# About LVCIL

The Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living (LVCIL) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides programs and services for people with all types of disabilities living in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. At **LVCIL**, we strive to empower persons with disabilities to live independently, get involved with their community, and live life to the fullest.

**LVCIL** was founded in 1990 through the efforts of Carl Odhner, a local disability advocate and champion of the independent living philosophy. Alongside Odhner, Operation Overcome, a local grassroots advocacy organization, helped to push forward disability rights and promote disability awareness in the Lehigh Valley.

**LVCIL** is one of eighteen Centers for Independent Living in Pennsylvania and is governed, managed, and staffed at all times by a majority of persons with disabilities. This is called **consumer control**, meaning that people with disabilities are a crucial piece in the development, implementation, and oversight of all of our services, programs, and operations.

Funding for **LVCIL's** core services is provided in part by annual allocations through the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR). Additional funding for **LVCIL's** programs and services is secured through grants, donations, and sponsorship.

*LVCIL is not a housing facility, nor is LVCIL a drop-in center.* Appointments are necessary to access our services and ensure timely assistance.

## LVCIL

*"Empowering persons with all types of disabilities to achieve independence"*

**713 N. 13th Street**
**Allentown, PA 18102**

**(P): 610-770-9781**
**(F): 610-770-9801**
**Toll Free: 1-800-495-8245**
**info@lvcil.org**

**Monday-Friday**
**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Please call to schedule an appointment.**

**\*A video phone is available for consumer use Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**www.lvcil.org**

**facebook.com/LVCIL**
**@LehighValleyCIL**

## LVCIL

*"Empowering persons with all types of disabilities to achieve independence"*

# Core Services

**Information and Referral**
We can help you find the information, resources, and services you need to live independently.

**Peer Support**
As people with disabilities, LVCIL staff will provide you with "real life" peer support.

Note: Peer support is not intended to take the place of professional therapy.

**Independent Living Skills**
Whether in your home or at our office, we can help you learn the skills needed to live independently. Individualized services and group classes are offered, and topics typically range from simple meal preparation and nutrition to budgeting, etc.

**Advocacy**
If you feel that your rights have been violated, we can help. We can educate you on your rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Fair Housing, and other laws to ensure you are receiving fair treatment and equal access.

# Sign Language

The 24-hour, fee-for-service **Sign Language Interpreter Referral Service** can help you connect with a much needed American Sign Language interpreter for important appointments, such as hospital visits, tax preparation, job interviews, etc. This service ensures that people who are deaf or hard of hearing have access to a qualified, registered interpreter when and where they need them. An emergency line for scheduling interpreters is available at 610-972-8236.

# Housing Services

At **LVCIL**, we help low-income people with disabilities and individuals who are homeless, or on the verge of homelessness, find affordable and accessible housing. By working one-on-one with a Community Support Coordinator, we can help you identify your individual housing needs and maintain your independence. Additionally, we will work with you to establish a network of supports in your community and build your independent living skills to ensure housing stability.

In addition, we also partner with and educate area landlords on the benefits of renting to persons with disabilities by hosting educational workshops and seminars.

# Transition Services

**S2L Group**
The S2L Group is a yearlong program for young adults with disabilities (ages 14-25). The program includes monthly meetings that focus on the development of independent living, social, vocational, leadership, and other skills. The group also volunteers throughout the community and undertakes a variety of projects. *Program fees apply.*

**Real World Lehigh Valley**
As an intensive, six-week summer program for young adults with disabilities (ages 14-25), the Real World Lehigh Valley provides young adults with the opportunity to learn independent living, social, vocational, and leadership skills. The program includes volunteering, presentations, interactive workshops, and community outings. *Program fees apply.*

# Vocational Services

The **Career Path** program provides persons with disabilities with vocational skills training, job search assistance, and job coaching. Through the program, we can help you develop the skills needed to find competitive employment and also provide you with the one-on-one support you need to stay employed. We will also provide you with a Person-Centered Plan to help you find a job that matches your skills and interests.

# Waiver Services

We provide a supports coordinator under several waiver programs in Pennsylvania, including the **Adult Autism Waiver** and **Home and Community Based Services Waivers** under the Office of Long Term Living. Through our supports coordination, we can work with you to develop a service plan and connect with the services you need to live independently.

# Outreach Programs

**Common Playgrounds**
As a fun, fast-paced game show, the Common Playgrounds program educates elementary and middle school-aged children on the talents, interests, and abilities of people with disabilities.

**Disability Awareness Education**
We can help your company, business, or organization become more disability friendly! By hosting our disability awareness program we can help educate you and your staff on the assets and abilities of people with disabilities. The program includes disability history and "simulation" activities to get your staff involved!