

A3901 & A3901N - Center for Independent Living Fee For Service

Guidelines for Independent Living Services

I. Policy

Barriers to non-vocational independent living activities adversely affect an individual's ability to gain and/or maintain employment. It is the policy of the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to provide Independent Living Services to client who require these services to establish eligibility, assess rehabilitation and career needs, or achieve an employment goal. Services may be provided through Centers for Independent Living using DARS Service Item Codes A3901 & A3901N depending upon the customer's needs and desires.

Current rates and coding information available at: <https://www.dars.virginia.gov/cbs/cils.htm>

II. Definition of CIL Services

Transition Services (Youth): facilitates the transition of youth who are individuals with significant disabilities, who were eligible for individualized education programs under section 614(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to postsecondary life (higher education, the workforce, and the community).

Transition Services (Institutions): transition services that (i) 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; or (ii) provide assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that the individuals may remain in the community.

Functional Assessment: evaluation and analysis of an individual's ability to function on a daily basis in home, work, school, and other community settings.

Independent Living Skills Training: instruction to develop or improve an individual's ability to function independently on a daily basis in areas such as personal care/hygiene, coping/social skills, financial management, and household management. This also includes education and training necessary for participating fully in community life and activities.

Peer Counseling: counseling and guidance, teaching, information sharing, and similar contact provided to individuals with disabilities by individuals with disabilities.

Housing Services: assistance related to securing housing, shelter, or adaptive housing, including accommodations to, and modifications of, any space used by individuals with significant disabilities.

Transportation Services: providing, or arranging for the provision of, modified and/or fixed or demand response transportation for individuals or groups of people with disabilities.

Technical Assistance: the provision of information and training to individuals, businesses, and organizations to assist with understanding and complying with laws and regulations specific to people with disabilities (e.g., ADA, Fair Housing, Social Security, Medicaid).

Individual Advocacy: advocacy and/or representation in obtaining access to benefits, services, and programs to which an individual with significant disabilities may be entitled.

Intake/Assessment: a personal interview to obtain documentation and information for a written report that describes the individual's interests, resources, initial independent living goals, and recommended services.

Consumer Counseling: Consumer counseling is defined as the provision of counseling and information necessary for an individual to complete the application requirements for the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority. Typically, Consumer Counseling involves providing assistance with device selection, application completion, identification of, and assistance with application to alternative financing sources for assistive technology.

Financial Training: Financial Training is defined as assistance provided to individuals who are turned down by the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority due to income or credit issues. Financial Training will involve the review of credit reports, correction of errors on those reports and assistance with enrollment in a formal consumer financial counseling program, as needed.

III. Definition of a CIL

A Center for Independent Living is defined through the Rehabilitation Act as follows:

The term "center for independent living" means a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agency that--
(A) is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities; and
(B) provides an array of independent living services.¹

There are 17 CILs in Virginia. Location and contact information is available at:
<https://www.dars.virginia.gov/cbs/cils.htm>

IV. Role of the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

The VR counselor is the "authorizer" of the service and treats Center for Independent Living services like any other service purchased for VR clients. In partnership with the VR client and his/her representative (as appropriate), the counselor determines that an individual has a need for, or would benefit from, Independent Living Services to establish eligibility, assess rehabilitation and career needs, or achieve an employment goal. Based on an Independent Living Services Plan developed or endorsed by a Center for Independent Living and the consumer, the VR counselor coordinates the provision of services by working with the consumer to:

- select a CIL and a specific service
- identify the nature of the service, including how long the service is to be provided and under what circumstances;
- specify the desired outcome; and
- monitor the provision of services

1 Title VII, Chapter 1, Section 702 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended through P.L. 114-95