



INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER OF KERN COUNTY (ILCKC)

*EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO LIVE AS
INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE, SINCE 1981*

Origin of the Independent Living Center of Kern County (ILCKC)



The Independent Living Center of Kern County (ILCKC) is a consumer-based, consumer-directed non-profit agency dedicated to empowering people with disabilities to live independently in their community.

ILCKC is one of over 430 federally funded Centers for Independent Living across the nation.

YOUTH TRANSITIONS



Department of Rehabilitation Transitions and Diversions Grant 2024–2025

The California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), through funding authorized by the California State Independent Living Council (SILC), offers a no-cost grant in the amount of **\$238,943** for the **2024–2025 fiscal year**. This grant supports individuals with disabilities in **transitioning from institutional settings into community living** environments of their choice.

Youth Transitions

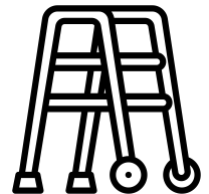
A portion of this funding is designated specifically for **youth with disabilities**, ages **14 to 24**, who are transitioning from a parent's home or foster care into post-secondary life. This includes transitions to **higher education, independent living, or employment** in a setting that reflects their personal choice.

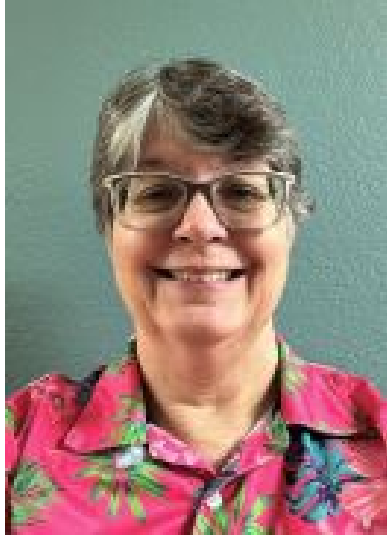
YOUTH TRANSITIONS *continued...*

Eligible Expenses

Each eligible consumer may receive up to **\$4,500** in direct goods and services to support their transition. Approved expenses include:

- **Housing Support:** First month's rent or past-due rent (must show proof of ability to sustain rent going forward). *Note: Deposits are not covered.*
- **Utilities:** First month's utility costs.
- **Household Items:** Basic furnishings and necessities to establish a livable home environment.
- **Home Repairs and Modifications:** Minor safety-related improvements such as grab bars, ramps, railings, and bathroom/kitchen modifications.
- **Assistive Technology & DME:** Equipment to increase independence and support transition.
- **Electronics:** Computers and tablets to help bridge the digital divide, enabling access to services, education, and communication tools.
- **Services:** Personal assistance services not covered by IHSS, provided to support the transition process.
- **Personal Items:** Initial stock of clothing, personal hygiene products, and food.
- **Shipping and Retrieval:** Up to **\$50** per request for shipping or retrieval of essential items from storage.
- **Assessments:** Evaluations by occupational or physical therapists when necessary.





Susan Wells

Independent Living (IL) Specialist
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Susan has worked in the disability industry for over 20 years. She just recently retired from Taft College working for the Transition to Independent Living Program specifically in transition services and career education. After retirement, she decided to continue in this industry part time and pursue the important work of assisting people with disabilities with independence in their lives. She has her certificate in Disability Services from Taft College and a Bachelor's degree in Organization Leadership from University of Laverne.

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- Person Centered Planning-It starts with a conversation about choices-
College, employment, living independently. What do you want?
 - Lots of different college choices-which one is best for you?
 - Greg's Story

<https://www.taftcollege.edu/academics/transition-to-independent-living/index.php>

<https://kremen.fresnostate.edu/centers-projects/wayfinders/index.html>

<https://www.uclaextension.edu/pathway>

<https://cpe.ucdavis.edu/areas-study/education/redwood-seed-scholars-program>

<https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/CppCollegetoCareer>



Tammy Reynolds

Independent (IL) Specialist

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Tammy is excited to bring her passion for helping others to the Independent Living Center of Kern County. She earned her Social Security Benefits Consultant certification from Cornell University. With over 20 years of experience, she has dedicated her career to assisting youth and adults with disabilities. Tammy's favorite thing to do is advocate for people who have a disability and their families. Her favorite saying is from Charlie Chaplin "A day without laughter is a day wasted." When she is not consumed with championing and cheering on others, Tammy can be found reading, taking walks, or traveling across America with her family to visit Major League ballparks.

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- **Social Security = SSI** provides payments to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind, or have a qualifying disability. Children with a qualifying disability can also get SSI.
- If your child has a disability you should begin the application process when they turn 17 ½. You need to start the application process before they turn 18. Keep all tri-annual reports from high school to help with your application process. Social Security will ask for all medical and school records to help them determine eligibility. Create a binder for all correspondence.
- Write down **WHO** you talk to **WHEN** you talk to them **WHAT** questions were asked and answered. Document **EVERYTHING**.
- Be prepared to be turned down/denied benefits the first time you apply. This is **VERY COMMON**. You will need to appeal the decision. Social Security can provide you and advocate if you need help applying/appealing any decision. You can also reach out to your local Legal Assistance team or Independent Living Center for advocacy.
- **Check out Disability Benefits 101:**

<https://ca.db101.org/>

This website is a valuable resource for both young and older adults who receive Social Security benefits. It provides helpful tools and information for navigating work and benefits, empowering individuals to maintain their independence while pursuing employment and financial stability.

Matthew's Story

Thank You



Contact Us!

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ILCofKernCounty.org | Website

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