

Gary Allen  
424 G Emmett Street  
Bristol, CT 06010  
(860) 589-2241

My name is Gary, Allen, and I am from Bristol Connecticut. I am writing in support of the Centers for Independent Living. I am both an Employee, having worked for two Centers in Connecticut. I am also someone with a disability. I see how the centers have helped people with various disabilities over the years. I have had the opportunity to assist people obtain the resources necessary to live more independently in the community.

- I am writing to urge the Legislator to not reduce the funding for the centers for Independent Living as proposed in Governor Lamont's budget.
- Connecticut's Centers for Independent Living are underfunded already. Connecticut provides the lowest amount of state funding to its ILCs compared to our adjacent states. Massachusetts Contributes \$714,612 to each of their Centers,
- New York contributes \$334,025 to their centers, and
- Rhode Island Contributes \$302,560 for their center.
- Connecticut only contributes \$62,594 to each of their Independent Living Centers.
- We are asking for an increase to the baseline funding of 550,000 for each center.

In fiscal year 19-20, the Independent Living Centers, under Money Follows the Person, transitioned 93 people out of nursing facilities, saving the state more than \$6M & saving lives.

The Independent Living Centers helped hundreds avoid costly institutions and connect to appropriate technology to support independent living.

The independent living centers help people find and maintain housing and employment in their community.

The Centers for independent Living employ people with disabilities to work as Advocates, Transition Coordinators, and provide independent living services to consumers who are Deaf.

**It is essential that Connecticut fund these Independent Living Centers to help people with disabilities that have nowhere else to go.**