

A note from our Co-Directors, Ian Engle and Mike Bertram



NorthWest Colorado Center for Independence is comprised of people with disabilities working together to achieve greater independence and actively participate in the Colorado mountain communities we've served since 1997. Every challenge we face results in being better equipped to perform and execute our mission: NWCCI works with people who have disabilities to explore options, set goals, develop skills and take action for living more independently. We envision communities with resources and opportunities for people with disabilities to do for ourselves and establish the active and civically engaged self-confidence to overcome pity, learned helplessness, stigma and toxic charity.

The Independent Living approach differs from traditional service providers, in that we assist individuals to achieve greater independence through their own action of self-advocacy, peer support and developing skills to explore options, make informed choices and reach goals for living well in our communities. People with disabilities work with NWCCI to engage a network of partner agencies and organizations as we leverage capacity through collaboration.

NWCCI works to realize comfortable spaces where everyone is accepted, regardless of background, ability or belief. We share resources with a commitment to listening, respecting and taking the necessary steps for achieving equitable access. We work with anyone who has a goal for living independently in Grand, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt and Summit Counties and meet the diverse array of evolving needs. During our fiscal year 2025, we served 313 individuals, providing over 8000 services to them. We thrive in our demonstrated ability to be flexible and accommodating; we adjust, improvise and adapt as a natural course of design.

The NWCCI staff and board of directors are people with disabilities. Our board is actively engaged in strategic development and direction, including financial guidance and a dedicated commitment to supporting staff, recognizing that our staff is the foundation of our success with the individuals we serve. NWCCI is supported by government contracts, grants, donations, fundraising, and third-party fee for service program revenue, with no charge to anyone using our services. We continue to successfully diversify our sources of financial support. Your generous donations are integral to furthering our mission.

NWCCI celebrates more than 25 years of living independently in northwest Colorado!



NWCCI Cultural Identity Statement

NWCCI is a team of committed professionals who own the mission and approach consistently and diligently with compassion dedicated to assisting people with disabilities with achieving maximum potential and independence. We complement one another's strengths and skills. Differences make us stronger as we bond around genuine, thoughtful intent and an innovative approach to our vocation. We are reliable, accountable, and passionately embrace a clear purpose together.

What is a Center for Independent Living? What is Independent Living Philosophy?

Below are two videos produced by our sister Center for Independence organization in Boulder, Center for People with Disabilities. NWCCI is one of nine Centers for Independence in Colorado, and about 400 nationwide. We apologize if you need to skip any advertisements that pop up, as these videos are accessed via YouTube. You may possibly try to click it open, and if there are ads, click it shut, come back to this link and click it again. =)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=XTmE9p1jh5Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLAZAz4R3WA>

We accomplish our mission through many services and programs:

Advocacy: We advocate with individuals to set goals for living well in the community, develop an Independent Living Plan for reaching their goals, and incorporate identified supports and services. We work together to see systems change by sharing lived experience with elected officials and key decision makers.

Independent Living Skills Development: Developing and implementing skills for choosing and directing supports to reach goals for living well in the community. These skills include managing finances, benefits, health, nutrition, social and civic engagement, employment opportunities, and recreational endeavors.

Peer Mentoring and Groups: NWCCI staff, board members, volunteers and people with disabilities support one another as we share experience, strength, guidance, fellowship, hope, tools, techniques, and resources. Independent Living is rooted in a peer support model, as the person best equipped to understand and support an individual with disabilities is another individual who similarly experiences life.

Information and Referral: Connecting people with services, resources and support from community partners, faith-based organizations, and government agencies to secure transportation, housing, benefits, social/recreational opportunities, businesses (employment) and more. We help individuals to obtain assistive technology devices, adaptive equipment, service animals and tools and resources for achieving greater independence.

Youth Services: We assist young adults transitioning from school to adult life in the community. NWCCI staff work with the youth and their families to plan, prepare, and help make the transition as successful as possible, helping youth gain skills for job-seeking, higher education, access to benefits and other vocational activities.

Nursing Home Transition: We assist individuals to explore options for transitioning out of institutional environments into the community with the ability to choose and direct services and supports. NWCCI offers life skills training, peer support, and advocacy. Our staff assist in obtaining necessary supports including home health care, doctor appointments, equipment, applications and any other assistance to reduce risks and increase success.

Home Modifications: We assist people with new or ongoing home modification needs to secure improved safety and accessibility, greater health, and further independence. We focus on health, safety, and freedom from isolation for these individuals, as they move out of a nursing home, or move back home after new accessibility needs are realized.

Benefits Application Assistance: We assist with navigating the often-complicated labyrinth of benefits systems including Medicaid and Social Security.

Outreach and Support: Guidance and technical assistance for educational facilities, businesses, government agencies, community partners and landlords, focusing on the advantages of an inclusive, diverse workforce and community.

Transportation Services: Identifying and engaging accessible transportation for getting to medical appointments, social engagements, and essential errands, and achieving freedom from isolation.

Grand County Highlights

Grand County (GC) services have continued to provide meaningful support and valuable access to community resources for people with disability challenges. GC residents, from all walks of life and all ages, enrich the quality of their lives together with NWCCI.

With the support of NWCCI and the Grand County community, one of our consumers who experiences blindness, was able to earn a scholarship to go to Wisconsin where she gained valuable winter travel skills, accessed mobility training, and explored the benefits of getting a trained service dog through the non-profit organization Leader Dogs.

Two Grand County youth, who have been working with NWCCI for years, have found steady incomes and continue to reach their independent living goals. One is now working as a Dental Assistant in Winter Park and also works for King Soopers in Denver where there were promoted by the union as a strike captain. They participated in a union protest which was successful in gaining greater employment terms and benefits for all its employees. The other youth has been learning roofing skills, while braving the sky.

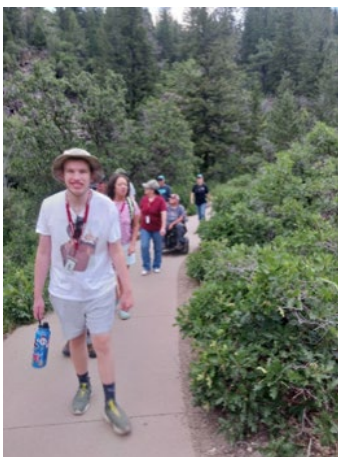
Much of our most impactful work is done with youth transitioning to independent living. NWCCI fosters a support system, helping youth build a bridge from high school to adulthood.

Grand County NWCCI services have continued to provide benefit access to community resources for people with disabilities. This includes access to health care, housing, employment, mental health support, self-advocacy, assistive technology, disability income, home health services, transportation, social engagement opportunities and youth in transition services.

Please feel free to contact our Grand County Independent Living Coordinators:

Joy McCoy by phone: (970) 846-8038 or email: joymccoy@nwcci.org

Evan Shockley by phone: (970) 875-4836 or email: evan@nwcci.org





Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties Highlights

We have been hosting many Peer Groups, providing activities for our consumers. One event was to go to an Avalanche game in Denver. It was a dream of one consumer to go and NWCCI made it happen. We had lots of interaction and activities!

Staci Nichols is an Independent Living Coordinator serving Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties. Staci also works statewide with educators and our education partners to implement communication accessibility and ensure that they are equipped to better accommodate deaf and hard of hearing students. She advocates for student access to education and ability to learn.

Shannon Buchanan is our Lead Nursing Home Transition Coordinator and is based out of Yampa Valley. Wendy Taylor is an Independent Living Coordinator serving Moffat County.

Please feel welcome to contact us:

Staci Nichols by phone (text only): (970) 819-7027 and email: staci@nwcci.org

Shannon Buchanan by phone: (970) 629-0927 and email: shannon@nwcci.org

Wendy Taylor by phone: (970) 819-7649 and email: wendy@nwcci.org



Routt County Highlights

Over the past year, NWCCI has continued its dedicated work in Routt County, supporting both adults and youth through a variety of community-based services. A primary focus has continued to be the increasing housing navigation and benefit applications; as our living costs continue to rise, providing support to promote housing stability is essential. We have been busy helping individuals understand eligibility requirements, gather necessary documentation, and complete applications. NWCCI has also expanded its support for veterans in the community and has worked to ensure veterans are connected with the services they need to maintain stability and live independently, while also addressing any unique challenges they may face. Across all areas, a notable outcome has been the continued strengthening of community connections and a positive impact on the well-being of those served.

Please feel welcome to contact James Higgins, our Independent Living Coordinator for Routt County by phone: (970) 846-8085 or by email: james@nwcci.org



Summit County Highlights

We have been very busy this year in Summit County, serving an ever-increasing number of individuals. We attended a career day at Summit High School in which we presented to the whole 10th grade class over 8 periods about the Center for Independent Living, the services offered and what it looks like to be employed at one. Attendance and networking was held at the Nonprofit Gives Night in Frisco with nearly 30 other non-profits from the county.

Recurring meetings with the local Division of Vocational Rehabilitation office allows each of us to be up to date with what each is doing. Throughout the last fall, time was spent volunteering at the Family and Intercultural Resource Center (FIRC) during their food market days helping to fill and label orders that came in from the community. We continue to maintain our partnerships with the local DVR office and the high school to locally support our youth transition program.

We participated again in the Statewide Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) this year, as we are both 2018 alumni, to support young adults with disabilities, ages 16-26, to achieve independence.

through peer support and presentations with people with disabilities that teach about disability rights, self-advocacy, leadership, career goals, problem solving, the independent living movement, and team building skills. At YLF, youth meet new people, learn about themselves, and leave with a plan for their future.

Evan Shockley is the chair of the Statewide Independent Living Council, which writes the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) committee. The SPIL is the document that drives the Independent Living Services funds that are received from the state and federal levels and includes public feedback in developing the main goals of the SPIL.

Please feel free to contact our Summit County Independent Living Coordinators:

Evan Shockley by phone: (970) 875-4836 or email: evan@nwcci.org

Leo Santos by phone: (970) 620-1195 or email: leo@nwcci.org



Transportation

NWCCI's transportation program addresses the growing needs for people with disabilities in underserved rural Colorado counties to achieve their transportation solutions. We provide safe, economically viable (free to user) transportation to non-emergency medical appointments to vulnerable users, primarily in Moffat and Routt County. We now are evolving our program, which has grown into including providing multi-passenger transport to regularly reoccurring appointments within our five counties, and throughout Colorado. We also provide transport for running errands, attending recreational or learning events, and achieving freedom from isolation, and we transport people moving from a nursing home to their own home.

NWCCI consults with each of our consumers to educate them on all interdependent options to meet all their transportation needs, within and outside of their home communities. NWCCI staff educate and join a person to explore available options and make informed choices for using public transportation.

The transportation program served 542 rides in 2024. In 2025, we hope to reach more people trying to get rides to medical appointments and grocery stores.

Hope Hunt is our Transportation Coordinator. Please feel free to contact Hope by phone: (970) 819-0579 or email: hope@nwcci.org

Nursing Home Transition

NWCCI facilitates opportunities for people with disabilities to successfully transition from nursing home institutions back into the community, or to avoid having to enter an institution in the first place. NWCCI facilitates Rapid Reintegration to begin working with individuals immediately when they arrive at a nursing home, so they can transition back into their home.

NWCCI staff works with, supports and coordinates the network of people surrounding the person transitioning, including providers of services working to make the transition successful. The focus is on identifying and exploring options and opportunities with the individual to develop skills needed to live more independently in the community. People who are supported to overcome learned helplessness and develop skills for choosing and directing community-based services, are best equipped to remain in their communities of their choice. The transition and support continue beyond when a person leaves the nursing home, for at least a year.

Please feel free to contact our Lead Transition Coordinator, Shannon Buchanan by phone: (970) 629-0927 or email: shannon@nwcci.org You may also contact our Independent Living Coordinator Wendy Taylor by phone: (970) 818-7649, or email: wendy@nwcci.org

Home Modifications

Many individuals have new or ongoing home modification needs to achieve accessibility solutions and more independence. Some examples of modifications include temporary or permanent ramps, elevator chairs (chair lifts on a rail to go upstairs), and handrails in showers. We focus on health, safety, and freedom from isolation for these individuals, assisting them with their move out of the nursing home, or a move back home after new accessibility needs are realized. We provide household set-up services and life skills training, preparing the individual for their arrival home, and providing access.

NWCCI's Home Modification program is expanding, promoting safety & mobility throughout each Grand County community. In one example, the program sparking accessibility at a Fraser condominium complex. Metal reinforcements were added to all pedestrian railings at a large condo complex in Fraser. NWCCI's Home Modification program in Grand County, supported by the Grand Foundation's ROSH fund, helped purchase this specialty lift for a local youth with quadriplegia.



Rocky Hockey Expo





SLED HOCKEY EXPO

EXPERIENCE THE EXCITEMENT OF SLED HOCKEY

- Try Out Sled Hockey Equipment
- Play A Game
- Get Questions Answered by Pros
- Help Build Sled Hockey League
- Get Involved & Grow Sport!

EXPO | SLED TIME

4PM-6PM

April 19

Howelsen Ice Arena

PRE-REGISTER ONLINE

Scan QR Code















STEAMBOATSPRINGS.NET/ICE

NWCCI helped sponsor a Sled Hockey Expo in April where individuals with disabilities were able to get out on the ice, try out sled hockey equipment, and even play in a hockey game. This event wasn't just about having fun; it was also the first step in building sled hockey leagues in northwest Colorado.

To learn more, please contact our Independent Living Coordinator Staci Nichols by phone: (text only): (970) 819-7027 and email: staci@nwcci.org

Life Skills Camp

NWCCI hosts an amazing and impactful summer Life Skills Camp (LSC) for youth transitioning into adulthood. The participants emerge from the camp with noticeable increased self-confidence. They usually do not want to leave, feeling profoundly empowered and accepted through the social bonds they built together. Each participant pushes themselves out of their comfort zones, creating a known pride that can only be discovered when overcoming new personal challenges.

Both campers and NWCCI staff grow from this special event, gaining countless independent living skills and creative ways to daily navigate the unique difficulties they're faced with. They find and develop their voices through collaborative musical art workshops, visit Fish Creek Falls, create tie dye shirts, connect through team-building activities, prepare meals, ride horses, learn about civil rights and self-advocacy, and hold soulful discussions about taking charge of increasing the quality of their lives. This camp is truly a life changing and one-of-a-kind experience! This year's Life Skills Camp was hosted in June 2025 at the STARS Ranch in Steamboat Springs. It is always FREE for youth with disabilities, ages 16-26. For more information, please call Joy McCoy at (970) 846-8038 or email: joymccoy@nwcci.org







Want to be involved? We are always looking for:

- New Community Partnerships
- Consumer and Staff Referrals
- Financial Assistance and Fundraising Support
 - Volunteers

To get in touch, please email jessica@nwcci.org
Contact Us!

All of us at NWCCI are eager to assist individuals with disabilities to live well in their communities. Please contact us at any time. For mail, please use the Steamboat Springs mailing address. For phone calls or emails, contact the Independent Living Coordinator in your area (see above in each County section) or dial (970) 871-4838.

Grand County

365 East Agate Ave, #B
Granby, CO 80446

Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties

551 Tucker Street
Craig, CO 81625

Routt County

3001 S. Lincoln Ave, Suite C8
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Summit County

325 Lake Dillon Drive, Unit 201
Dillon, CO 80435

To donate, please visit: <https://www.coloradogives.org/donate/NWCCI>

In closing, please double-click (left side of mouse) on this image below to see a video about NWCCI narrated by our Co-Director, Ian Engle. Once you've clicked to open the link and it brings you to a new page, please click on the icon at the bottom right of the page, to view the video in Full Screen. The icon looks like a square with open sides. Then press Play (the arrow) at the bottom left of the screen. When you are done watching, you can press "esc" on your computer keyboard to exit Full Screen. Thank you for spending your time reading this and seeing what NWCCI has been up to lately. We appreciate your interest.

