

# CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



## AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

ID: 1070

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### OBJECTIVE

Centers for Independent Living are nonprofit agencies that provide an array of services to help people with disabilities live independently. Services provided by CILs can also reduce costs to the state by decreasing the need for institutional care.

### KEY FACTS

- ◆ Funding comes from a variety of sources, including federal, state, and local governments and private contributions and grants. Some CILs receive all of their funds from DARS, while others receive a fraction or no funding from DARS.
- ◆ Performance reporting to the state has been challenging because of the blending of funds, variations in service type and intensity, recordkeeping issues, and changes to performance measurement methodology.

### BUDGETARY IMPACT

Strategy B.3.2 in the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services bill pattern in the 2014–15 General Appropriations Act appropriates \$5.4 million for Independent Living Centers. This includes \$2.5 million in General Revenue Funds and \$2.9 million in Federal Funds.

### STATUTORY REFERENCES

Texas Human Resources Code, Chapter 117, Section 117.071

Centers for Independent Living (CILs), also known as Independent Living Centers, are non-profit community centers that serve people with significant disabilities. CILs are not residential sites, but instead help consumers gain the confidence and supports needed to pursue their own goals for independent living.

### SERVICES

The CILs were originally authorized through the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and are required to provide four “core services”: information and referral, independent living skills training, peer counseling, and advocacy. In addition to these core services, CILs can offer many other services, such as transportation assistance, adaptive aids, and interpreter services. According to the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), “Centers for Independent Living are a critical link to the service delivery systems of other health and human services programs in local communities. They provide expertise in navigating the array of community services that otherwise may not be discovered by a person with a severe disability.”

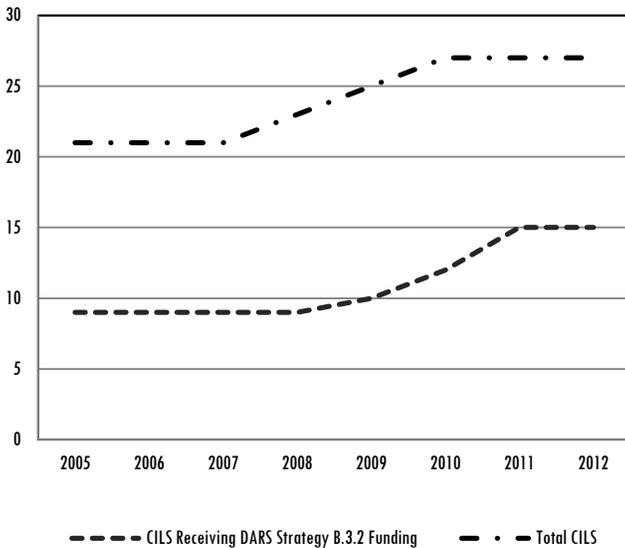
Some CILs contract with state or federal agencies to provide specific programs, such as the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) initiative. Some individuals with disabilities are concerned that working may eliminate their eligibility for federal and state support programs. WIPA helps those receiving disability supports understand the rules of various programs so that they may transition to working without losing their benefits before they are fully self-sufficient. Another program some CILs provide is Home by Choice: the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) contracts with community organizations to assist Medicaid-eligible consumers who are living in nursing facilities transition to living in the community with the appropriate supports.

### GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING

As private non-profit organizations, CILs are each governed by a board and administered by an executive director. At least one CIL executive director also serves on the State Independent Living Council (SILC). The SILC and DARS together are required to develop and submit a State Plan for Independent Living every three years to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), which is responsible for federal oversight of the CILs. A required part of the State Plan is “Goals, Objectives, and Activities.” These are listed and target performance levels are set in the State Plan. Progress on all objectives is to be assessed by the SILC quarterly and annually.

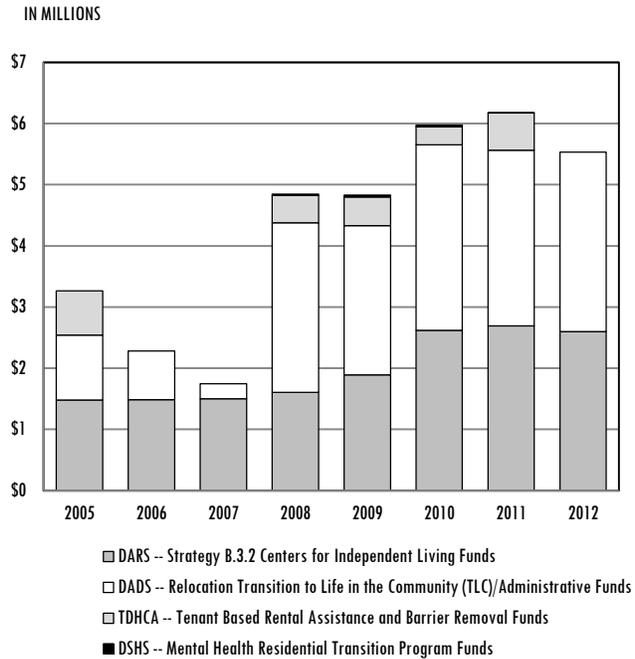
Texas had 27 CILs in 2012, 15 of which received funding through DARS Strategy B.3.2, as shown in Figure 1. Some CILs receive all of their funds from DARS, while others receive a fraction or no funding from DARS. Figure 2 shows the amount of state funding for CILs by state agency. Most CILs also receive federal funding from the Rehabilitative Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Education. Because they are private non-profit entities, CILs can also receive funding through other private and public grants, contracts, and local fundraising efforts.

**FIG. 1**  
**NUMBER OF CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, CALENDAR YEAR 2005 TO 2012**



SOURCE: Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living.

**FIG. 2**  
**STATE FUNDING FOR CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, FISCAL YEAR 2005 TO 2012**



SOURCE: Funding data received from each state agency as listed. CILs also received funding from non-state sources.

**REPORTING AND MONITORING**

CILs are subject to state and/or federal reporting requirements and monitoring, depending on the sources of their funding. CILs are required to submit a performance report to the RSA annually. This report includes aggregated information about individual consumer services provided as well as the CILs’ goals for community activities and progress toward those goals.

State-funded CILs, the SILC, and any recipients of demonstration grants are subject to fiscal and programmatic monitoring by DARS staff. Each year, state-funded CILs must submit a work plan and budget for review and approval by DARS. CILs that contract with DARS must also submit monthly and quarterly financial and programmatic reports. In the 2014–15 General Appropriations Act, the key performance measure for the CIL strategy is the “Number of people receiving services from Independent Living Centers.” The target is 5,342 per year for fiscal years 2014 and 2015. A given consumer may access multiple services repeatedly but would only be counted once per fiscal year.

Measuring the impact of state funding for CILs relative to other sources is difficult. In practice, CILs blend operational funding sources together to pay for staff that perform the core services and support the administration of the center. This makes it challenging to attribute particular services and outcomes to one funding stream. As required by rider in the 2014-15 General Appropriations Act, DARS has developed strategies to improve the measurement, collection, and reporting of outcome data related to the centers. Through fiscal year 2015, DARS will work with the SILC and stakeholders to create a set of standard outcomes, definitions of service, and return on investment calculations for use in reporting program and organization performance and impact.

**USEFUL REFERENCES**

[State Plan for Independent Living 2014–2016, State Independent Living Council](#)

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