

2025

Annual Report



Celebrating a year of impact, independence, and community connection.



Dear Friends, Partners and Supporters,

This past year has been one of meaningful progress and continued commitment to the mission of West Central Independent Living Solutions. At WILS, we believe that every individual deserves the opportunity to live independently, make their own choices, and fully participate in their community—and your support helps make that possible every day.

Over the past year, we have expanded our reach and deepened our impact across the communities we serve. Through advocacy, peer support, skills training, and transition services, we have empowered individuals with disabilities to live more independently and confidently. Each success story reflects not only the resilience of those we serve, but also the strength of a community that values inclusion and accessibility.

We have also taken intentional steps to strengthen our organization for the future. By focusing on sustainable funding strategies, investing in staff development, and enhancing program delivery, WILS is better positioned than ever to meet growing needs without compromising the quality of our services.

This year brought both challenges and opportunities. Like many organizations, we navigated rising costs and declining revenues. Yet, through collaboration, creativity, and careful planning, we continued to deliver essential services while laying the groundwork for long-term stability.

None of this work would be possible without our donors, partners, staff, and volunteers. Your belief in our mission fuels everything we do. Because of you, individuals in our region are gaining independence, dignity, and a stronger voice in their own lives.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on expanding access, strengthening advocacy efforts, and ensuring that WILS continues to be a trusted resource for years to come.

Thank you for standing with us.

With gratitude,

Deb Hobson

Executive Director





Advocacy

WILS empowers people with disabilities to understand their rights, speak up for themselves, and navigate complex benefit systems with confidence.



"Staff encouraged me to take action to get what I needed and I did."



221

Services
Received

100%

Percent
Satisfaction



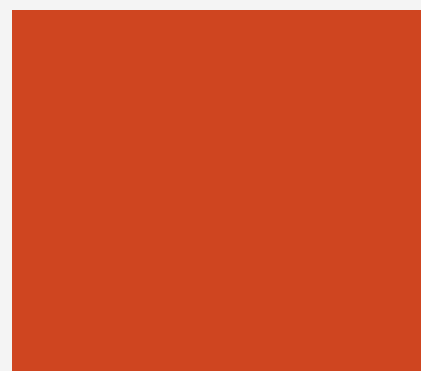
Anne's Advocacy

At 57, Anne lives with a degenerative disease and arthritis, but her determination to remain independent has never wavered. Through the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) Program, she has been able to stay safely in her own home with personal attendant support.

When ongoing mistreatment and unsafe conditions at her apartment complex threatened that stability, Anne turned to Liz, her Independent Living Case Manager. With support and education on her rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Anne took action and filed formal complaints with state and federal agencies.

By March 2025, her advocacy paid off. The property management company was fined and required to make accessibility improvements, repair unsafe conditions, and address long-neglected plumbing issues. Most importantly, Anne regained peace of mind and confidence—knowing her voice mattered and her rights were protected.

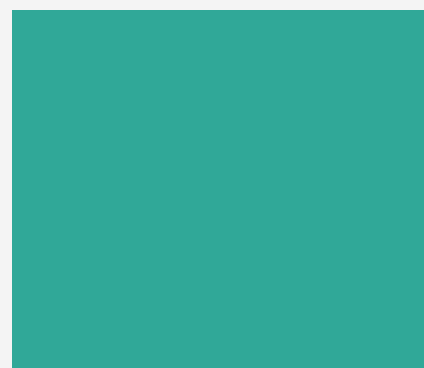
Anne's story reflects the power of Independent Living advocacy in ensuring safe, fair housing and empowering people with disabilities to stand up for themselves. As Anne shared, "Luke 1:37 says, 'The word of God will never fail.'"





Assistive Tech

WILS provides assistive technology and minor home modifications that help consumers stay safe and independent in their own homes to make everyday tasks easier.



"I can get in and out of my house safely thanks to WILS for building my ramp."



312

Services
Received

90%

Percent
Satisfaction



Assistive Tech in Action

For Gregory and Sandra, assistive technology meant more than a device—it meant independence, dignity, and daily life restored.

Gregory, a 74-year-old veteran recovering from brain surgery, urgently needed a wheelchair to safely move through his home and attend medical appointments. While he was approved for a permanent wheelchair through the VA, the wait time left him without the mobility support he needed during recovery. Through WILS' Short-Term Assistive Technology (AT) Loan Program, Gregory was able to borrow a wheelchair right away. The loan helped bridge the gap, giving him immediate stability and freedom while protecting his safety and preserving his dignity during a vulnerable time.

Sandra came to the WILS office facing a different challenge—vision loss that made everyday tasks frustrating and difficult. Reading a caller ID, following a recipe, or reviewing printed materials had become a barrier to independence. With support from staff, Sandra tested several handheld magnifiers with built-in lights until she found a model that worked best for her needs. With the right magnifier in hand, she regained the ability to read with confidence and reconnect with the routines she enjoys.

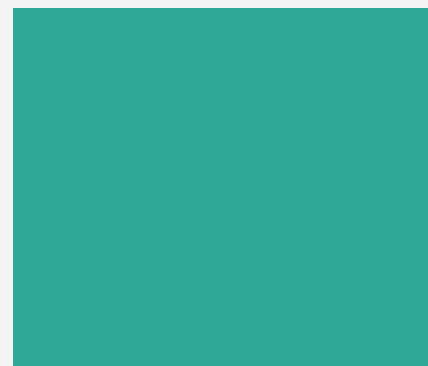
Whether it's restoring mobility after a major surgery or improving vision for everyday tasks, WILS assistive technology services help individuals overcome barriers and continue living life on their own terms.





HCBS

WILS supports individuals in accessing Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), including personal assistance, so they can live where and how they choose.



2293

Services
Received

96%

Percent
Satisfaction



Anita's Care at Home

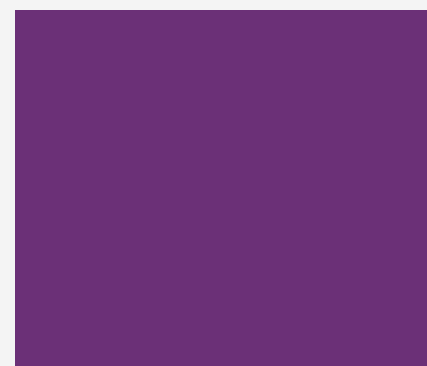
Anita, 62, from Sedalia, is navigating the daily challenges of spinal degeneration—an ongoing condition that causes significant pain and limits her ability to complete everyday tasks. Simple activities like cooking, cleaning, or moving safely around her home can be difficult, and without other support in her household, Anita relies entirely on the Consumer-Directed Services (CDS) Program to maintain her independence.

“I’m so crippled up, I can hardly do anything. An attendant helps me out a lot and makes sure I don’t fall, and clean the house. If I didn’t have an attendant, I probably wouldn’t be able to walk and get around good. My house would be a mess and I wouldn’t get adequate meals to eat,” Anita shared.

Through CDS, Anita receives the support she needs to stay safe and stable at home. With the help of her attendant, she can manage essential daily needs, reduce fall risk, and maintain a clean, livable environment. Most importantly, the program allows Anita to remain in control of her own care—receiving assistance without losing her independence.

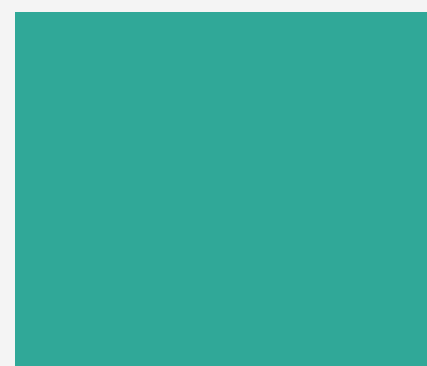
Thanks to CDS, Anita can continue living in the home she loves, with the dignity, safety, and support she needs to navigate life on her own terms.





IL Skills

WILS helps consumers build practical skills for everyday life so they can reach their personal goals. Independent living skills are important because confidence and knowledge create greater freedom.



One consumer noted that training helped them become a "better employer of my attendant."



1175

Services
Received

88%

Percent
Satisfaction



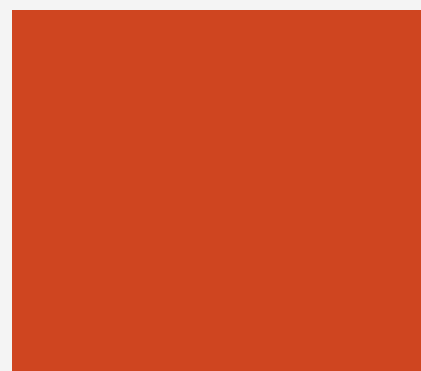
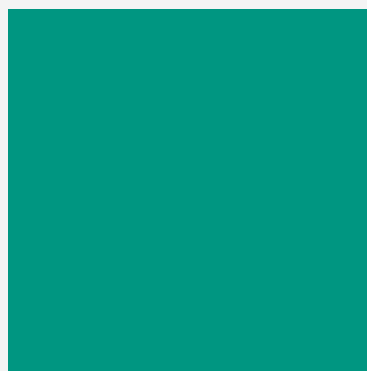
Debra Finds Stability

“Jennifer, my house is a wreck,” Debra said. “A big tree came through my house, and the back of the house is lying in my front yard.” When a powerful tornado tore through Debra’s town, it left her home unlivable in an instant. With her granddaughter depending on her and nowhere to go, Debra was suddenly facing an emergency housing crisis—along with the shock and stress of losing the safety of her home.

WILS Independent Living (IL) Case Manager Jennifer worked quickly with Debra to secure temporary lodging and stabilize the situation while Debra began sorting through the immediate aftermath. With support from WILS, her insurance provider, and community partners like the Salvation Army, Debra was able to move forward with a plan. Through her resilience and the independent living skills she strengthened along the way—problem-solving, navigating resources, and advocating for safe housing—Debra and her granddaughter are now living in senior apartments.

“I feel safe and very thankful,” Debra shared.

Today, Debra is rebuilding with stability beneath her feet and support around her. Her story reflects the power of independent living skills in action—proof that with the right resources and community support, even after a storm, individuals can rise again.





Info & Referral

WILS connects people to trusted resources, services, and supports that match their needs and goals. Information and referral is important because finding the right help at the right time can remove roadblocks.



2997

Services
Received

92%

Percent
Satisfaction



I&R Support for Kendis

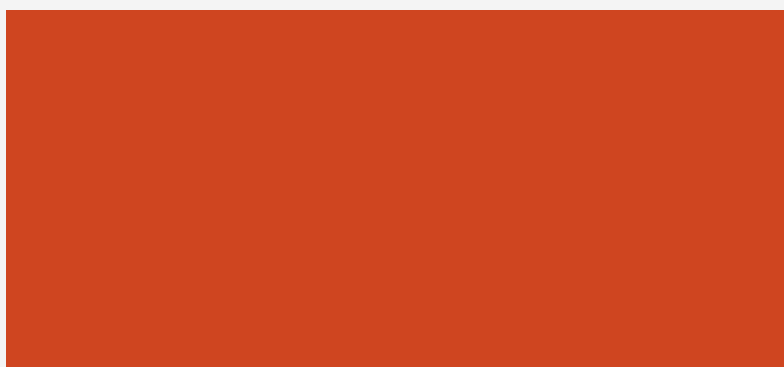
Kendis, a 67-year-old man from Sedalia, lives with COPD and depends on oxygen 24 hours a day. During the summer months, the heat and humidity make it even harder for him to breathe, and daily comfort becomes a constant challenge.

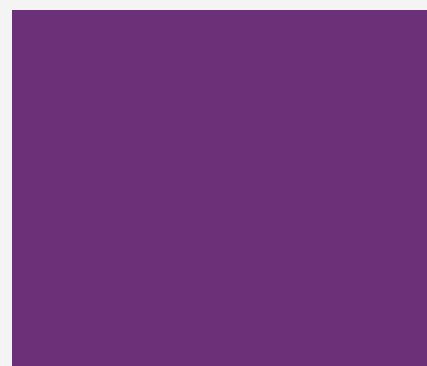
At the same time, Kendis was facing another barrier to stability—he didn't have access to a traditional mattress. Unsure where to turn, Kendis reached out to Leslie, his Independent Living Case Manager at WILS, for help.

Leslie responded quickly by providing Information & Referral (I&R) support—connecting Kendis to local resources and exploring options that could meet his immediate need. She also partnered with WILS Resource Development staff to see if additional assistance could be secured through the Jeremiah 29:11 Manna Harvest Project.

Together, they located a twin-size air mattress, a queen-size mattress, and a bed frame for Kendis. When he learned the items would soon be delivered to his home, Kendis expressed heartfelt gratitude: “Thank you so much for your help—you’ve been a blessing. This is really a blessing, and you don’t know what this means.”

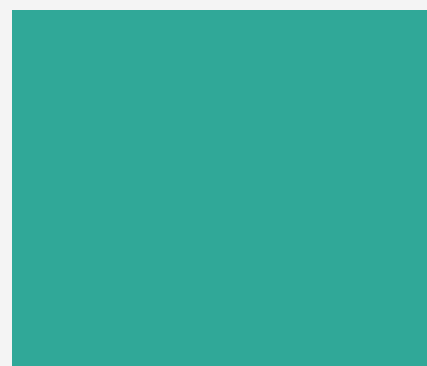
For Kendis, the new bed meant more than just a good night’s sleep—it meant relief, stability, and dignity. With WILS support and resource connection, he can rest more comfortably and manage his health with greater ease. His story reflects how WILS meets people where they are—helping individuals navigate resources and access what they need to live independently.





Peer Support

WILS creates opportunities for consumers to connect with others who have lived experience with disability and independent living.



617

Services
Received

100%

Percent
Satisfaction



Sharon's Encouragement

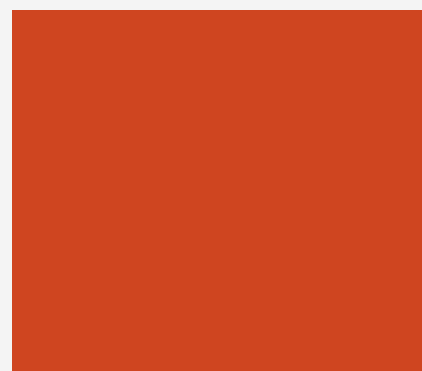
For nearly two months, Sharon faced overwhelming challenges—illness from both a virus and bacterial infection, financial strain, and emotional exhaustion. During that difficult season, she needed hope and reassurance that she could keep going.

Then Sharon received the WILS newsletter. As she read stories of others who had overcome adversity, she felt encouraged and reminded that she wasn't alone. The message resonated deeply and helped restore her faith and perspective.

Sharon stays connected through WILS Peer Painting Group, community activities, and WILS transportation services, which help her remain engaged and independent. The support she receives goes beyond services—it provides connection, encouragement, and belonging.

Sharon shared her gratitude with WILS: "Your newsletter reminded me how amazing God is! Reading the stories of others who have conquered adversity reminded me that God's not done with me yet either. Thank you for reminding me!"

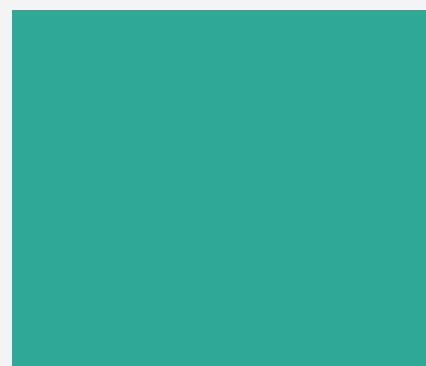
Her story is a powerful reminder that peer support can come through shared experiences, meaningful outreach, and the strength found in community.





Transitions

WILS supports youth transitioning into adulthood and individuals transitioning from nursing homes back into the community because everyone deserves the opportunity to live as independently as possible.



"A positive change. Not living in a nursing home anymore. Independent living!"



132

Services
Received

80%

Percent
Satisfaction



Transitions to New Beginnings

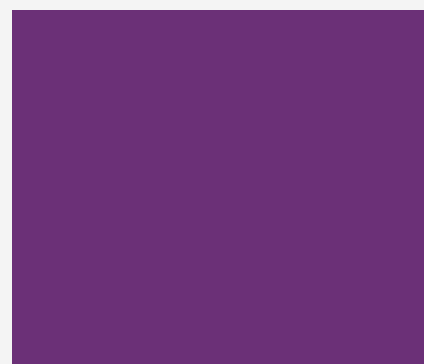
Transitions look different at every stage of life—but at WILS, they all center on the same goal: helping people with disabilities move forward with confidence, choice, and independence. WILS provided 118 Youth/Transition services, and 14 consumers set goals to relocate from a nursing home or institution to community-based living—reflecting the two sides of transition work: supporting young people stepping into adulthood and helping adults return to life in the community.

For individuals living in nursing homes or institutional settings, transitioning back into the community can feel overwhelming. WILS helps consumers set goals, explore resources, and build a plan for community-based living—because everyone deserves the opportunity to live where they choose with dignity and independence.

WILS also supports youth preparing for life beyond high school. 2025 Empowerment Scholarship recipient Malena McNeeley, a Smithton High School senior now attending State Fair Community College, has navigated dyslexia and dysgraphia while building confidence. “A difficulty that I have overcome is the anxiety that comes along with this disability and feeling like I am not good enough,” she shared.

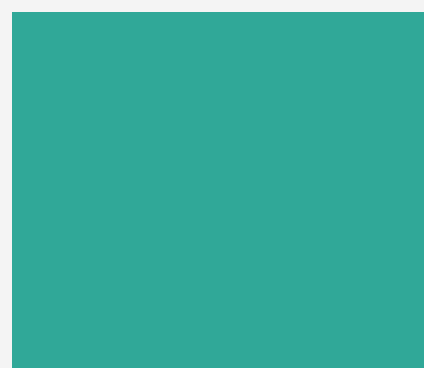
Looking ahead, Malena hopes to encourage others: “I want to be able to make an impact on others and encourage those that struggle with a disability to never settle for anything less than achieving your goals.” Whether it’s helping someone return home from an institution or supporting a young person stepping into their future, WILS transition services open doors to independence—one new beginning at a time.





Transportation

WILS provides transportation support so consumers can access medical care, employment, education, and community activities. Transportation is important because mobility creates opportunity.



"The drivers are amazing. I use the program to go to doctors visits."



550

Services
Received

95%

Percent
Satisfaction



Ed's Road to Mobility

After months of hard work and determination, Ed celebrated a milestone that once felt out of reach—taking steps on his own and transferring without assistive equipment. Since April, Ed attended physical therapy three times a week. In the beginning, he was almost entirely dependent on his family. He was confined to his bed, and his wife relied on assistive devices to help him move. “His wife would have to use assistive devices to transfer him from his bed to his wheelchair,” his WILS support contact shared.

Over time, Ed reached a breakthrough. He walked four feet—three separate times in one day—using a walker. His progress continued when his wife called, filled with excitement after his trip with WILS Transportation. She said, “Today was the first time I hadn't had to use the sit-to-stand device to get him from the bed to the wheelchair. I was able to just assist him with the transfer instead of having to get equipment out to assist in the transfer.” And in the background, Ed made sure his joy was heard, proudly shouting, “WooHoo!”

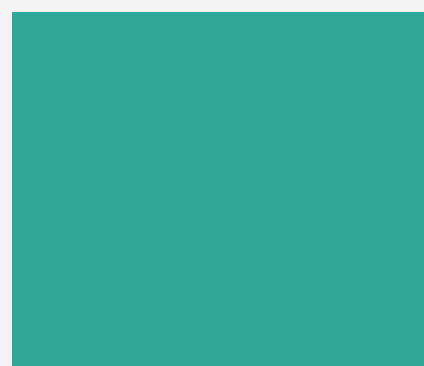
For Ed, WILS Transportation played a vital role in his recovery. It was his only means of transportation, making it possible for him to attend regular physical therapy appointments and continue building strength. His story was a powerful reminder that progress happened when determination was met with support—and when access to essential services removed barriers along the way. With encouragement from his family and reliable transportation from WILS, Ed continued walking toward independence—one step at a time.





Measurable Impact

Independence is built through access, support, and opportunity.



936

People
Served

375

Goals
Achieved

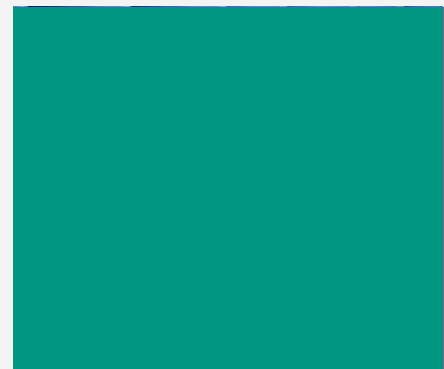


Buckets of Support

In pursuit of long-term financial sustainability and diversified revenue, West-Central Independent Living Solutions (WILS) launched several bucket-themed initiatives during the 2025 reporting year to support its mission and reduce reliance on reserve funds.

One of the most successful efforts was the Fill Your Bucket fundraiser, designed to engage the community in supporting essential resources for people with disabilities. Buckets were available for purchase at \$25 each, and participants could either keep their bucket and fill it with items from WILS overstock inventory or donate it back to be filled and distributed to someone in need.

WILS used the donated buckets and Community Care Bags to deliver critical supplies to rural families and underserved populations across its six-county service area. These buckets were filled with personal care and cleaning items—often overlooked by other assistance programs, but vital for maintaining health, dignity, and independence. Through Fill Your Bucket, WILS turned community generosity into direct, meaningful impact.



Every Dollar Works

Investment in Action

In 2025, WILS served 936 individuals, helping people remain independent in their homes and communities.

Every dollar we received followed a clear path—first supporting caregivers and small businesses, then funding the programs that deliver services, and ultimately helping people achieve meaningful goals.

Most of our funding doesn't stay within WILS—it flows directly into the community. By investing in people first, we create real outcomes: increased independence, stronger connections, and improved quality of life.



Independence
at Home



Community
Connection



Opportunities
& Goals



Quality of Life
& Dignity

WILS maintains strong financial oversight, with the majority of expenses directly supporting programs and services.

Measurable Outcomes

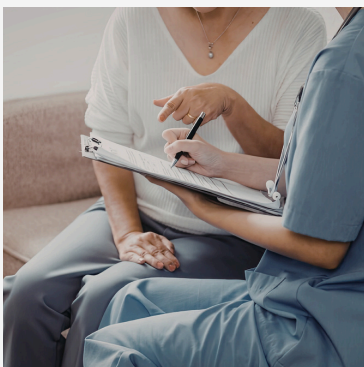
These outcomes represent real progress toward independence—helping individuals remain in their homes, avoid institutional care, and stay connected to their communities. Behind each number is a person gaining confidence, overcoming barriers, and building a life on their own terms. Together, they demonstrate the impact of strategic investment in services that strengthen community-based living and reduce reliance on more costly systems of care. WILS maintains strong financial oversight, with the majority of expenses directly supporting programs and services. As funding landscapes continue to shift, sustained investment is critical to ensuring these services remain accessible and that individuals can continue to live independently with dignity and choice.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 1,214 Community Living Goals Supported
- 1,079 In Progress
- 14 Working to Transition Out of Institutions
- 3 Successfully Transitioned

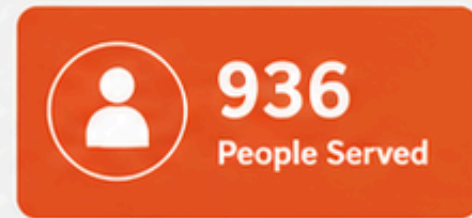
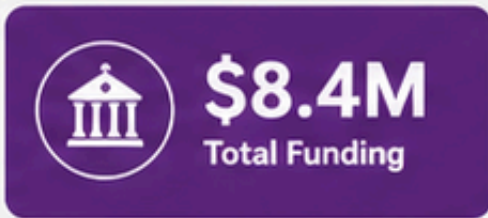
ACCESS CREATED

- 627 Gained Access to Healthcare
- 246 Gained Access to Transportation
- 38 Gained Assistive Technology

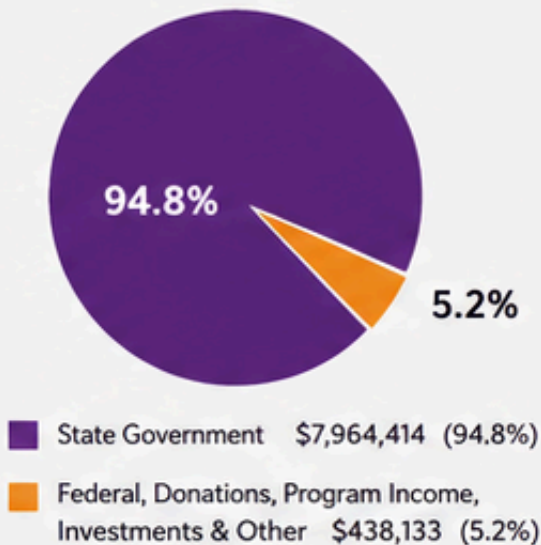


Funding & Services

How resources are invested to support independence



Where Funding Comes From



Public funding fuels independence, strengthened by community support.

Services Provided



Every dollar becomes direct support people rely on daily.

Progress Toward Independence



Thousands of goals are actively in progress.

Invested in Impact

\$8,977
invested per person

70%
directly supports consumers and local businesses

Remaining funds power the programs and staff that make independence possible.



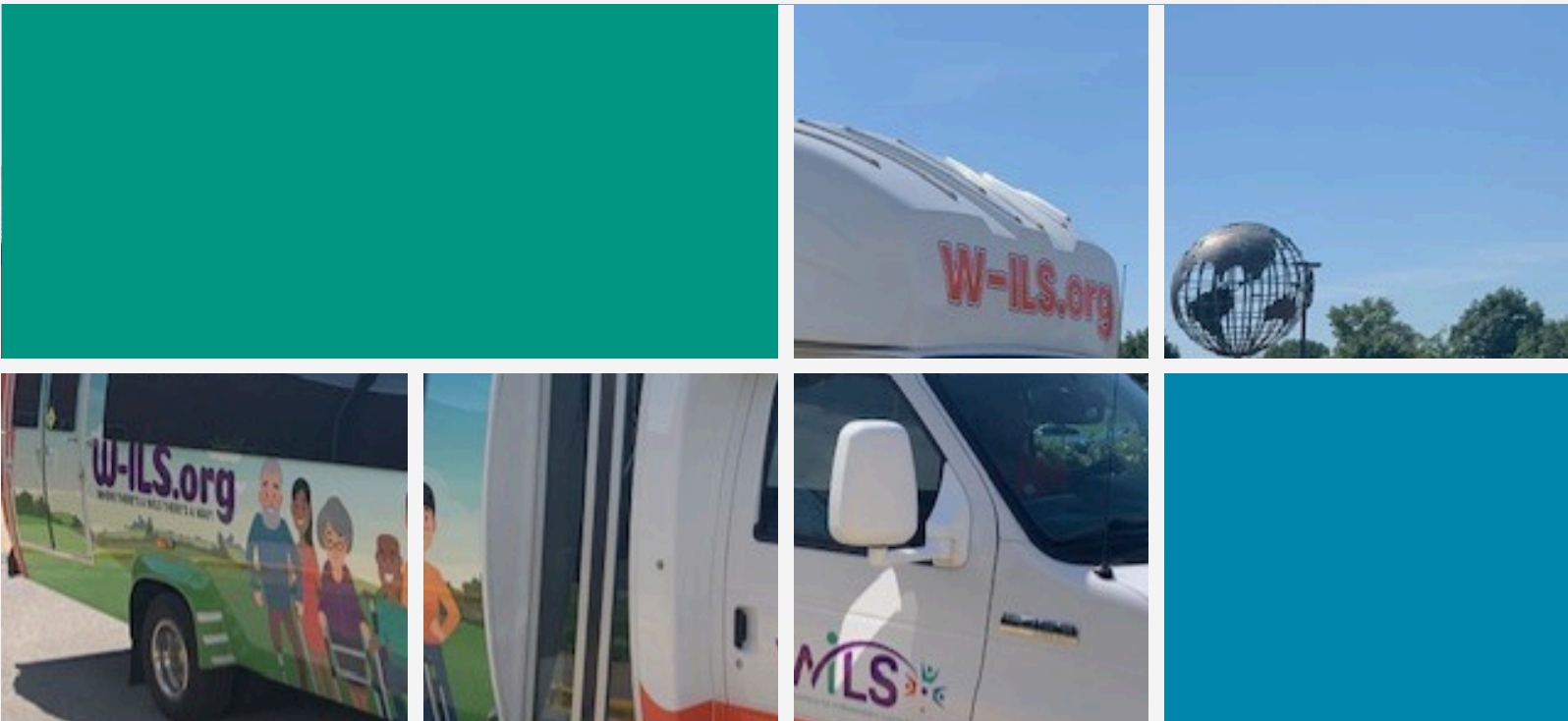
Impact of Independence

The impact of WILS is felt where it matters most—at home, in the community, and in everyday life. By removing barriers and strengthening choice, WILS helps people with disabilities live with dignity, independence, and confidence.

In 2025, WILS walked alongside thousands of individuals as they claimed something fundamental: the right to live life on their own terms. From safe housing and reliable transportation to advocacy, assistive technology, skill-building, and peer connection, WILS helped turn barriers into possibilities.

This impact is measured not only in services delivered, but in outcomes achieved—remaining safely housed, staying out of institutions, recovering after crisis, accessing care and opportunity, and maintaining control over one’s own life. Each service represents more than assistance; it represents stability, self-determination, and freedom.

Independent living is not a privilege; it is a right. As we look ahead, WILS remains committed to expanding access, deepening partnerships, and ensuring that independent living is not just possible, but sustainable for every person we serve.



WHERE THERE'S A WILS
W-ILS.org
THERE'S A WAY.



Thank You

Our hope is that WILS will continue to grow its impact by strengthening sustainable funding, expanding partnerships, and reaching more individuals with the resources they need to live independently. Thank you for your support.



855-945-7929



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W-ILS.org