



Research and Training Center on Independent Living

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Highlights

- Documenting Center for Independent Living staff and consumer experiences in the Gulf Coast following Katrina and other recent hurricanes.
- Proving how Kansas Centers for Independent Living create and retain job opportunities for Kansas citizens, provide wages, benefits, and taxes to support Kansas families and communities, in addition to purchasing Kansas goods, services, and property.
- Convening a working group of colleagues in independent living, governmental, and research sectors to identify specific, actionable recommendations with a 5 to 10 year horizon and measurable outcomes that will increase full participation for Americans with disabilities in community life.
- Hosting training seminars in Peru focused on pressure sores, urinary tract infections, bowel care, sexuality, and depression; each training based on booklets written by RTCIL researchers for the Paralyzed Veterans Association and translated into Spanish.
- Providing more than 2,000 summaries of independent living research on the www.Get.RIIL on-line database and on-line library to offer accessible, easy-to-understand information that can benefit people with disabilities and the people who support them.
- Developing and distributing of over 1.2 million Guidelines for Reporting and Writing About People With Disabilities that has been adopted by the Associated Press Stylebook and the American Psychological Association.

History

The Research and Training Center on Independent Living (RTC/IL) has a twenty-five year history of productive research, comprehensive training, and innovative dissemination of knowledge. The RTC/IL was conceived as a center without walls that would do what was necessary to enhance the Independent Living field and the lives of individuals with disabilities. In this synergistic environment, persons with disabilities, researchers, trainers, and policy makers have worked to produce much more than they could have as individuals or groups.

Mission Statement

To research, identify, and advance person-environment centered strategies that encourage full participation in society among persons with disabilities representing diverse cultures, varying socioeconomic strata, and emerging disability populations.

Examples of Projects

- Developing www.Get.RIIL online database of 2000+ summaries of independent living research
- Studying the Influence of Changes in Missouri Medicaid Benefits and Eligibility on the Use of Personal Assistance Services
- Assessing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Persons with Disabilities
- Developing an Action Plan to Improve the Quality and Quantity of Data about Paralysis

Examples of Funding

- National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Centers for Disease Control
- Christopher Reeve Foundation

RTC/IL