

In what ways can I get involved?

Western New York Independent Living, Inc. (WNYIL) is a consumer-driven agency with opportunities for you to take part in a variety of ways...

1. Board Membership

WNYIL has a Board of Directors which is comprised of people with disabilities. We are looking for individuals to join us and assist in strategizing for the agency's future.

2. Council Membership

The Family of Agencies has six Advisory Councils. ILNC, ILGR, MHPC, OAHIO and NFRRS. Each Council serves as a mini-Board to help with issues and planning for the upcoming year's goals.

3. Donate to Our Agency

Individual contributions through our annual appeal drive or special events supports programs and services which directly benefit consumers.

4. Join Our Team

To apply for a position with WNYIL go to www.wnyil.org/ Employment

Independent Living Centers are 501(c)3, non-profit organizations.



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Independent Living
of Niagara County
(ILNC)



Mental Health
PEER Connection



OAHIO
"The Good Path"



The Niagara Frontier
Radio Reading Service

*Education, Empowerment, and Equality
for People with Disabilities*

Western New York Independent Living, Inc. (WNYIL)

Our Vision

The WNYIL family of agencies is a catalyst for systems and individual change, enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities while respecting diversity, and promoting choice and alternatives for independent living in our societies.

Our Mission

WNYIL is a multi-cultural, grassroots, peer-directed, civil rights organization that provides a full range of assistance, programs, and services to enhance the quality of life for all individuals with disabilities.

Agency History

In the nationwide independent living civil rights movement, college students with disabilities, who were fed up with discrimination and the lack of access to society, decided to make their own opportunities and assist their peers to do the same. In 1979, "the Independents", a group of students with disabilities at the State University of New York at Buffalo, investigated the independent living movement, and began operating the Western New York Independent Living Project (ILP). The Agency was awarded a Federal Rehabilitation Act Title VII grant in 1980, and opened its own facility, early in 1981.

WNYIL Inc. Family of Agencies

Independent Living Centers (Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Orleans & Wyoming Counties)

Provide transition services, care coordination, developmental disability programs, independent living skills, educational advocacy, consumer-directed personal assistance services, work incentives benefits advisement, information & referral, and peer counseling.

Mental Health PEER Connection (MHPC)

Provides institutional, community and vocational-based services assisting consumers in their recovery process. Our program assists individuals live as independently as possible in the community.

OAHIO This "walls free" program provides independent living services to all Native Americans with disabilities, on and off the reservations in WNY. Programs consist of independent living skills, information and referral, peer counseling, and work incentives benefits advisement.

Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service (NFRRS) gives daily access of printed matter to hundreds of blind and print handicapped persons throughout WNY & Southern Ontario.

Additional Services

Independence Express WNYIL operates fee-based and funded transportation services for employment, family and recreational activities.

Taking Control Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Services Medicaid consumers may be eligible for in-home personal assistance. The consumer hires, trains, and evaluates their own personal care attendant.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) For adults experiencing behavioral health issues.

Health Homes Assists Medicaid eligible individuals with medical care coordination and other services offered by WNYIL.

Medicaid Application Assistance We can help elderly and disabled obtain Medicaid coverage.

WNYIL Support Groups Several peer-led groups each month.

Linkage & Referral Information on any needed services.

WNYIL 24-hour Hotlines

Alert Line Regarding alerts and changes to legal rights, dial ext. 311.

Job Bank Line For a local listing of available jobs, dial ext. 312.

What's Happening Line To keep up to date with the activities of each center, dial ext. 313.