



Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia

CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CILs) are community-based, non-profit organizations, governed and staffed by people with disabilities, offering a wide variety of services to people with disabilities and their families. The foundation of these services is the peer-to-peer relationship, where people with disabilities act as mentors showing, by example, how to help themselves live more independently. Georgia has nine (9) CILs and two (2) satellite offices serving all ages and all disability groups and providing five core services:

- Information and Referral
- Peer Support
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Advocacy
- Transition Services (youth to adult life & from the nursing facility to the community)

Depending on the needs of the communities they serve, CILs may provide other services that vary from one center to another. To learn about each center, visit www.silcga.org

In FY21, the CILs assisted 2,685 individuals with their personal plans toward independence. Although these programs are small, they have a very high impact. Information received from our recent Needs Assessment indicated:

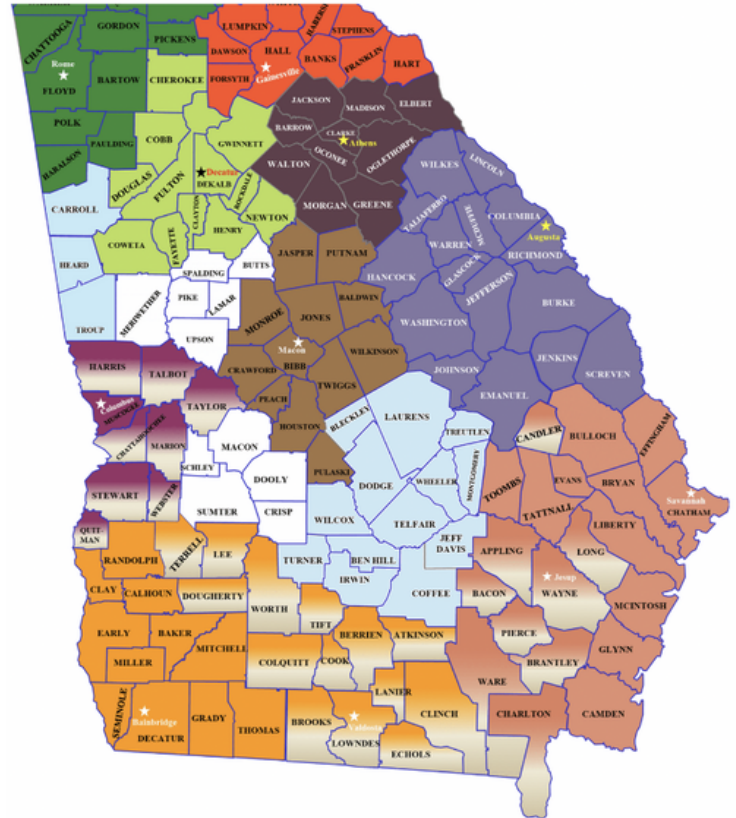
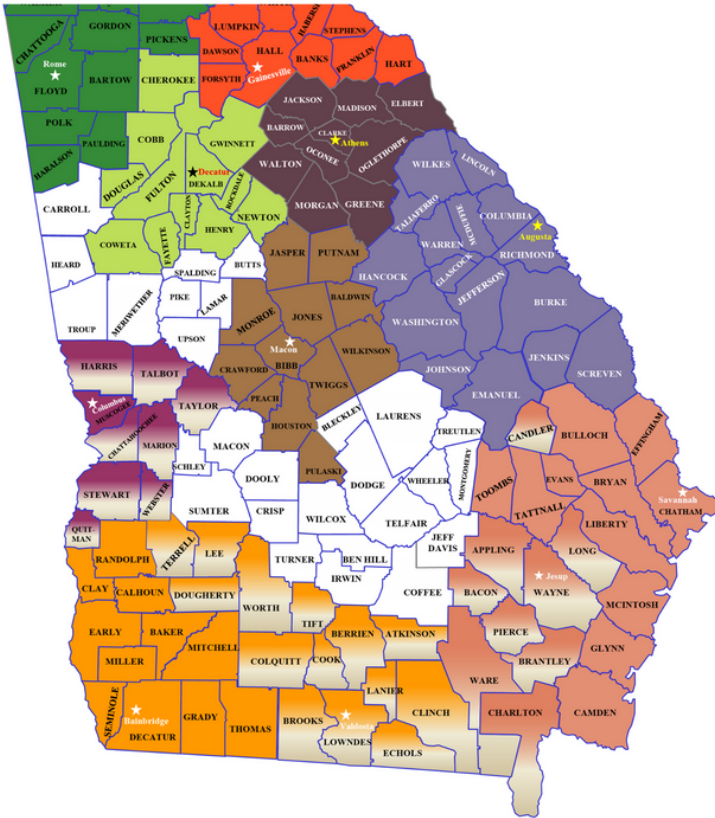
- Ninety-six percent (96.55%) of those surveyed stated a Center for Independent Living would be valuable in their communities
- Ninety-four percent (94.83%) of those surveyed would contact a Center for Independent Living.
- Seventy-five percent (75%) of those surveyed are aware of individuals not receiving needed services.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

The map on the other side shows that not ALL Georgians have the benefit of these valuable organizations. Fourteen percent (14%) of Georgians with disabilities – are unserved meaning they live in a county with NO Center for Independent Living. The General Assembly's investment of \$500,000 would establish two satellite offices and resources to expand outreach to underserved counties so that all Georgians have the opportunity to achieve independence. Expanding outreach and itinerant services are essential for Georgia's current Centers for Independent Living to reach people with disabilities who live isolated in our state's poorest and most rural counties.

Current Counties Receiving Federal/State Funds

With Additional Funding in South Central Georgia



We need \$750,000 to expand Independent Living to 16 counties that are highlighted in light blue.

Disability Connections in Macon would provide services to [Ben Hill](#), [Bleckley](#), [Coffee](#), [Dodge](#), [Irwin](#), [Jeff Davis](#), [Laurens](#), [Montgomery](#), [Telfair](#), [Treutlen](#), [Turner](#), [Wheeler](#), and [Wilcox](#) Counties. 234,712 Georgians live in these counties.

Northwest Georgia Center for Independent Living in Rome would provide services for [Carroll](#), [Heard](#), and [Troup](#) Counties. 202,974 Georgians live in these counties.

Establishing satellite offices in Carroll, Laurens, Coffee, and/or Dodge will provide crucial services to these unserved populations.

WHERE IS THIS ISSUE IN THE BUDGET?

Independent Living programs are administered by the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency which is administratively attached to the Department of Human Services.