

**Partnering with
people with disabilities
who want to live
independently and
participate fully in society**



**In addition to these core services
OCIL also provides the following:**

Vision Services Program: OCIL is able to provide free assistive devices/independent living aids to blind or severely vision impaired individuals over the age of 55 through a grant received by Bureau of Blind Services. Our Vision Services Advocate is available by appointment and will collaborate with you to identify items needed. We carry a wide variety of items designed to promote and maintain independence, including lighted magnifiers, talking watches, big button phones, adaptive kitchen gadgets and signature guides.

Personal Assistant Orientation: Through a grant provided by Illinois Department of Human Services, OCIL is able to provide a monthly Personal Assistant Orientation in our Bourbonnais office, and every 3 months in our Watseka office. Personal Assistants are hired by individuals with disabilities who receive Home Services through DHS. Upon completion of Personal Assistant Orientation, your name will be added to our Personal Assistant Registry, which is mailed out upon request of Home Services customers when they are recruiting new employees.

Personal Assistant Management: Also provided by a grant by Illinois Department of Human Services, Home Service customers can receive individual or group training on hiring, managing and firing their Personal Assistants.

Amplified Phone and TTY Demonstrations:

OCIL is designated by the Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation (ITAC) as a demonstration site for amplified phones and teletypewriter (TTY) devices. To qualify for this free program a person must be a legal resident of Illinois and be deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired or deaf-blind to the extent that they are unable to use a standard phone. Applications are available at both OCIL locations and require the signature of an audiologist; DHS Counselor for the Deaf; Speech-language pathologist or Physician.

Equipment Loans: OCIL provides free equipment loans to individuals with disabilities. Items are donated, and vary at any point in time. Typical items requested and available include wheelchairs, rollators, walkers, canes, and other reusable medical equipment.

Please note: we do not accept donations of any items that may have been in contact with bodily fluids, including toilet seat risers or bath chairs.

Options receives the majority of its funding from state and federal grants. In addition, Options utilizes membership funds as well as private and organizational donations to provide and expand services.

For More Information

To find out more about any of the services and programs Options offers, call the Kankakee County office at (815) 936-0100 (voice) or (815) 936-0132 (TTY); or the Iroquois County office at (815) 432-1332 (voice) or (815) 432-1361 (TTY).

Offering services at no charge
to individuals with disabilities of all ages
in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties

www.optionscil.org

Kankakee County Office:
22 Heritage Drive, Suite 107
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 936-0100 (Voice) or
(815) 936-0132 (TTY)
(815) 936-0117 (Fax)

Iroquois County Office:
130 Laird Lane, Suite 103
Watsela, IL 60970
(815) 432-1332 (Voice) or
(815) 432-1361 (TTY)
(815) 432-1360 (Fax)



United Way of Kankakee
& Iroquois Counties

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Options Center for Independent Living

Options Center for Independent Living (OCIL) is a non-residential, not-for-profit, community based advocacy and service organization directed and managed by, and for, people with disabilities. Centers for Independent Living are not “social service agencies”, but rather agents for social change that promote equal rights, full integration and equal opportunities for all. As a Center for Independent Living we are dedicated to the Independent Living Philosophy that a person, regardless of his or her disability, has the potential and right to exercise self-determination. Our programs and services are consumer directed, and here at OCIL, we don’t do for people, we do a lot with people.

OCIL serves Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, with an office located in Bourbonnais, and an office located in Watseka. State and Federal grants provide the majority of our funding, with additional revenue generated by fund-raising, private trusts, and other private grants as available to provide, expand and improve our services.

Options Center for Independent Living is one of 22 CIL’s throughout the state of Illinois. We do not discriminate in employment or provision of services on the basis of religion, race, ethnicity, gender, disability or sexual orientation. Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request for all services.

OCIL, as well as all CIL’s in Illinois, are responsible for administering core services (5) as determined by Administration of Community Living.

5 CORE SERVICES

Information and Referral:

OCIL provides current information about any disability related topic to individuals with disabilities, their families, service providers, and the community. Referrals are made to other resources as requested and appropriate.

Peer Support and Mentoring:

This involves sharing, problem-solving and exchanging information amongst individuals with disabilities who may share similar life experiences. OCIL seeks peer mentors to provide positive role-modeling and to share their knowledge if requested by another person experiencing a similar disability.

OCIL currently hosts a twice monthly Youth Group (ICRU) meetings in our Bourbonnais office and a monthly cross-disability support group meeting at our Watseka office. Vision Information Groups are hosted quarterly in both locations.

Independent Living Skills Training:

OCIL provides training as requested by individuals with disabilities to live independently in the community. Training may include self-advocacy, communication, mobility/transportation, community-based living, vocational, self-care, information access, personal resource management, relocation from a nursing home or institution and community/social participation.

Advocacy:

Individual advocacy literally means to advocate for oneself or another person. It means speaking out or arguing for a cause. OCIL places a high priority on assisting individual advocates in their efforts, and believes the key to true empowerment is full knowledge of one’s rights. Our team is trained to provide coaching and support to our consumers who want to advocate for themselves. By gaining self-advocacy skills individuals learn how to communicate and negotiate with agencies, service providers, employers and others in order to obtain needed benefits, services or accommodations.

Systems Advocacy is achieved by promoting and effecting positive changes at the local, state and federal level. Through various public awareness activities, special events and active participation in the legislative process, OCIL works to eliminate barriers and achieve equal access and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Transition Services:

Community Reintegration: OCIL receives state and federal funding dedicated to providing services that support qualifying individuals with disabilities transition out of nursing facilities into home and community- based settings.

Youth Transition: OCIL strives to empower youth with disabilities to successfully navigate the transition into all aspects of adult life, including pursuing post-secondary education, employment and independent living.

Nursing Home Diversion: OCIL supports community living for all individuals with disabilities. We receive various grants and charitable trust donations to provide Independent Living Aids; Assistive Technology and Wheel-Chair ramps to actively prevent nursing facility placement. Funding is limited and subject to eligibility guidelines.