



Ohio SILC
Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

Jeremy Morris, Ohio SILC
Interested Party Testimony on HB33
Senate Health Committee
Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Chairman Huffman, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for reviewing this testimony on HB33. My name is Jeremy Morris and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (Ohio SILC).

The Ohio SILC is a State affiliated Council that promotes independence and inclusion for individuals with significant disabilities across the State of Ohio. As part of our work, we appreciate the opportunity to discuss legislation that impacts the community of persons with disabilities in Ohio and to be a resource to the General Assembly as they consider this budget and the impacts to individuals with disabilities across the state.

We are very appreciative of the House adding one million to a new line of Independent Living Supplement, but we are hoping to have a technical change to the language to better align with the purpose. Therefore, we support deleting that language and incorporating the additional funds into the current Center for Independent Living line item with funding for both years in the biennium.

Centers for Independent Living provide the resources, supports, and services that give people with disabilities the opportunity to live and work in their communities. Centers are non-residential, disability led organizations that are operated by and for people with all forms of disability.

- Centers for Independent Living help people with disabilities live more fulfilling and productive lives. Their services enable people with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in their communities, including employment, education, and social activities.
- Funding independent living services is a cost-effective way to prevent institutionalization. Institutional care for people with disabilities is typically much more expensive than community-based services, such as home-based support, personal care attendants, and transportation services. By investing in independent living services, we can keep people out of expensive and often inadequate institutional settings and assist them in returning to the community.
- Supporting Independent Living supports values of self-determination and individual responsibility. Independent living services provide people with disabilities with the tools and resources they need to make their own decisions about where and how they live, work, and participate in their communities. These services empower individuals with disabilities to take control of their lives, and to be self-sufficient.

Centers in Ohio are the lowest funded in our region, which prevents our network from fully serving individuals across Ohio. Additional funding for Centers for Independent Living will expand access to the resources and services that the Centers provide in a substantial way. The average state funding in our region is currently around \$2,600,000, while Ohio is at \$500,000. **The Centers are requesting that line item 415-511 be increased to \$1,500,000 annually.**

Promoting Independence, Empowerment, and Inclusion in Ohio.



Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

The reasons for additional funding for Centers include:

- To provide more and better services: With more funding, CILs can expand the range and quality of services they offer, such as providing more independent living skills training, offering more transportation options, and creating more job opportunities for people with disabilities.
- To reach more people: Many people with disabilities are not aware of the services that CILs provide. With more funding, CILs can expand their outreach efforts, reaching more people in their communities who may benefit from their services.
- To increase accessibility: Many CILs work to make their communities more accessible for people with disabilities. With more funding, they can continue to make improvements to buildings, transportation, and other infrastructure to increase accessibility and inclusion.
- To reduce healthcare costs: By helping people with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in their communities, CILs can reduce healthcare costs associated with institutionalization and other forms of dependence.

The Centers for Independent Living have proven to be a strong investment in the community. In the last four years, we were able to increase successful outcomes by over 50%, nearly doubling the number of new individuals served, and being responsive to the needs of the local communities. This has led to substantial impacts on the individuals we serve and the work we continue in your communities across the state.

Additionally, in the last two years, the Centers have worked to transition over 200 individuals into the community. This has created estimated cost savings of over \$10,000,000 for the State of Ohio. This substantial cost-saving has been increased because of your investment in Independent Living. We are confident that this can only become even greater in the coming years when we are able to expand our impact in our communities, reach new communities in Ohio, and become one of the strongest Independent Living Programs in the country.

Center for Independent Living funding enables individuals with disabilities to live in their homes with their families where they can work, attend school, worship, and participate in other community activities. CILs are hubs of disability information, resources, services, and advocacy. CILs are vital to the whole community.

We appreciate your continued support of the Independent Living Program, the disability community, and helping us make Ohio a better state for the nearly two million individuals with disabilities.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Morris
Executive Director
Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

Promoting Independence, Empowerment, and Inclusion in Ohio.

670 Morrison Road, Suite 200, Gahanna, Ohio 43230
614.892.0390 • 800.566.7788 (Toll-Free) • 614.861.0392 (Fax) • ohiosilc.org

Ohio Independent Living Program Data Report

State	Funding from State for Program
Michigan	\$4,300,000
Indiana	\$2,462,384
Illinois	\$3,952,297
Wisconsin	\$1,583,500
Minnesota	\$3,011,000
Ohio	\$500,000.00

Services Provided	2018	2019	2020	2021
New Intakes	1,547	1,465	2,056	2,428
Active Plans	3,931	4,127	4,923	5,677
Successful Outcomes	2,213	2,454	3,477	4,969

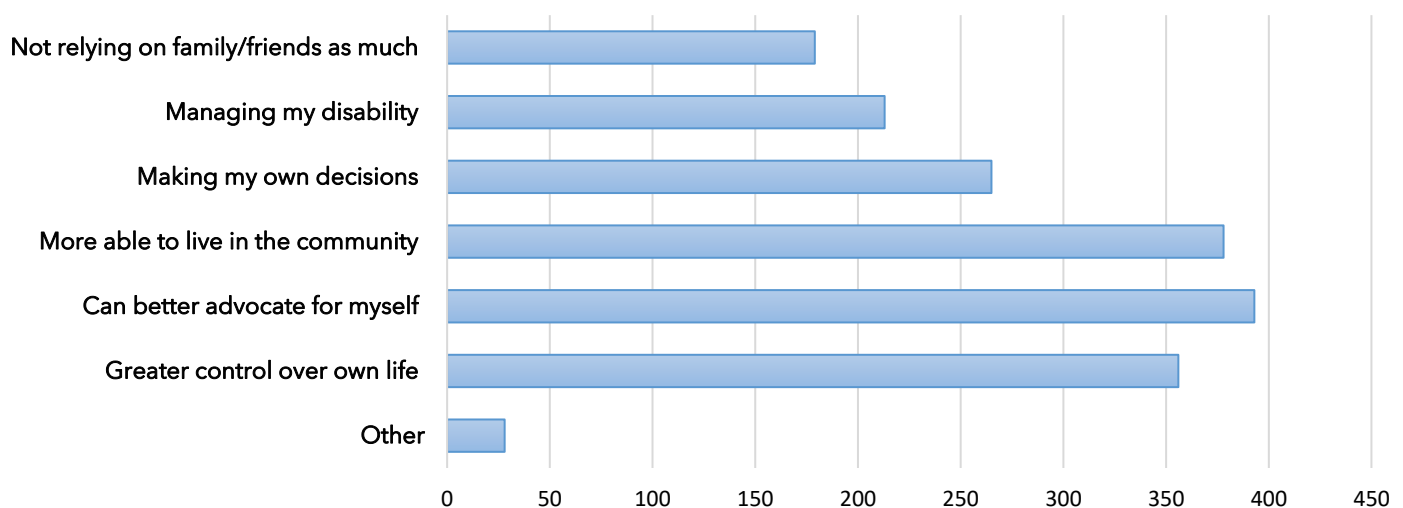
FFY 2021 & 2022 Outputs	
Community Capacity Building Hours	7,304
Community Capacity Building Activities	4,171
Hours Spent on Outreach Activities	2,882
Number of Outreach Activities	2,104

Direct Consumer Service Hours	84,297
Number of Referrals Made	21,678
Average time to complete outcomes	131.3 Days
Average number of goals set by consumer	1.78

In 2020, the Centers for Independent Living began new program evaluation measures through consumer surveys. The surveys are in three areas: Current and Active Consumers, Closed Cases, and Individuals that are receiving Information and Referral services only.

Below are the areas individuals with closed cases through CILs reported impacts to their lives after working with the Center.

How has the Center Impacted your life?



Ohio Independent Living Program Data Report

Satisfaction Data and Outcome Measures

FFY 2021 and FFY 2022

Below is the data related to individuals with closed cases that responded to the evaluation.

Closed Cases						
	Agree		Neutral		Disagree	
Center Services met my expectations	830	97.30%	16	1.88%	7	0.82%
Center assisted me in achieving my goals	814	95.65%	27	3.17%	10	1.18%
I am more independent after working with the Center	774	91.17%	66	7.77%	9	1.06%
I would recommend the Center to others	822	97.28%	15	1.78%	8	0.95%

Below is the data related to the individuals with active cases open in response to their current services.

Active Consumers						
	Agree		Neutral		Disagree	
Do you feel you have input in the direction of your services?	441	95.66%	15	3.25%	5	1.08%
Do you feel you are working toward achieving your goals?	426	92.81%	24	5.23%	9	1.96%
Are the Center services meeting your needs?	422	91.94%	29	6.32%	8	1.74%
Working with the Center is advancing my Independence	413	89.78%	39	8.48%	8	1.74%

Below is data relating to individuals that only received information and referral services and assistance through the CILs.

Information and Referral Services						
	Yes		No		Unsure	
Were you able to access the information you needed?	800	92.17%	51	5.88%	17	1.96%
Was the Center able to provide you new information that others had not?	768	90.89%	53	6.27%	24	2.84%
I would recommend others to the Center	822	95.92%	28	3.27%	7	0.82%
The Center offers high quality services	807	95.50%	32	3.79%	6	0.71%