

At home, at work...  
On the move, in the community...



**Israel's Centers for Independent Living**  
make independent living a reality for Israeli adults living with a  
disability while fulfilling the principle:

**“Nothing About Us Without Us”**

## Person-Centered

The **Center for Independent Living (CIL)** is a person-centered service enabling people with disabilities to choose and maintain individualized and satisfying lifestyles. These include meeting daily challenges such as: accessing rights and services, cultivating family and social networks, creating individualized living arrangements, finding employment opportunities, means of mobility, and other aspects of everyday life.

There are 690,000 adults with disabilities in Israel. More than one-third of these are severely disabled, in particular need of person-centered services.



“For me independent living, means the freedom to choose and decide about everything relating to my life.”

*Daniella Brafman, founder or the first Israeli CIL*

## Community-Oriented

The CIL is a community-based multi-service center, designed, managed and operated by the disabled, for the disabled. The CILs promote volunteerism and activism for social change and raising awareness towards the needs of people with disabilities and their inclusion in community life. The Israeli CILs are modeled after the network of CILs in the USA and their successful impact on America's disabled population.

## Cross-Disability Network of Centers

Six CILs serve yearly 6,000 adults with physical, sensory, cognitive, mental health and other health-related disabilities from diverse communities throughout Israel. A professional **network** linking the six CILs, enables sharing information, mutual learning, joint activities and leveraging of resources.

### Sakhnin

Developing culturally-proficient services for the Arab society in Israel

### Upper Galilee

Regional center serving geographically isolated populations

### Haifa

Reaching out to young adults and Olim and promoting entrepreneurship

### Jerusalem

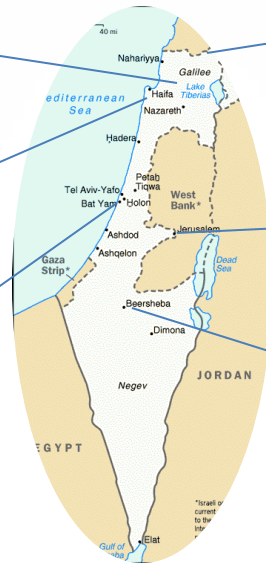
Pioneer of CIL in Israel, promoting disability studies & activism for social change

### Tel Aviv

A cross-disability partnership for Israel's metropolis

### Beersheva

Serving the Negev region including Bedouin community. Its internet café is popular with students at Ben-Gurion University



## Planting Seeds of Independence - A Personal Story

Hodaya grew up in Alyn Hospital, confined to a wheelchair due to an early childhood illness. From a young age, Hodaya wished to live independently in the community, but faced a myriad of bureaucratic challenges preventing her from venturing out on her own. Her introduction to CIL Jerusalem was a turning point in her life. She cites two experiences that gave her the courage to enter the wider community: 1) CIL's training workshops and 2) her role as a teacher in the *Access Israel* program. Thanks to CIL's social and practical support, Hodaya is living independently and earning an income. Upon returning from her first teaching opportunity, she expressed her appreciation to the CIL Jerusalem director: "Thank you for believing in me more than I believed in myself."

## CIL Supporters

The CIL is a program of **Israel Unlimited**, a partnership of the Government of Israel, JDC-Israel and the Ruderman Family Foundation. CILs are supported by municipalities, the National Insurance Institute and private donors and foundations— Roger Greenberg, the Pell Family Foundation, the Tidewater Federation, the United Israel Appeal of Canada, the Weinberg Foundation, the Wohl Foundation, and Larry and Leonore Zusman.

### Implementing partners

#### **Jerusalem (2003)**

Disabled Now Association

#### **Beersheva (2005)**

Equality and Justice Association

#### **Haifa (2009)**

Ahva Association of People with Disabilities in Haifa and the North

#### **Sakhnin (2010)**

ALMANAL – Association for Empowerment & Integration of People with Disabilities in Society

#### **Upper Galilee (2010)**

Access-Israel

#### **Tel Aviv (2011)**

Bekol Organization for Hard of Hearing and Deaf People in Israel



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