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- Regular - \$10
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Membership fees and contributions to Progress Center are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

Progress Center for Independent Living

7521 Madison Street
Forest Park, IL 60130

MEMBER OF
INCIL

Progress Center for Independent Living



PROGRESS CENTER
for Independent Living

Home Services Program

7521 Madison Street
Forest Park, IL 60130
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708-209-1826 TTY
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info@progresscil.org EMAIL

Background

The independent living movement developed in response to systems that were inappropriate for people with disabilities. Centers for Independent Living (CIL's) have fostered a particular definition of Independence as "the ability to control one's own life by making responsible choices from acceptable options."

To help ensure that "acceptable options" exist and to prevent inappropriate institutionalization, CILs offer a variety of services. There are four core services that every CIL must offer. These are: advocacy, independent living skills training, information and referral, and peer counseling. Many CIL's offer additional services determined by the expressed needs of the local community.

A Personal Assistant (PA) is:

- Someone hired by a person with a disability
- Assists with tasks a person would normally do themselves if they didn't have a disability
 - Bathing
 - Dressing
 - Cooking
 - Cleaning
 - Shopping
 - Laundry
 - Etc.
- An important part of maintaining independence for many people with disabilities.

Personal Assistant Management

Being an effective employer of a Personal Assistant is one of the independent living skills Progress Center's Home Services Team provides.

Progress Center has developed a comprehensive Personal Assistant Employer's Manual to assist consumers, with or without experience, in managing their Personal Assistance Services and to improve their employer/employee relationship with their PA. Staff members will provide training to consumers and review the material in the Manual.

Areas covered:

- Needs assessment
- Recruitment
- Screening/Interviewing/Hiring
- Communication
- Contracts
- Necessary paperwork for private and public hiring options
- Termination

Personal Assistant Recruitment and Referral

Progress Center's Home Services Team continues ongoing recruitment of Personal Assistants throughout suburban Cook County. Progress Center maintains a database of potential PA's and Certified Nurse Assistants for referral to consumers upon request.

PA Recruitment and Referral (Continued)

Progress Center provides a general orientation to individuals desiring to be Personal Assistants. The actual screening, interviewing, hiring and training of the Personal Assistant is the consumer's responsibility.

Progress Center focuses on assisting consumers in the development of their own recruitment techniques and can provide information on available resources.

Advocacy

Progress Center's Home Services Team works in conjunction with individual consumers, as well as, other organizations representing people with disabilities of all ages, to educate the community about the availability of, and need for improved, community based services.

Staff members will also assist and support consumers in advocating for adequate and appropriate community based services.

For more information on Independent Living, or other Progress Center services available, please feel free to contact us at:
708-209-1500 (VOICE)
or
708-209-1826 (TTY).