

RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER ON
Independent Living



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**Kansas Centers for Independent Living Generate Significant Local
Economy Impact**

LAWRENCE, KS — Kansas Centers for Independent Living, a 2005 University of Kansas, study shows, 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.

That's right. The study directed by Martha Hodgesmith for the Research and Training Center on Full Participation, showed that two Kansas CILs impacted more than 507 local businesses through their purchases of goods, building space, and services. Of the CILs' employees, 78% reported that their salary contributed more than 50% of their household income.

Hodgesmith surveyed 135 CIL staff and 200 personal care assistants working for two representative CILs — Prairie Independent Living Resource Center and Southeast Kansas Independent Living. Key information gathered included hours worked per week, hourly wages, health insurance benefits, salary contribution to household income, and vendor type and location analysis over a one-year period.

As for CIL monies spent in the local community, for example, Southeast Kansas Independent Living (SKIL) in Parsons spent 21.4% of its budget from 382 local vendors; 4.1% was spent with 85 regional vendors and 15.6% with 59 local vendors affiliated with national companies. Prairie Independent Living Resource

Center (PILR) in Hutchinson spent 54% of its budget with 125 local vendors; 8% was spent with 22 regional vendors, and 3% with 20 local vendors affiliated with national companies.

Not-for profit Centers for Independent Living in Atchison, Osage City, Wamego, Salina, Hays, Topeka, Garden City, Hutchinson, Parsons, Wichita, Kansas City, Lawrence, and their satellite offices in smaller communities provide services to people with disabilities of all ages. Typical funding for programs and services comes through grants from the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services Division, the Kansas Department of Rehabilitation Services, and other sources including, in part, from the U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration.

The study was part of the Research and Training Center on Full Participation in Independent Living project, a division of the Research and Training Center on Independent Living (RTC/IL) at the University of Kansas. The RTC/IL furthers independent living for people with disabilities by collaborating with target populations on productive research and innovative knowledge distribution.

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