consumers-**Consumers remarked that the underlying guiding philosophy of empowering consumer to do things independently and for themselves was a big differentiating factor amongst INSFCIL and other service providers.

Are there organizations that INSFCIL are not currently partnering with that should be considered?

- Governmental Programs:
- Vocational Rehabilitation program
- Medicaid/Medicare
- Social Security
- Medical Community: Schools/ Higher Education
- Transportation services
- Disability specific organizations (national and local)
- Mental Health organizations (national and local)

In your view, what is the most important outcome that INSFCIL is impacting, and how effective is the organization at achieving this outcome? There was surprising consensus in responses from consumers to this question. Four main areas emerged as the greatest outcome of INSFCIL:

- Keeping Consumers Independent And In Their Homes
- Helping Consumers Navigate Other Systems To Deal With Their Disability
- Referral
- Empowerment of Consumers- Helping to Attain Self Sufficiency

What community outcomes are most important to you – what’s front and center on your radar?

- Transportation
- Improving Accessibility for People with Disabilities