



Connecticut Association of Centers for Independent Living  
151 New Park Ave. Suite 106, Hartford, CT 06106  
voice 860-656-0430 fax 860-656-0496  
www.cacil.net

...Working for the full integration, independence, and civil rights of people with disabilities  
through Centers for Independent Living

**Testimony of Gary Waterhouse, Executive Director  
Before the Human Services Committee  
March 3, 2009**

Center for Disability Rights  
764A Campbell Ave.  
West Haven, CT 06516  
V 203-934-7077  
TDD 203-934-7079

Disabilities Network of  
Eastern CT  
238 West Town Street  
Norwich, CT 06360  
VTDD 860-823-1898

Disability Resource Center  
of Fairfield County  
80 Ferry Boulevard  
Suite 210  
Stratford, CT 06497  
V 203-378-6977  
TDD 203-378-3248

Independence Northwest  
1183 New Haven Rd.  
Naugatuck, CT 06770  
V 203-729-3299  
TDD 203-729-1281

Independence Unlimited  
Suite D  
151 New Park Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
VTDD 860-523-5021

***Raised S.B. No. 991 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR CENTERS FOR  
INDEPENDENT LIVING.***

**CACIL SUPPORTS-** *Raised Senate Bill No. 991* and the continuation of state funding for Centers for Independent Living (CILs). Centers for Independent Living are the administrative platforms used to bring supports and services to the disability community sustaining such programs as:

- Nursing Facility Transition Program
- Money Follows the Person
- CT Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- Nursing Home Diversion Program
- Connect-Ability Employment Program
- Housing for People with Aids

Centers provide office space, telephone access, internet access, computer use, supervision, support staff and fiduciary responsibility for grant programs making often time limited programs more cost effective and efficient.

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) receive limited federal funding under the (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, Title VII, Chapter 1, Part C, secs. 721-727; 29 U.S.C. 796f-796f-6) to provide:

- Advocacy
- Information and Referral
- Independent Living Skills
- Peer support

Stimulus funding under the "*American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*" will not stimulate the economy if staff layoffs are required by state budget cuts.

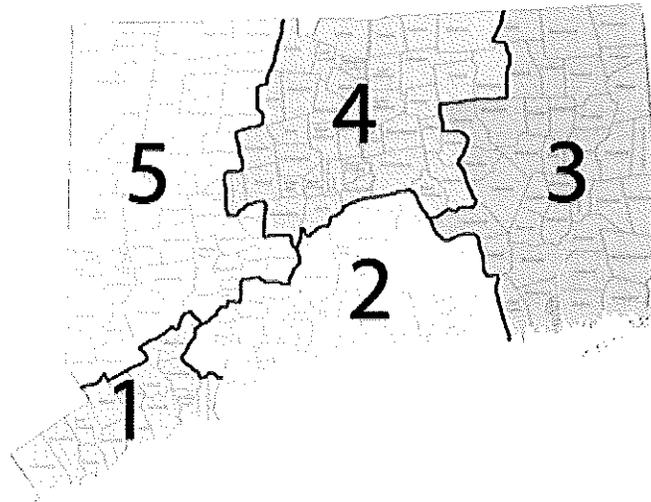
Centers advocate for people with disabilities (consumers) and teach consumers how to advocate for themselves. Many consumers have difficulty receiving necessary supports and services from state agencies, CILs provide the knowledge; skills and abilities to help consumers get the services they need to live and thrive in the community and prevent institutionalization at much greater cost.

# CACIL and Centers for Independent Living

CACIL is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation consisting of five (5) Centers for Independent Living (CIL) located in Hartford, Norwich, West Haven, Naugatuck and Stratford. CILs are community based, non-residential, consumer controlled and cross-disability. Each follows the Independent Living Philosophy of self-help, self-reliance and self-determination.

Each CIL serves a portion of the state. CILs typically serve 25-30 cities and towns. They serve individuals of all ages, with all types of disabilities including but not limited to:

- **Physical**
- **Mental Health**
- **Cognitive**
- **Developmental Disability**
- **Vision**
- **Hearing**
- **Multiple Disabilities**



Most recent census data listed below shows the number of persons aged 5 and older with Disabilities in Connecticut by region covered by Independent Living Centers. (*Fortinsky Study- Univ. of CT Health Center. 2003*)

## **Region 1 DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY (DRCFC)**

Persons with Disabilities in Region: 104,831 Sensory 16,354 Mental 21,711 Physical 36,512

**80 Ferry Boulevard, Stratford, CT 06615 203-378-6977**

## **Region 2 CENTER FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS (CDR)**

Persons with Disabilities in Region: 128,918 Sensory 28,458 Mental 31,122 Physical 52,866

**764-A Campbell Ave. West Haven, CT 06516 203-934-7077**

## **Region 3 DISABILITIES NETWORK OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT (DNEC)**

Persons with Disabilities in Region: 64,236 Sensory 12,989 Mental 17,457 Physical 27,363

**238 West Town St. Norwich, CT 06360 860-934-1898**

## **Region 4 INDEPENDENCE UNLIMITED (IU)**

Persons with Disabilities in Region: 159,178 Sensory 27,642 Mental 38,012 Physical 62,137

**151 New Park Ave. Hartford, CT 06106 860-523-5021**

## **Region 5 INDEPENDENCE NORTHWEST (IN)**

Persons with Disabilities in Region: 89,650 Sensory 16,6678 Mental 23,178 Physical 36,469

**1183 New Haven Road Naugatuck, CT 06770 203-729-3299**

**Visit us at [www.cacil.net](http://www.cacil.net)**