

Our Stories

Funding Update for New Jersey's Centers for Independent Living

New Jersey's Centers for Independent Living (CILs) secured \$1 million in funding in the FY2027 State Budget. This funding comes after the Governor's proposed budget eliminated the entire \$3 million CIL line item, placing independent living services at risk across the state.

This year's budget process presented significant challenges for many organizations across New Jersey. Faced with difficult fiscal constraints, lawmakers were forced to make difficult funding decisions. We appreciate that the Legislature and Governor recognized the importance of Centers for Independent Living by preserving \$1 million in state funding after the Governor's proposed budget eliminated the entire CIL line item.



Photos: ACIL Director, Donald Campbell, advocating for Independent Living at the State House.



Photos: Meeting with the Commissioner of The Department of Human Services at Mocean's CIL



Photos: Disability Advocates Rallying at the New Jersey State House

However, this funding represents only one-third of the investment needed. The full \$3 million state appropriation is the minimum level of state funding required to adequately support New Jersey's Centers for Independent Living. CILs are the only statewide, cross-disability organizations dedicated to serving people with all disabilities, of all ages, throughout every stage of life. Restoring the full \$3 million investment is essential to ensure CILs can continue providing the independent living services and supports that empower New Jersey residents with disabilities to live independently and fully participate in their communities.

This funding would not have been possible without the strong advocacy of the disability community. Consumers, family members, staff, advocates, and supporters contacted legislators, shared their personal stories, attended meetings, testified before legislative committees, and spoke about the importance of independent living services. Their voices helped demonstrate the critical impact that Centers for Independent Living have in every county across New Jersey.

Although the FY2027 budget includes important funding for CILs, our work is not finished. We will continue working with the Governor, the Legislature, community partners, and disability advocates to restore the full \$3 million state appropriation and ensure that every New Jersey resident with a disability has access to the independent living services and supports they need.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who advocated throughout this process and to the Governor and members of the Legislature who supported funding for New Jersey's Centers for Independent Living. Your advocacy and support make a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands of New Jersey residents with disabilities, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen independent living services across the state.