

## Quarterly Newsletter

June 2019

### Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC)

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# What's Up with WASILC

*Promoting a statewide network supporting the Independent Living Philosophy for people with disabilities through advocacy, education, planning, and collaboration.*

## What is Independent Living?

The **Independent Living Movement** is founded on the belief that people with disabilities, regardless of the form, have a common history, shared struggle, and a community and culture that will advance further banded together politically.

The **Independent Living Philosophy** emphasizes consumer control, the idea that people with disabilities are the best experts on their own needs, having crucial and valuable perspective to contribute and deserving of equal opportunity to decide how to live, work, and take part in their communities, particularly in reference to services that powerfully affect their day-to-day lives and access to independence.

The **Independent Living Model** sees the problem differently and understands disability as a construct of society. In this model, the problem lies in the environment, not the individual. Though many people have physical, intellectual, or mental attributes that deviate from the 'norm,' disability is manifested in society through purposefully created and maintained physical, programmatic, and attitudinal barriers.

People with disabilities do not see themselves as problems to be solved, and ask only for the same human and civil rights enjoyed by others. This viewpoint, however, is not generally accepted in society today, with that comes an opportunity to educate about Independent Living and those with disabilities providing the space to shift attitudinal barriers.



Every Body Needs Equal Access. Image from the [Pennsylvania SILC](#), History on Independent Living.

*Content taken from the National Council On Independent Living website. For additional information visit [www.ncil.org](http://www.ncil.org).*

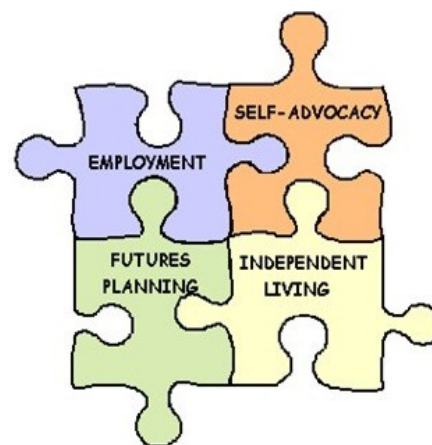
## Center for Independence - Youth Transition Program

The Center for Independent Living (CFI) Youth Transition Program offers Independent Living Services to youth with disabilities, age 14-24, who intend to live independently in the community. CFI has offices in Lakewood and Marysville. Last year, the Marysville and Lakewood offices engaged 133 youth addressing goal development and pre-employment/life skills.

Youth come together every month to attend peer support groups. These groups offer opportunities for social contact, emotional support and recreation with other young people with disabilities. Lakewood's group is called Out & About for Youth and Marysville's is called Rising Above Disabilities (RAD). Since 2016, the Marysville group has grown over 90% and the Lakewood office numbers, although down, are due to the rise in youth employment. So that's something to celebrate!

Every summer CFI holds a weeklong workshop at a university focusing on continued education and vocational goals. This gives the youth a college experience. For 5 days, 25 youth stay on campus and attend workshops involving community resources, work and school accommodations, interviewing and resume writing skills, budgeting, self-care and transitioning from secondary and post-secondary schools. On one of the day's volunteers with "Outdoors for All", provide adaptive bicycles, kayaks, and other equipment for the students to use. The next workshop will be July 2019 at the University of Puget Sound.

CFI feels by providing these opportunities for youth, they are investing in the future. Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. For more information about CFI's Youth Transition Program, call (253) 582-1253 or visit their website, [www.cfisouth.org](http://www.cfisouth.org).



Employment, Self-Advocacy, Future Planning and Independent Living

## One Out of Five: Disability History and Pride Project

In 2008, Washington state legislature passed a law declaring October as Disability History Month. Until now, schools have created their own approaches to honor the month. The title of the project is "One Out of Five: Disability History and Pride" because 1 out of 5 people in the United States has a disability, and this resource is designed to celebrate the history and identities within this large and diverse community.

"One Out of Five" was designed by the Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) in partnership with two local educators, Adina Rosenberg and Sarah Arvey, as a guide for schools to address Disability History Month. OEO has also partnered with Rooted in Rights, the video production team of Disability Rights Washington, to create student voice videos centered around Washington middle schoolers with disabilities, featured in Lesson 1 and in a separate discussion guide. "One Out of Five" is designed for middle school ELA classes, but can be modified for other grade levels or subject areas.

For more information on this project visit: <https://oew.wa.gov/education-issues-topics/one-out-of-five-disability-history-and-pride-project/>

## Google Unveils New Accessibility Initiatives

By Shaun Heasley with the [DisabilityScoop](#)

Tech giant Google says it is working on multiple projects designed to improve day-to-day life for people with various disabilities. At its annual developer conference this week, the company revealed several accessibility initiatives.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai demonstrated how a new Live Caption feature on Android phones will transcribe any audio or video — no matter its origin — in real time and allow users who don't speak to respond by typing. Pichai said the company is looking to expand on that capability even further through a project called Live Relay which is aimed at helping people who are deaf or hard of hearing make phone calls more easily.

Separately, an effort known as Project Euphonia is working to help people with speech impairments by training computers to decipher their words and transcribe them. And through another undertaking called Project Diva, engineers want to allow people who are nonverbal to use Google Assistant, which is typically a voice-activated system. "Building for everyone also means ensuring that everyone can access our products," Pichai said at the conference. "We believe technology can help us be more inclusive and (artificial intelligence) is providing us with new tools to dramatically improve the experience for people with disabilities."

Lorenzo Caggioni, a Google software engineer and the developer behind Project Diva, said he was inspired by his brother with Down syndrome who has congenital cataracts. He loves music and movies but relies on others to press start or stop for him.

"As new voice-driven technologies started to emerge, they also came with a different set of challenges that required him to be able to use his voice or a touchscreen," Caggioni wrote in a company posting about the new initiative. "That's when I decided to find a way to let my brother control access to his music and movies on voice-driven devices without any help. It was a way for me to give him some independence and autonomy."

For more information on the initiatives that Google is working on, check out their blog at: <https://blog.google/outreach-initiatives/accessibility/>.

## Accessible Technology Resources in Washington

University of Washington , Accessible Technology — <https://www.washington.edu/accessibility/>

Washington Assistive Technology Act Program — <http://watap.org/>

Informing Families — <https://informingfamilies.org/topic/get-tech/>

AT Solutions — <http://www.atsolutions.biz/>

## Resource Spotlight: Washington State ABLE Program

Washington's ABLE program, which is housed within the Washington State Department of Commerce, was launched in 2018. Federal legislators passed the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act in 2014, which allowed states to create these savings accounts for people living with disabilities and their families. U.S. citizens or legal residents who have a disability or blindness that developed by age 26 are eligible for ABLE.

ABLE account holders can set aside money and make investments in stocks and bonds. Withdrawals from an ABLE account are tax-free and can be used for many types of monthly living expenses, like groceries, housing, technology or transportation. ABLE account holders can also save toward big goals, like a trip, college, or vehicle or house purchase. To learn more or to enroll in the Washington State ABLE Savings Plan, go to [www.washingtonstateable.com](http://www.washingtonstateable.com).

### Upcoming Quarterly Meetings

**July 11-12, 2019**

Heathman Lodge

7801 NE Greenwood Drive  
Vancouver, WA 98662

**October 3-4, 2019**

Best Western Chieftain Inn

1017 N Wenatchee Avenue  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

All meetings are scent free.  
Contact staff for accommodation requests at (360) 725-3693.

### About Us

The Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC) is an eleven person, Governor appointed council that ensures Washington State delivers IL services that are community-based and consumer-controlled for all disabilities. The primary purpose of WASILC is to monitor, review, evaluate and maintain a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) . For questions about WASILC and its mission please contact Kim Conner, Executive Director at 360.725.3695 or Email: [connerkb@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:connerkb@dshs.wa.gov).

The Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP), a program of WASILC, is a statewide disability advisory group that provides technical advice on physical and programmatic accesses and effective communication strategies. If you have questions about the Coalition and its mission please contact Jim House, Disability Integration Manager at 360.339.7435 (VPN) or Email: [housej@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:housej@dshs.wa.gov).

For general information on upcoming meetings, events, and resources visit us at: [wasilc.org](http://wasilc.org).