

November 5, 2010

Indiana Council on Independent Living
409 S. Elm Street
Odon, Indiana 47562



Dear fellow Hoosier:

This letter reflects a wonderful opportunity for YOU to be at the heart of statewide decision making for people with disabilities in Indiana! The Indiana Council on Independent Living or ICOIL, would like to invite you to join their membership, and/or help us identify someone else who might be interested. You can help shape the state independent living plan, which details how federal/state funds are spent in Indiana. Not only can you help shape the plan, you will monitor and evaluate the implementation of how funds are spent for independent living in our state.

The council is looking for people with disabilities, parents and guardians of people with disabilities, advocates of and for people with disabilities, representatives from private businesses, and representatives from organizations providing services to people with disabilities. It is important to note that we are required to have the majority of the members of the council be comprised of people with disabilities who are not employed by a state agency or an independent living center.

The 1992 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act greatly expanded the role and responsibilities of the statewide independent living councils, in effect making them full partners with vocational rehabilitation in the independent living process ICOIL has spent the last two years reviewing and improving the Policies and By-laws by which we operate. Our members are appointed by the Governor and serve specific time limits. At this time the majority of those appointments are set to expire over the next 8 months. We are seeking your assistance and expertise in helping us identify possible candidates to serve on ICOIL.

Individuals selected to serve as members of the council must be knowledgeable about independent living centers and services and must represent different parts of the state as well as different disability constituencies. ICOIL is also committed to seeking racial diversity. It is very important that the people who are appointed to the council be not just knowledgeable about but also have a real commitment to disability rights and the independent living philosophy.

Please contact our Executive Director, Carol Baker at 317-809-0314 or email at Carol_baker88@yahoo.com with any questions or referrals.

Thank you for your assistance,

Richard Simers, Chair, ICOIL Committee

Dee Ann Hart, Chair, Membership

INDIANA COUNCIL ON INDEPENDENT LIVING

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