

Independent Living

Presented by: SCRS-IL
Southern California Resource Services
For Independent Living

www.scrs-ilc.org

What is Independent Living?

- IL is a philosophy, a way of looking at disability and society, and a worldwide movement of people with disabilities working for self-determination, self-respect and equal opportunities
- A Program, a Movement and a Culture
- IL services maximize the ability to live independently in the environment of their own choosing (community-based living rather than an institutional setting)

I.L Philosophy

- Emphasizes consumer control:

The idea that people with disabilities are the best experts on their own needs, having crucial and valuable perspective to contribute and deserving of equal opportunity to decide how to live, work, and take part in their communities

A few guiding principles are...

People with disabilities:

- know their needs best and can be met most effectively by comprehensive programs that advocate for the rights and needs and provide a variety of supportive services.
- Should have a choice on how they are integrated in their community.
- Have the same aspirations as people who do not have disabilities.
- Expect equal access to social, economic and political opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Are in the best position to guide, direct, and control programs for people with disabilities.

IL Philosophy (Continued)

- “According to traditional thought, disabilities are impairments to be cured through medical intervention...

People with significant disabilities are treated at best by the medical industry as diseases to be cured...

The Independent Living Model sees the problem differently and understands disability as a construct of society.

In this model, **the problem lies in the environment**, not the individual. People with disabilities do not see themselves as problems to be solved, and ask only for the same human and civil rights enjoyed by others.” - NCIL

What are Independent Living Centers?

- Community-based, cross-disability, non-profit
- At least 51% of the staff, as well as its Board of Directors, must have a disability
- America is home to:
 - 403 Independent Living Centers nationwide (ILC's or CIL's)
 - 28 California ILC's

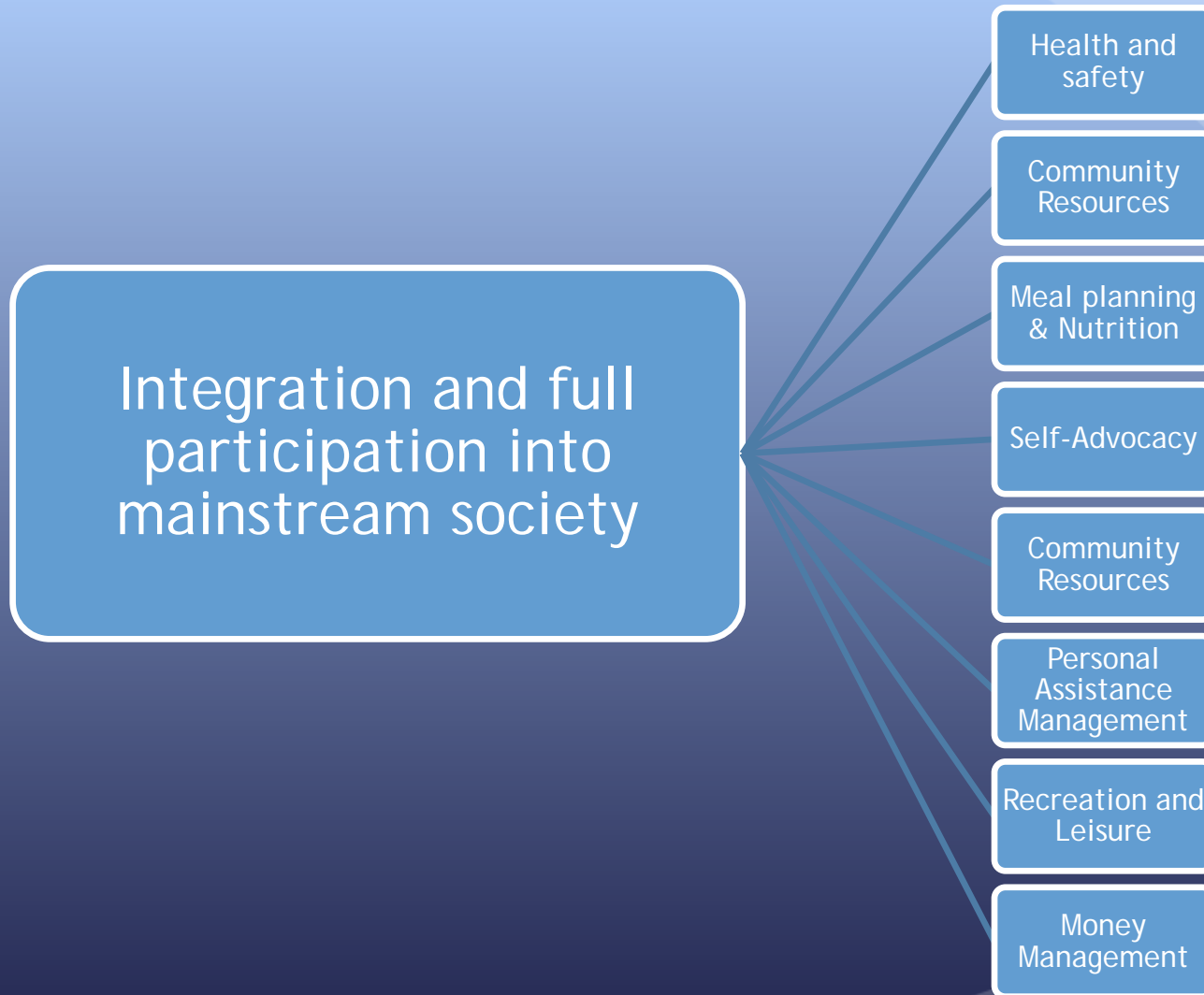
What are ILC's (continued)

ILC's provide 4 core services:

- Peer Support
 - Information and Referral
 - Individual and Systems Advocacy
 - Independent Living Skills Training
 - Assistive Technology
 - Additionally, in California:
Personal Assistance Services
Housing Assistance
- Other supportive services that vary from center to center

ILC's operate according to a strict philosophy of consumer control, wherein people with all types of disabilities directly govern and staff the organization.

Independent Living Skills



Los Angeles County Independent Living Centers

- Find the nearest center:

www.NCIL.org



S.C.R.S

- S.C.R.S. = Southern California Resource Services
- Founded in 1979
- Service area is ~40 cities in the Los Angeles Area
- Has served 50,000+ individuals

SCRS-IL

Southern California Resource Services
for
Independent Living

Support Groups

- Women's Peer Support Group
- Men's Peer Support Group
- Recreational Group
- Art Program
- Disability-related Groups



Support Groups...

- Drum Circle
- LGBTQ-Disability Peer Support Group
- Youth Program



Youth Leadership Week

- Empowering youth to become leaders of their own independence
- Money Management
- Community Involvement
- Voting Information
- Informational Sessions



Computer Training

- Open Lab
- Instructors
- Basic Computer Skills
- Word, PowerPoint, Excel
- Internet basics



Vocational Department

- Works in partnership with Department of Rehabilitation
- 4 So-Cal Counties: LA, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino
- Intake, Job Prep, Placement, Retention
- Incentives for employers: OJT Funding, Work Opp. Tax Credit, Job Coaching Services



Resources

- www.NCIL.org
- www.scrs-ilc.org
- www.dor.ca.gov/ils

