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Independent Living Services, Diversion & Transition from Institutions

The Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) understands that independent living services provide a foundation in which people with disabilities can remain in their homes in accordance with Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. (1999). The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) also requires that people with disabilities fully interact with nondisabled persons in an integrated setting where possible and that services, programs and activities must adhere to this mandate. The SILC upholds these ideals by practicing the Independent Living Philosophy: All people have the right to control and direct their own lives, leading to self-determination and independence, and people with disabilities also have the right to actively participate in all aspects of community life to any extent they choose.

This philosophy and set of standards and laws prescribe a robust and far-reaching set of IL services to facilitate both the diversion from institutions like nursing homes and care facilities as well as transition out of them where possible. Programs such as Money Follows the Person (MFP) and Family Outreach and Community Integration Services (FOCIS) as well as personal care services, assistive technology, home health, and any other core IL services as defined within [The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 796c section 7(18))](https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/about-acl/2020-07/rehabilitation-act-of-1973-amended-by-wioa.pdf) must be made available to people with disabilities, regardless of their ability to pay. Whenever there is a barrier to independence as defined in the IL Philosophy, the SILC must, to the best of their ability, educate any entities who may assist in removing that barrier.

Transition from High School-College Bound

The Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) stands firm in support of ensuring youth transitioning into college or trade school have the tools and resources they need to be successful. We also understand that all people have the right to the opportunity to fail, as well, and that when people fall short of their goals, they learn and grow as a person. This is a basic human right that no one should be denied. Whether through an Independent Living (IL) program, high school college counseling program, non-profit resource, Department of Education initiative or another source, college preparation should be accessible, comprehensive, and individualized, based on each student’s need. The Nevada SILC must evaluate transitioning students’ needs throughout the State and educate any entities regarding this important process.

The [Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Act), as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)](https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/about-acl/2020-07/rehabilitation-act-of-1973-amended-by-wioa.pdf) emphasizes the provision of services to students and youth with disabilities to ensure they have opportunities to receive the training and other services necessary to achieve competitive integrated employment and expands the population of students with disabilities who may receive services and the kinds of services that the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies may provide to youth and students with disabilities who are transitioning from school to postsecondary education and employment. Therefore, it is also the stance of the Nevada SILC to ensure there is widespread awareness of VR programs, as well as education to VR representatives and legislators regarding specific needs of the population of Nevada youth with disabilities.

Employment for Persons with Disabilities (PWD)

The Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) believes that people with disabilities who want to work should have equal access to gainful employment and that any person who obtains employment should receive a living wage. If a person is qualified, their disability should not deter an employer from hiring that person, and reasonable accommodations are not only required according to the [Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as Amended](https://www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm), but also raise the standard of ethics in which the employer operates to a minimally acceptable level.