

THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

For the last 40 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'19 (10/2018-9/2019) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to 250 individuals to help increase their independent living skills and 6 peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted 163 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 122 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided 86 individuals with information on assistive technology; 46 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 499 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) which served 40 people and provided 31 peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our Peer Advocate Counselors and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont. Our Windham County office also houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (VIRS) (previously under the VT Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil and recreational settings.

During FY'19, VCIL provided direct services to Vermont residents utilizing the following programs/services:

- Information, Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)
- Home Access Program (HAP)
- Meals on Wheels (MOW)
- Peer Advocacy Counseling (PAC)
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
- Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP)

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at:
1-800-639-1522 or visit our web site at www.vcil.org.