

**IMPORTANT FACTS  
ABOUT INDEPENDENT  
LIVING CENTERS**

**Facts About CILs**

1. Independent Living saves money in contrast to living in a nursing home.
2. CIL Collaboration with other Agencies Maximizes Effectiveness.
3. Independent Living offers IL skills to gain and sustain employment, keeping persons with disabilities away from public assistance rolls as they become tax paying citizens.

**COME BECOME PART OF OUR  
ONLINE COMMUNITY AT  
[WWW.THEABILITYCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.THEABILITYCENTER.ORG)**



**The Ability Center for  
Independent Living**

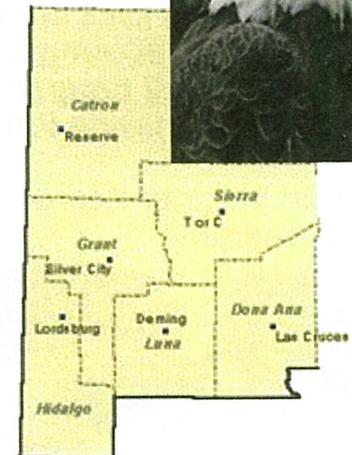
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**THE ABILITY  
CENTER FOR  
INDEPENDENT  
LIVING**



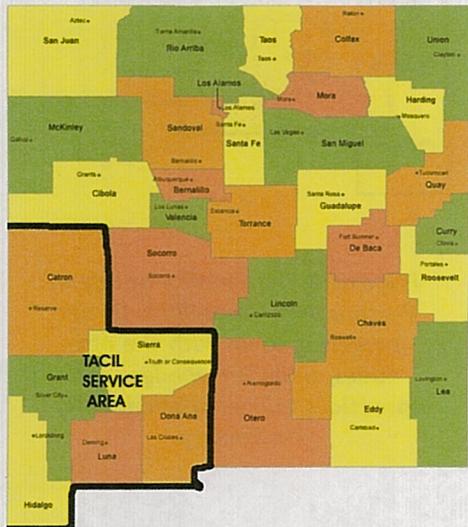
*Improving the Quality of Life of  
Persons with Disabilities by em-  
powering them with the atti-  
tudes, skills, knowledge, and  
practices to live independently  
in Society.*

## HISTORY

Established in 1989, The Ability Center for Independent Living (TACIL) is a Consumer-controlled 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization funded through Part C of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and as amended in 1992. TACIL services the New Mexico Counties of Doña Ana, Luna, Sierra, Grant, Catron, and Hidalgo.

As a Center for Independent Living (CIL), TACIL's goal is to maximize the potential and abilities of individuals with disabilities so they may lead productive lives in their communities. TACIL accomplishes this goal through its 2 programs:

1. The Independent Living Program;
2. The Social Security Representative Payee Program.



## INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

The IL Program is mandated to provide the following core services:

### ADVOCACY

Self Advocacy (personal advocacy): service where Consumers are taught how to achieve change in one's own life by advocating on one's own behalf.

Individual Advocacy: service on behalf of, for, and most importantly with a Consumer.

Systems Advocacy: service that works to create broad based change within a system, agency, community implementing strategies to increase availability and accessibility of services and resources, and creating equal opportunities for large numbers of people with disabilities.

### INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Information and Referral consists of providing information to the public and people with disabilities on various topics of personal interest, such as architectural accessibility, adaptive equipment, civil rights, communication aids, housing, personal care, transportation, etc.

### PEER MENTORING

Peer Mentoring allows persons with a disability to meet someone in a similar situation who has learned strategies to live life independently in the community. This service is accomplished in both individual and group settings.

### INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING

Independent Living Skills Training teaches persons with disabilities methods to develop the necessary skills to take control of

their lives and promote their participation in community activities. Plans are individualized and can be provided in group or individual setting.

Other TACIL Initiatives:

SCHOOL-TO-WORK TRANSITION  
COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON ACCESSIBILITY  
NURSING HOME TRANSITION/PREVENTION  
PRE-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES  
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES  
EXERCISE AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES  
SUPPORT GROUPS  
ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET

## SOCIAL SECURITY PAYEE PROGRAM

The Social Security Representative Payee Program ensures Consumers' basic needs are met by paying Consumers' rents, grocery bills, and utilities. Working in conjunction with Consumers, budgets are devised 4 times per year in order to teach Consumers budgeting skills. Consumers are also taught about savings and knowing to distinguish between a need and a want. Gradually, Consumers make the growth to where they start successfully managing their finances under the supervision of TACIL.