

Catskill Center for Independence



P.O. Box 1247
Oneonta NY 13820
607.432.8000 Phone/TTY
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www.ccfi.us

"Every Day is Independence Day!"



Catskill Center for Independence is one of many Independent Living Centers throughout New York State.

Who Does an Independent Living Center Serve?

- People of any age with any type of disability;
- Parents, spouses, siblings, and significant others of people with disabilities;
- People with disabilities living in their own homes, supported living arrangements, institutional settings, and elsewhere;
- School personnel;
- Business and industry;
- Local government agencies;
- Human service organizations;
- Volunteer sector organizations;
- Hospitals, health organizations, and the medical community;
- Civic organizations.



What is Independent Living?

Independent Living means controlling and directing your own life. It means taking risks and being allowed to succeed and fail on your own terms. It means participating in community life and pursuing activities of your own choosing. Independent Living is knowing what choices are available, selecting what is right for you, and taking responsibility for your own actions.

For people with disabilities affecting their ability to make complicated decisions or pursue complex activities, Independent Living means being as self-sufficient as possible. It means being able to exercise the greatest degree of choice in where you live, with whom you live, how to live, where you work, with whom you work, and how to use your time.

What are Independent Living Centers?

Consumer Controlled: Centers are run by a board of directors, more than half of whom are people with disabilities.

Community Based: Centers are located throughout New York State in local communities.

Available to All People with Disabilities: Staff, board members, volunteers, and people served represent a broad cross-section of disabilities.

Non-Residential: Centers are not places to live, nor do they own or operate places for people with disabilities to live.

Non-Profit: Centers are approved for non-profit status with the New York State Attorney General's office.

What Services do Independent Living Centers Provide?

Independent Living Centers provide a set of core services geared toward promoting self-help, equal access, peer role modeling, personal growth, and empowerment. The scope of services is directed by individual and community needs. The core services are as follows:

- Peer Counseling is provided between two or more individuals with disabilities to share ideas and experiences about living with a disability in order to gain greater awareness and control over one's own life.
- Independent Living Skills Training teaches everyday life skills and is often provided by people with disabilities. Training may include budgeting, meal preparation, arranging transportation, or personal assistance services, job seeking, and self-advocacy.
- Information and Referral Services aim to provide individuals with resources and options that may be necessary in making informed choices about living, learning, and working independently.
- Individual and Systems Advocacy addresses access to equal opportunities in exercising social, economic, educational, and legal rights.

Independent Living Centers work with individuals, community organizations, state/national networks; to promote full inclusion of people with disabilities, and to improve the implementation of existing laws: federal, state, and local.

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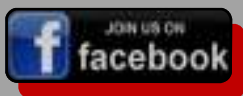
Services Available at the Center

- Benefits Advisement
- Architectural Barrier Consultation
- Speaker Presentations
- Training & Technical Assistance
- Personal Care Attendant Referral
- Adaptive Equipment
- Assistive Technology Information and Referral
- Peer Counseling
- Transition Services
- Systemic and Personal Advocacy
- Employment Services
- Independent Living Skills



The people who come to the Center for services decide what services they will get and what use they will make of them. They are responsible for the results of the decisions they make. People with disabilities should feel empowered to control the direction of their own lives. This means choosing their goals, designing their own course, and taking responsibility for their actions and the results.

Find Us:



www.ccfi.us

Center Programs

ASSISTIVE COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Assistive Competitive Employment Services (A.C.E.S) is a program offered by the Catskill Center for Independence designed to assist Schoharie County residents who may have a mental health diagnosis to obtain competitive employment. A.C.E.S offers a wide array of services provided by an Employment Specialist from which job seekers can choose.

MEDICAID WAIVER SERVICE COORDINATION

The Home and Community Based Services Medicaid Waiver for individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (HCBS/TBI) is a community-based program, specifically designed to assist adults who have sustained a brain injury. The intent of this Waiver is to provide specialized services to the individual, in their own home, in order to terminate and/or circumvent a skilled nursing home or rehabilitation center admission. All services through this Waiver are provided under the individual's NYS Medicaid.

The Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver for Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) is one of the options available to New Yorkers with disabilities and seniors so they may receive services in the most appropriate, least restrictive setting. The NHTD Medicaid Waiver was developed based on the philosophy that individuals with disabilities and/or seniors have the same rights as others to be in control of their lives and encounter and manage risks and learn from their experiences.

PROJECT HAVA (HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT)

Project HAVA is a federal Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access grant program funded through the New York State Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. The Catskill Center for Independence administers this grant in 52 counties in upstate New York providing education, information, and technical assistance about the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 and its implementation in New York State. One of its primary purposes is to ensure that all of our citizens have the opportunity to vote privately and independently, including citizens with disabilities.

Remember We ALL HAVA right to vote!

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Center Programs

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Through Children's Eyes is a program designed to educate today's youth about people with disabilities, the impact of inaccessible environments, and proactive ways of dealing with these issues for a more accessible future. Through Children's Eyes connects existing New York State curriculum to an experiential component designed to engage empathy as opposed to sympathy regarding people with disabilities. One of its goals is to turn passive awareness of a problem into action plans that result in positive perceptual and behavioral changes among students, as well as staff. This program has been replicated at other schools in New York State and beyond.

IDENTIFICATION OF AND OUTREACH TO NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

The Money Follows the Person Identification of and Outreach to Nursing Home Residents is a program of the New York State Department of Health (DOH). It is designed to identify and reach out to residents of nursing homes in order to provide them with comprehensive and unbiased information about home and community-based services should they wish to explore returning to their communities. Once equipped with information, residents and/or their legal representatives can then work with their discharge planners to make an informed decision. Catskill Center for Independence subcontracts with Southern Tier Independence Center (STIC) to provide services in Delaware, Otsego, and Chenango Counties.

STATEWIDE SYSTEM ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN)

The Catskill Center for Independence is part of a state-wide network made up of hundreds of individuals across New York State all working together to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. The SSAN employs a variety of strategies and methods designed to achieve a barrier free, fully inclusive society for everyone, including individuals with disabilities.

ACCES-VR CORE REHABILITATION SERVICES

Catskill Center for Independence contracts with ACCES-VR to provide, by referral, a variety of employment related services to adults and youth seeking employment.

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