



Community Resilience Initiative - Continuing IL Work During Pandemic

Independent Living work MUST continue!

Continuing Core Services in a Pandemic:

- Information and Referral
- Peer Mentoring and Support
- Advocacy
 - Individual
 - Systems
- Independent Living Skills
- Transition
 - Youth
 - Institution

Keep the public updated and informed!

- Website: Update your website to reflect any changes in hours and virtual or hybrid events.
- Social Media: Engage consumers/public and share information.
- Emails and Newsletters: Send out timely and important messages.

Providing **Information and Referral** during a pandemic and concurrent disasters

- Keep database updated with hours of providers and services that might be needed in the pandemic or concurrent disaster
- Update database with local mutual aid or other resources
- Keep CDC guidance and recommendations readily available to refer to
- Keep website updated with current hours of operation

Peer Mentoring and Support:

- Gather together **virtually and in person when it is safe**.
- Make sure to be inclusive for people for whom it is not safe to interact in person
 - Social/peer support calls
 - Interactive recreational gatherings
 - Systems advocacy calls
 - Peer mentoring calls

Individual Advocacy:

- Helping file civil rights complaints
- Informing consumers of their civil rights

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Systems advocacy issues that are exacerbated in disasters:

- Institutional bias
- Housing
- Transportation
- Education
- Workforce (personal assistance services, direct support providers)
- Healthcare maintenance (including durable medical equipment (DME), Consumable medical supplies (CMS), and assistive technology (AT))
- Healthcare and services rationing

Independent Living Skills Training:

- Need to continue IL skills training
- Do all your consumers have access to smart devices/Internet?
 - If not, are you modifying policies and procedures to address this?
- Modify Independent Living Plans (ILP)
 - Revisit ILP - are there new or different goals?
- Financial literacy and stimulus money
- Travel during the pandemic
- Getting basic supplies including PPE during a pandemic
- Personal assistance management
 - Plan extra back-ups, and planning during a pandemic

Transitioning from high school:

- Students must still receive transition support even when school is remote
 - Transition to post-secondary education and transition to work
- Compensatory education may be available

Transition from nursing facilities:

[34% of COVID deaths](#) are from the **0.6%** of the population who live in nursing facilities and assisted living facilities.

- This is a matter of life and death right now.
- You have the power to save lives by diverting people from going into nursing facilities in the first place and getting people out of nursing facilities.

Don't get complacent!

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