



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 

CT Association of Centers for Independent Living

February 11, 2010

Appropriations Sub-Committee Public Hearing

Department of Social Services Budget

*Preserve Jobs for people with disabilities, Protect our economy*

The budget line for Centers for Independent Living (CILs) was cut by **\$251,000 (38%)** in FY2009/10 and the Governor proposes eliminating state funding to CILs in FY2010/11. CILs have been forced to lay off staff and scale down programs and services. **Most CIL staff are people with disabilities.**

CILs need state funding to provide infrastructure (rent, utilities, computers, telephones, administrative staff) to support state grant programs such as:

- Money Follows the Person (MFP)
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)
- Assistive/Rehabilitation Technology
- Ticket to Work Activities
- Pre-Apprentice Programs
- Connect-ability Project

The above grants are designed to reduce state Medicaid costs and increase the independence of Connecticut citizens with disabilities.

CILs receive limited federal funding, however the funding is to provide **specific** disability services; peer counseling, information and referral, independent living skills training, individual advocacy and systems advocacy.

Federal ARRA funds available to DSS are for programs for people with disabilities with reportable goals and objectives not infrastructure.

The unintended result of budget cuts to CILs will be increased Medicaid costs and fewer people maximizing their independence.

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  
V/TDD 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

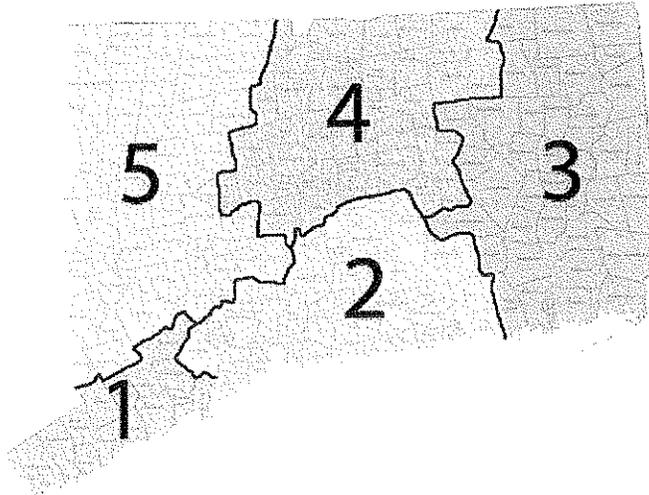
Independence Unlimited  
Suite D  
151 New Park Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
V/TDD 860-523-5021

# 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)