

### Randy's Story:

Following a car accident in 2015, Randy - husband, father, coach and businessman - was in a wheelchair and felt uncertain as to how to continue to fulfill his family, work and community roles. He needed some guidance and turned to Independence, Inc. for help. At Independence, Inc., Randy found peers who understood his situation, many of whom had been through similar experiences and discovered their own path to maintaining productive and independent lives.

With the guidance, support and services he received from Independence, Inc., Randy was able to accomplish things such as modifying his home to make it wheelchair accessible, working with his employer to make reasonable accommodations that helped him return to his job and securing transportation by utilizing Independence, Inc.'s accessible transportation services to travel within the community until he outfitted his car with hand controls. Randy even discovered an unexpected place to get new tires for his wheelchair - the local bike shop where he had shopped for years.

Working with Independence, Inc. in the weeks and months following his accident provided valuable assistance and support as Randy made the connections and accommodations necessary to continue living a productive life with confidence and independence.



To protect the privacy of our consumers, this story is a composite of the actual experiences of numerous people who have turned to Independence, Inc. for help.



Independence, Inc.  
2001 Haskell Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66046

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Hours: Monday-Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Maximizing the independence of people  
with disabilities through advocacy,  
peer support, training, transportation  
and community education



**independence** INC

for people with disabilities

advocacy

peer support

training

transportation

community education

[www.independenceinc.org](http://www.independenceinc.org)

# Offering Resources for People with Disabilities

## Independent Living Skills

We offer classes and training in important life skills like budgeting and shopping, housing and household management, and meal planning and cooking.



## Advocacy

We equip individuals with self-advocacy skills so that they may negotiate with landlords, request reasonable accommodations from employers, and work for systems changes in the community.

## Peer Counseling

Through one-on-one relationships and support groups, volunteers with disabilities mentor individuals who are newly disabled or who are just beginning to seek independent living services.

## Information and Referral

We assist anyone needing information on agency or community resources and programs.



## Transition Services

- Deinstitutionalization -Transition from nursing homes and institutions to community based residences.
- Diversion -Assistance to individuals at risk of entering institutions so they remain in the community.
- Youth Transition - Independent living skills and employment preparation training for youth ages 14 to 24.



## Additional Services

### Transportation

We provide door-to-door weekday transportation throughout Douglas County and transportation to medical appointments in Topeka, Kansas City, and Leavenworth.



### Equipment Loan Program

The Equipment Loan Program facilitates loans and donations of some medical equipment at low or no cost.

### Financial Management Services (FMS)

We facilitate the business aspects of our consumers' personal care relationship, like payroll and worker's comp. We provide FMS for eligible persons with disabilities desiring to direct their own personal care services under the KS Medicaid HCBS Waiver Program.



### Computer Learning Center (CLC)

The CLC is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offers adaptive software and self-paced instruction in popular computer programs.

### Youth Employment Program

This program provides paid employment for youths ages 15 to 21 who have disabilities.



### Braille Services

Our program offers individuals and companies Braille services.

### Kansas Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)

TAP provides specialized equipment to Kansans with disabilities or impairments in order to access basic home telecommunication services. We can help you try out the devices and get help applying for services.

## FAQs

### Whom Does Independence, Inc. Serve?

As a Center for Independent Living, Independence, Inc. serves both people who have disabilities and the communities where they live. We provide services to people with disabilities that are a result of aging or other life changes. Douglas, Franklin and Jefferson counties benefit from our core services. Some services may be available in additional counties. Most services are free



### What is a Center for Independent Living (CIL)?

CILs like Independence, Inc. are nonprofit, community-based organizations run by and for people with disabilities. A CIL isn't a residence - it's a center for coalition-building and action. A CIL empowers people with disabilities to take charge of their lives through services that promote leadership, independence, and productivity. CILs also work with the community to remove barriers to independence.



### What Services Does Independence, Inc. Offer the Community?

- Information and Referral
- Accessible Meeting Rooms
- Community Education and Outreach
- Disability Awareness
- Technical Assistance
- Braille Services
- Volunteer Opportunities

