

Independent Living Services Program¹ (CFDA No. 84.169)

I. Legislation

Part B, Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, P.L. 93-112, as amended (29 U.S.C. 796e-796e-2) (expires September 30, 1997).

II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1985	\$5,000,000	1991	\$13,619,000
1986	10,527,000	1992	14,200,000
1987	11,830,000	1993	15,376,000
1988	12,310,000	1994	18,003,000
1989	12,678,000	1995	21,859,000
1990	12,938,000	1996	21,859,000

III. Analysis of Program Performance

A. Goals and Objectives

The purpose of the Independent Living Services, or Independent Living State Grants, Program is to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities, and to integrate them into the mainstream of American society. There are three independent living programs: the Independent Living State Grants Program, the Centers for Independent Living Program, and the Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind Program.

B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

Services Supported

The program gives formula grants to states to provide, expand, and improve independent living services; support the operation of centers for independent living; conduct studies and make recommendations of best practices; provide training on the independent living philosophy; and provide outreach to populations that are unserved or underserved by programs under Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act.

In FY 1995, 79 state vocational rehabilitation agencies—both general agencies and agencies for individuals who are blind—received funds under this program. The Independent Living State Grants and Centers programs served approximately 136,000 people in FY 1995, of whom 98,484 were active in the caseload at the end of the year (the others had left the program for a variety of reasons).

¹Formerly, Comprehensive Services for Independent Living.

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The programs serve people with a variety of significant disabilities: 44 percent have physical disabilities, 18 percent have sensory disabilities, and 19 percent have multiple disabilities.

Strategic Initiatives

Each state must, along with its Statewide Independent Living Council, include independent living services in its state plan and describe the extent and scope of services to be provided. They can be provided either directly by the state agency or through arrangements with centers for independent living and other providers.

Funds are allocated to states in accordance with their population; the minimum state allocation is the larger of the amount the state received in FY 1992 or \$291,746, or as close to this amount as funds allow.

Approximately 136,000 individuals received independent living services beyond information, referral, or community services in FY 1995 from centers supported by the Independent Living State Grants and Centers programs, a 36 percent increase over the previous year. Approximately 62,000 became new recipients of independent living services that year, and about 73 percent opted to develop a plan for the attainment of independent living goals agreed upon by the center staff and the consumer. In FY 1995, centers help clients to achieve some 21,803 self-care goals, 10,612 mobility goals, 9,259 residential goals, 8,054 communication goals, 7,125 vocational goals, and 23,975 other goals.

C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness

Indicators are being developed.

IV. Planned Studies

A study is planned to examine the relationship among the Rehabilitation Services Administration's three independent living programs, the resources committed to advocacy versus direct services, the client outcomes (e.g., the extent to which programs contributed to the clients achievement of their independent living goals), and the extent to which State Plans for Independent Living Services reflect the needs of clients.

V. Sources of Information

1. Program files.
2. State Plans for Independent Living Services.

VI. Contacts for Further Information

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Program Studies: Sarah Abernathy, (202) 401-3600