Southwestern Center for Independent Living (SWCIL)

Serving People with Disabilities in Southwestern Minnesota

Private, Non-Profit **Consumer-Controlled** **Non-Residential**

Cross-Disability **Community-Based**

SWCIL is dedicated to working with and responding to the ever changing needs of persons with disabilities in southwestern Minnesota to promote societal acceptance, inclusion, and equal access for all persons with disabilities.

SWCIL's primary service area includes ten (10) counties in southwestern Minnesota:

Cottonwood **Jackson** **Lincoln** **Lyon** **Murray**

Nobles **Pipestone** **Redwood** **Rock** **Yellow Medicine**

Services available include:

- IL Skills Training
- Advocacy
- Peer Counseling
- Information & Referral
- Assistive Technology
- Youth Transition
- Relocation to Community-Based Living
- Prevention of Institutionalization
- Veterans Services
- Accessibility Information
- Support Planner Services - CDCS
- Ramp Program

Contact us:

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Providing services to persons with disabilities in southwestern Minnesota communities

Independent living services are available to assist people with disabilities to achieve the goals each individual sets for themselves.

Consumer control means consumers have a responsibility to make decisions about their own life, set their own goals and choose which services or assistance to use.

Consumer Services

Independent Living Skills Training
Designed to assist in developing or enhancing personal daily living skills to attain or maintain the desired level of independent functioning.

Advocacy
Provided on an individual, community and systems level. Consumers can request assistance in advocating for specific needs or services.

Peer Counseling
Provided on a cross-disability basis for groups or individually. Peer services are provided by persons with disabilities who are willing to share their unique insight, knowledge and skills with others.

Information & Referral
This service is available to anyone interested in securing disability-related information or in accessing an appropriate resource referral. General information available through SWCIL represents local, regional, statewide, and national resources.

Assistive Technology (AT) Program
The AT demonstration & lending program offers the opportunity to try out a device or observe a demonstration of devices to explore what best fits the individual's needs. We also provide information and resources on where to find devices that may be used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

Youth Transition Services
SWCIL staff are available to work with youth and young adults on a variety of topics to help prepare for or facilitate the transition to postsecondary life.
Examples of topic areas include:

- lnterpersonal/Social Skills
- Preparation for Written Driver's Permit Test
- Budgeting/Money Management
- Employment/Job Skills
- And many others

Relocation to Community-Based Living
SWCIL can assist with relocating from nursing homes and other institutional settings to community-based living. Contact SWCIL for more information on assistance with step-by-step planning, accessing programs and services, and/or coordinating services and efforts to relocate.

Prevention of Institutionalization
SWCIL provides assistance in identifying needs, removing barriers, or establishing the services and supports needed to remain in community-based living. Contact SWCIL for more information if you or someone you know is at risk of nursing home or other institution placement but would like to remain in community-based living.

Veterans Services

SWCIL is dedicated to serving Veterans and offers the following community-based services for Veterans and their families:

Examples of services include:

- Seeking/maintaining employment
- Locating and securing housing
- Social Security applications and appeals
- Finding appropriate community resources
- Budgeting/financial management
- Gathering and/or organizing information and records such as medical, employment, etc.
- We tailor services to meet individual needs

These services are not a replacement for benefits that a Veteran may qualify for from the US Department of Veteran Affairs, state Veteran services, programs offered by their respective units and those offered by agencies affiliated with federal or state Veteran programs. Veterans with disabilities may access any SWCIL service.

Accessibility Information

If you have general questions about accessibility for your home or business, we can provide you with information and/or resources.

SWCIL engages in community involvement in order to create more inclusive communities with equal access for all individuals.

Examples of access areas include:

- Evaluating the state of route bus stops
- Evaluating and identifying curb cuts, sidewalks, and intersections within communities which pose accessibility issues or concerns
- Providing information on voice-automated street crossing signage and buttons
- Addressing accessibility standards related to public spaces
- Providing an ADA check-list for bathroom accessibility
- Providing directories of establishments and the accessible features each contain

Support Planner Services - CDCS

Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) is a service option available under the CAC, CADI, DD, EW and BI Waivers that gives persons more flexibility and responsibility for directing their services and supports, including hiring and managing direct care staff.

To assist you with developing support plans and budgets under CDCS, SWCIL offers Support Planner Services which include, but are not limited to:

- Help develop, monitor and revise the CSP and budget
- Find and connect persons to both licensed and non-licensed providers
- Promote and enhance the self-determination process
- Facilitate community access and inclusion
- Assist persons to hire, support and/or train their employees

Ramp Program (Includes on-site assessment)

SWCIL builds ramps for individuals needing easier access to their home. Ramps are modular and constructed using treated material. An initial on-site evaluation will be completed by SWCIL with the consumer receiving a diagram of the proposed ramp along with an estimated cost projection.

The ramp program is available in the following counties: Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, and Yellow Medicine.

SWCIL is also a vendor for aluminum thresholds and a variety of aluminum ramps. These low maintenance and durable products offer versatility and are available in multiple sizes to meet your needs. Contact SWCIL for product information and pricing.

The Southwestern Center for Independent Living (SWCIL) offers a wide array of services for individuals, businesses, and communities. Contact us today to see how we can help you.

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