

BCIL has provided services for people with disabilities since our founding in 1974. We know the disability community. We are the disability community.

BCIL offers the “core services” of independent living centers:

- peer mentoring
- skills training
- information and referral
- advocacy
- transitional services

BCIL assists people with disabilities in many areas critical to their lives:

- Locating accessible and affordable housing
- Obtaining benefits such as Social Security and Medicaid
- Procuring career training and finding employment
- Improving access to quality healthcare
- Understanding and advocating for your civil rights
- Assisting people to leave nursing homes
- Planning your child’s IEP
- Counseling you on long-term options to live in the community
- Acquiring assistive technology
- Working with cities and institutions to be fully accessible
- Training grassroots leaders
- Helping you get on the PCA program

DONATIONS

BCIL relies on donations from individuals, corporations and foundations to meet our obligations. We raise funds through special events like the annual BCIL Marie Feltin Awards Ceremony and our annual appeal and membership dues.

Donation opportunities range from naming rights to planned gifts to supporting our various events throughout the year. We accept credit cards, checks and pledges. Please contact our Development Coordinator to discuss ways you can help us continue to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

The Boston Center for Independent Living gratefully acknowledges the support of



Boston Center for Independent Living

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OUR MISSION

The Boston Center for Independent Living is a frontline civil rights organization led by people with disabilities that advocates to eliminate discrimination, isolation and segregation by providing advocacy, information and referral, peer support, skills training, PCA services, and transitional services in order to enhance the independence of people with disabilities.

Promoting

Independence

for People with

Disabilities

BCIL DIRECT SERVICES

Information and Referral, Skills Training, Individual Advocacy and Peer Mentoring are the backbone of Direct Services. The majority of Direct Service staff at BCIL have disabilities and through their experiences a consumer is able to understand independent living from an individual who knows what it takes to live in a world laced with barriers and challenges.

Our Information and Referral specialists are usually a consumer's first point of contact with BCIL, providing information on disability issues and referring you to the appropriate people at BCIL, or other agencies, for assistance with the many concerns you may have.

Empowering a person means to assist that individual to take control of his or her life in all areas, regardless of what his or her disability may be. Our staff can help you develop an Independent Living Plan, offer important information about disability rights and help you learn to advocate for yourself.

BCIL ADVOCACY

BCIL believes that greater independence for people with disabilities is a social imperative and that we must unite to speak out on larger issues that affect our lives. We employ Community Organizers to foster civic engagement by developing leadership and advocacy skills within our growing group of grassroots advocates, and by working with this group to advocate for specific programs for people with disabilities.

Successes include:

Improving access to the MBTA. BCIL settled a landmark class-action lawsuit against the T for violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The MBTA earmarked \$310 million to improve system-wide access.

Protecting the PCA program and supporting affordable healthcare. BCIL helped pass the PCA Quality Workforce Council legislation that established a directory of PCAs, making it easier for a person with a disability to find a PCA. It also enabled PCAs to collectively bargain, resulting in increased wages for this vital workforce. We also give strong consumer voice to health reform efforts in the state under the Affordable Care Act.

Promoting better municipal access. A BCIL collaborative advocacy effort led to Boston committing \$20 million to address curb cut and accessibility issues throughout the city. BCIL also promoted greater voter participation by working with the city to make numerous polling sites more accessible.

Housing. BCIL's advocacy efforts have generated millions of dollars for programs that support integrated, accessible, and affordable housing for people with disabilities, including the Home Modification Loan Program, the Community Based Housing Program, and the Alternative Housing Voucher Program.

Healthcare access. BCIL entered into precedent setting agreements with Partners HealthCare and Boston Medical Center to improve access and service for people with disabilities at major hospital facilities in Boston.

BCIL YOUTH PROGRAM

BCIL provides our four core services for youth consumers (14-22 years old). We help young people with disabilities during these key transition years find housing, search for jobs, solve transportation issues, and obtain appropriate equipment. BCIL provides guidance with the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and Individual Transition Plan (ITP). BCIL also runs its Transition Internship Program (TIP), which places high school students in paid internships and provides soft skills workshops on employment themes.

BCIL PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT PROGRAM
Personal Care Attendants (PCA) are vital for many people with disabilities *of all ages* to live independently. PCAs provide physical assistance with necessary daily living activities, or household tasks that would take an exceptionally long time for someone to do on their own. The PCA Program is a consumer-directed service, funded through MassHealth, where a person with a disability hires, trains and supervises an attendant to assist the individual with various tasks. BCIL's PCA Program makes it possible for many individuals with disabilities to be a part of the work force, manage their daily lives, raise families and achieve maximum independence.

