The eleven Massachusetts Centers for Independent Living provide valuable services to residents with disabilities. We need an additional $1.1 million for FY 2014.

**WHY?**

In 2012, 213 people were helped by ILCs to move into the community from costly institutionalized settings, saving the Commonwealth $4.6 million (*)dollars. Centers are currently working with 780 people who are striving to achieve the same goal.

$1.1 million provides 11-20 additional full time jobs for people with disabilities.

$1.1 million will allow ILCs to assist more than 100 people annually to get out of nursing homes, with projected savings of $20,000 per person per year.

Navigating the various services needed for independence, each with their own complex set of rules, while overcoming barriers and discrimination towards people with disabilities, is a challenging endeavor. IL staff are dedicated professionals.

ILCs answered over 10,430 calls from consumers and family members, helping individuals to maintain their ability to live successfully in the community.

ILCs assisted hundreds of people to find jobs, partnering with Vocational Rehabilitation. ILCs themselves employ about 200 people with disabilities.

Independent Living Centers have received level funding for several years with steadily increasing costs. The current workload cannot be maintained without increased funding.

The Governor’s budget provides $13,249,882 for Line Item 4120-4000. We are asking that this be increased to $14,349,881.

**Funding for Independent Living Centers benefits all citizens of the Commonwealth!**

*Please share this message with your legislators.*

For more information contact Paul Spooner at 508-875-7853.

(*)based on estimated savings of $20,000 per person per year to live in the community