

# Our Approach



SIL embraces the Independent Living Philosophy that promotes the rights of individuals with disabilities to control and direct their own lives; to make decisions and take responsibility for their actions; to have opportunities to participate in all aspects of community life; to exercise the greatest degree of choice about where you live, with whom you live and how you live; and to take risks, being allowed to fail and to learn and grow from those efforts.

SIL services are designed to provide supports and skills to help individuals remain in the community of their choice.



Founded in 1980, Services for Independent Living (SIL) is a non-profit, non-residential center for independent living in Northeast Ohio. SIL provides an array of individual and community services designed to help and empower individuals of all ages and all disabilities lead healthy, productive lives and participate in community life as they choose. Individual services focus on providing individuals with disabilities access to information and skills needed to facilitate and enhance their independence and to remain in the community of choice. Community services are designed to address barriers to community living and promote the concept of independent living and choice. The majority of SIL Staff and a majority of SIL Board of Directors are individuals with disabilities. All SIL services are guided by the independent living philosophy and SIL's mission which in turn supports the agency's vision of **a society that is accessible to all people.**



## Located

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Cleveland, Ohio 44132

## Contact Us

call 216.731.1529 voice

## Ohio Relay 711



[WWW.SIL-OH.ORG](http://WWW.SIL-OH.ORG)



## SERVICES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

**Empowering persons with disabilities to lead inclusive lives through advocacy, community engagement, and self-directed services.**

INCLUSION | INTEGRITY | INNOVATION



SIL ENVISIONS A SOCIETY THAT IS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL PEOPLE.



## Impacting the Community

### **ADA/Accessibility Program**

Provides technical assistance to businesses, nonprofits, community programs and private homes to address Americans with Disabilities Act compliance and accessibility issues.

### **Advocacy**

Individual and system advocacy is integral to the promotion of community inclusion. SIL staff provide advocacy supports on behalf of individuals who have difficulty accessing services or places in the community. SIL staff also work to empower individuals with disabilities to become self-advocates. SIL actively participates on many local, state and national system change coalitions/committees to address barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

### **Community Education**

SIL provides information to the community through training workshops, professional development programs, an agency electronic newsletter and social media.

### **Information & Referral**

SIL provides up to date, accurate and relevant information and referrals to meaningful community supports. Access to such service is vital to leading a self-directed life in the community.

## Impacting Individuals

### **Abilities-R-Us**

SIL's Abilities-R-Us group meets in the community to discuss disability-related issues that have been determined (or identified) to be of importance. This is an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to learn from and support each other in a group format.

### **Equipment Program**

Provides new or gently used durable medical equipment and incontinence supplies. SIL accepts donations of new or gently used equipment and supplies to maintain the program. A prescription from a doctor is required to obtain item(s).

### **Independent Living Skills Training and Evaluation (ILST)**

Helps individuals gain skills needed to maintain an independent lifestyle. Topics are highly individualized and may include budgeting, ensuring safety in the community, maintaining households, preparing meals, increasing self-advocacy skills and accessing the community and preparing for an emergency. An evaluation can be requested to assess the individuals baseline abilities for areas of potential growth, related to living an independent lifestyle.

### **Leadership Academy**

An eight-week program designed to help individuals with disabilities develop skills needed to participate on nonprofit boards, community coalitions, taskforces, and system change committees in a meaningful way.

### **Nursing Home Transition**

SIL works with approved participants of Ohio's HOME Choice program to move from a skilled level of care facility (nursing home or hospital) back into the community.

### **Peer Support**

SIL staff help individuals with disabilities identify appropriate ways to manage challenges related to gaining and maintaining independence at home and in their community of choice. Peer support services are provided to individuals with all disabilities, by people with disabilities.

### **Personal Care Assistance Program (PCA)**

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) contracts with SIL to manage their consumer-directed PCA program in Northeast and Northwest Ohio counties

### **Youth Abilities**

Works with youth between the ages of 14-22 to gain skills needed to transition into the adult world of work, post-secondary education and community living.

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