

Living Without Limits

Summer 2024 OCEAN STATE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

RI SILC Submits the State Plan for Independent Living

Every three years the Administration for Community Living (ACL) requires all states to submit an updated plan for how they will support and enhance the lives of people with disabilities. The State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) is a three-year blueprint for how each state plans to expand and improve services related to transitioning, home modification, assistive technology, legislative advocacy, health care, and transportation in order to ensure full community access.

The RI Statewide Independent Living Council (RI SILC) submitted the state's completed plan in June. Here are the important goals that it lays out for us at OSCIL:

Goal 1: Grow Understanding and Knowledge of Independent Living

We will educate our community on the Independent Living philosophy and services. Through workshops, peer support, and community events, we aim to enhance quality of life, foster social inclusion, and drive policy changes.

Goal 2: Ensure Equal Access to Services and Public Events

Our advocacy efforts will expand to secure better Medicaid coverage, improve transportation options, and promote virtual participation in public meetings, ensuring that all individuals with disabilities have equal access to essential services.

Goal 3: Build Accessible Community Living Options

We will work to increase alternative housing options, develop and implement the Olmstead Plan, and strengthen partnerships with housing agencies, ensuring stable and supportive living environments for individuals with disabilities.



Goal 4: Expand the Youth Transition Program

Our Youth Transition Program for individuals with disabilities will offer more recreational and social activities, personalized workshops, and support groups to prepare participants for a successful transition into adulthood.

Goal 5: Support the Growth of the Independent Living Network

We will collaborate to identify community needs, expand our service offerings, and engage with underserved groups through targeted social media campaigns to keep our programs accessible to all.

Goal 6: Ensure Diverse and Effective Operations

By recruiting diverse and knowledgeable council members, we will enhance our advocacy efforts and ensure our operations reflect the diversity of the state.

Would you like to help us achieve these goals? Reach out to OSCIL for more information about how you can contribute to Independent Living in the Ocean State!

Show Your Disability Pride!

In celebration of Disability Pride Month and the 34th anniversary of the ADA, OSCIL invited people with disabilities to share their expression of disability pride.

We received many different expressions of disability pride, from original paintings and chalk art, to photographs and written statements. Just like each person with a disability, every submission was unique and fabulous.

Each person who submitted was entered into a drawing for a gift card from one of our community sponsors. Congratulations to Doreen for winning with her photo and statement about her passion for yoga!



DigiAge Technology Program Comes to a Close

After a year and a half of successful operation, OSCIL's DigiAGE program came to a close on June 30, 2024.

In 2023 the RI Office of Healthy Aging awarded a grant to OSCIL to facilitate a program that would focus on increasing digital access for individuals transitioning from nursing homes to community living. During its run, the DigiAGE program aimed to enhance independence and reduce isolation through technology like smart phones and tablets, smart home devices, and adaptive furniture.

DigiAGE operated under the state's Money Follows the Person and Nursing Home Transition programs, and was able to help 44 of the 53 people referred in a variety of ways. One consumer was able to reconnect with a friend via video calls on a new tablet. We helped another consumer install WiFi-enabled fixtures and a voice assistant in their home so they could control the light levels for a better night's sleep. Throughout the project, we also provided consumers with:

- Ring doorbells
- Smartphones
- Tablets/laptops
- WiFi routers/extenders
- iPads
- Smart lights
- Smartwatches

Initially set to end on September 30, 2023, OSCIL secured an extension that expired on June 30, 2024. Although the DigiAGE program has now concluded, other OSCIL programs may still offer assistance with smart home technology. Contact OSCIL at 401-738-1013 to learn if you qualify for smart home training or devices!

New Faces at OSCIL



Allyson DuPont

Program Development and Social Media Manager

A lifelong disability advocate and wheelchair user, Allyson brings more than 15 years of personal and professional experience in disability, communications, marketing, and design. She has a BFA in Graphic Design from RISD and specializes in inclusive design and communications.



Susan Dyson

IL Coordinator: Nursing Home Transition

With a background in social work, Susan has years of experience working with diverse populations. She is excited to join the team at OSCIL where her experience with durable medical equipment, disabilities, the elderly, and homeless populations will make her a real asset!



Catherine Moretti

Receptionist

A 27 year old Cranston native with Spina Bifida, Catherine joined the OSCIL team in May as a part-time receptionist. In addition to being a friendly face [or voice] to greet our consumers, she is also always ready to land a hand with the behind-the-scenes tasks that keep OSCIL up and running.



Molly Smith

Support Group Consultant

Molly is an independent contractor with OSCIL who is facilitating a peer support group for young adults. She is really looking forward to empowering our consumers and helping them find solutions to potential barriers they are facing.



Marlayna White

Bookkeeper

Originally from Pittsburgh, Marlayna Joined the OSCIL team in April. She loves advocating for disability rights, Bruno Mars, and photography.

Are you or someone you know being abused, neglected, or exploited?

GET HELP NOW

AGE 60+

 **401-462-0555**

oha.ri.gov/report-elder-abuse

AGE 18-59

(with a disability)

 **401-462-2629**

In a nursing home or assisted living?

 **401-785-3340**





**OCEAN STATE CENTER
FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**

1944 Warwick Ave, Warwick, RI 02889

401-738-1013 (voice)

401-244-7792 (VP)

866-857-1161 (toll-free)

OceanStateCIL ocean_state_cil

oscil.org



SUMMER 2024

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WARWICK, RI
PERMIT NO. 644

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Your go-to center for
disability services,
resources
& information!*

Coming in September

Deaf & HOH Peer Support Group

Deaf Services IL coordinators, Margle Malloy and Adriana Okwara, will launch a new Deaf & Hard of Hearing Peer Support Group. Beginning in September, it will meet at our Pawtucket location at 175 Main St.

Youth Peer Support Group

On September 12, support group consultant Molly Smith will host a new young adult support group at OSCIL's main location at 1944 Warwick Ave. in Warwick.

September Lunch & Learn

Disability Rights RI will be giving an interactive and informative presentation on voting in RI. Learn about your voting rights and see a demonstration of RI's accessible voting equipment called the ExpressVote.



Stay up-to-date on OSCIL news and events. Subscribe to our email list today!

Adaptive Surfing Events

Check out these two adaptive surf clinics in September!

Life Rolls On

September 7 at Narragansett Town Beach
liferollson.org/newengland

Rare Surfs

September 22 at Horseneck Beach in Westport
tinyurl.com/RareSurfsSNE2024

For more information about upcoming events, check out OSCIL's calendar at oscil.org/events



We would like to give a special thanks to Rhode Island Housing for sponsoring a Disability Sensitivity Workshop on August 31.

To learn more about sponsoring a workshop, visit oscil.org/sensitivity