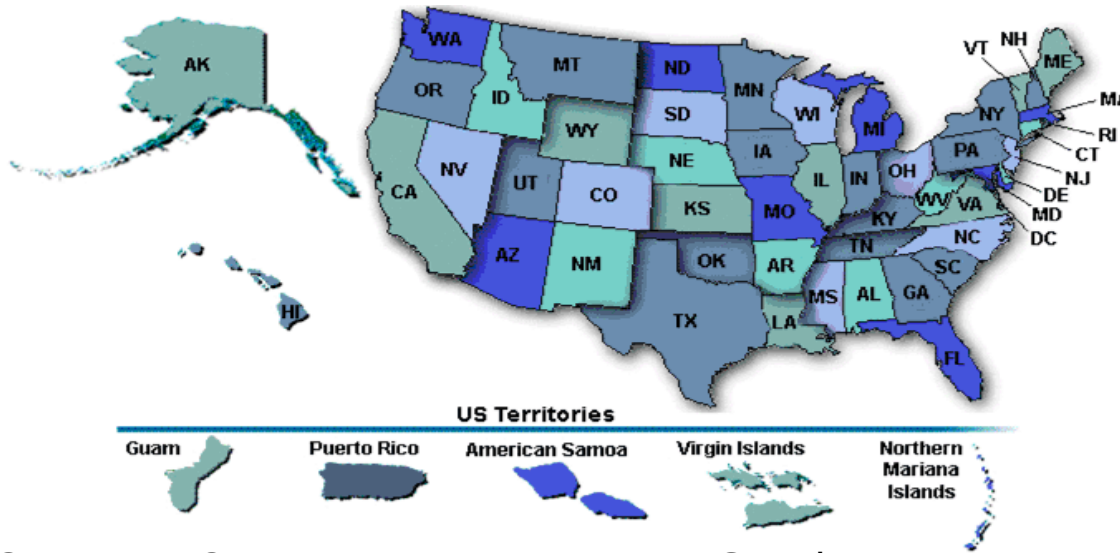




Maryland Youth Leadership Forum



HOSTED BY INDEPENDENCE NOW INC.



Definition of a Center for Independent Living from Section 702 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended:

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING - The term "center for independent living" means a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agency that is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities and provides an array of independent living services.

At a minimum, 51% of staff are persons with disabilities and 51% of Board of Directors are persons with significant disabilities.

[There are 7 centers in the state of Maryland. Find your CIL here.](#)

IN SERVICES

COVID-19 Resource Center

Independent Living Services

Supports Planning

Nursing Home Outreach

AT Lending Library

Home and Vehicle Modifications &

Assistive Technology

MD-WIN

Peer Counseling

Individual & Systems Advocacy

Independent Living Skills Training

Information and Referral (I&R)

Transition



PEER COUNSELING

- It is our belief that individuals with disabilities are the best guides to independence; therefore, Independent Living Specialists:
 - serve as role models
 - assist with self-exploration
 - assist with self-directed goals setting and achievement
 - direct consumers to appropriate services and programs
 - serve as advocates

INDIVIDUAL & SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

- System Advocacy – Staff interacts with local, state, and federal legislators and agency leaders on behalf of people with disabilities to advocate for more responsive disability policy in personal assistance services, housing, employment, transportation, youth/transition, visibility and other major issue areas.
- Individual Advocacy – Staff works individually and in group settings with consumers to assist with increasing their personal self-advocacy skills and knowledge of their civil rights.



INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING

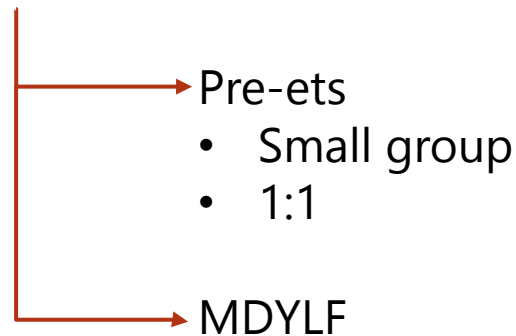
- IL Specialists facilitate one-on-one and group skills trainings in an array of areas to promote independence, such as:
 - independent housing
 - decision making and time management
 - local, national and legislative laws
 - transportation and employment
 - budgeting, cooking and kitchen safety
 - other areas according to individualized needs

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL (I&R)

- As a resource and advocacy center, IN serves as a guide through the maze of services by connecting consumers and the general public with current information on programs, equipment and community resources. Information and referrals help assist consumers to build a network of supports as they pursue goal achievements and furtherance of their independence.
- Referrals are also made to other community organizations and programs.
- IN publishes a monthly newsletter "IN Touch" that outlines all monthly and quarterly activities such as:
 - Housing Information Seminars
 - Employment Seminars
 - Lunch or Dinner and Movie (this combines our Creative Cooking Class and Advocate's Theater)
 - Transportation Action Group (TAG)
 - Let's Get Together (for people wanting and waiting to move to the community)

TRANSITION

- Transition services have several parts, first, Transition and Diversion from Nursing Homes assist to make the transition from institutions back into the community and into their own homes or to prevent Nursing Facility placement.
- It also supports students with disabilities transition from high school to work or post-secondary education.



FACTS

YLF began in 1992 in California and in August 2000, Maryland held its first Youth Leadership Forum (MD-YLF).

The Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is designed for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities (ages 15-21).



YLF will be held at Towson University on June 24-26, 2024.

YLF is FREE!!!



YLF provides a unique career leadership training program for youth to take charge of their lives and actively lead the development of plans for their futures.

YLF provides on-campus support, a 24-hour nurse, and a 24-hour personal care attendant.

Ultimately, the MD-YLF experiences will help guide students to advocate for themselves, independent living skills, and grow as individuals.

YLF offers peers with common challenges and lived experiences, the opportunity to learn from one another.

The YLF core curriculum includes

- ❑ Career development
- ❑ Disability rights movement
- ❑ Assistive technology
- ❑ Transition resources
- ❑ Community and civic involvement.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



- Learn valuable leadership skills
- Learn self-advocacy
- Learn disability rights
- Meet community leaders with disabilities
- Learn about how bills are presented and passed through legislation
- Develop friendships and mentorships with other delegates, alumni, and presenters.



YLF CONSISTS OF AN INTENSE SCHEDULE, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

- Small working groups which explore personal leadership and career plans
- Social, artistic, athletic, and recreational activities
- Guest speakers who address topics such as disability rights laws, innovations in technology, and resources at all levels
- An opportunity to experience college life





- Staff also have a disability.
- After completing a YLF, youth can participate in the National YLF. Held virtually
- Youth are encouraged to continue practicing skills by participating in YLF alumni events held year-round.
- The Capitol Crawl Scavenger Hunt



YLF ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MDYLF>
- TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@marylandylf>
- YouTube: <https://youtu.be/sTkCITikEnw>
- Website: <https://www.innow.org/mdylf/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/InNowOrg/status/1487090909233795073>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CZR5ePON4Fc/>
- Visual Transcript: <https://www.innow.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Transcript-for-Maryland-Youth-Leadership-Forum-2022-Video.docx>
- [Maryland Youth Leadership Forum - Independence Now \(innow.org\)](https://www.innow.org/)

THANK YOU!

Danielle Bustos (she/her)

MD-YLF Coordinator

12301 Old Columbia Pike, Suite 101

Silver Spring, MD 20904

Phone: (240) 898-2189

Email: dbustos@innow.org

Website: www.innow.org

