Independent Living in Missouri

Centers for Independent Living, the SPIL, and Area Agencies on Aging

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What is a Center for Independent Living?

A local nonprofit led by people with disabilities

01 People set their own goals and choose the support they need.

02 Services support daily life and full participation in the community.

03 CILs serve people across disability types and ages.

04 A CIL is a community resource. It does not provide residential housing.

The independent living philosophy

Consumer control

The person receiving services makes decisions about their life.

Peer support draws on the experience of other people with disabilities.

Advocacy addresses personal barriers and barriers in the community.

Disability leadership

At least 51% of the board and staff are people with disabilities.

Centers develop services with input from the local community.

The movement grew from disability rights and the work of leaders such as Ed Roberts.

The five core CIL services

01 Information and referral: finding resources and services

02 Independent living skills: learning skills for daily life

03 Peer support: learning from shared experience

04 Individual and systems advocacy: speaking up and removing barriers

05 Transition: moving toward community living and adult life

Transition services across the lifespan

Youth and young adults

Support for life after high school, including daily living and community participation.

Some CILs work with schools and Vocational Rehabilitation on youth programs.

Adults and older adults

Help with a move from a nursing facility or other institution to the community.

Support for people at risk of entering an institution.

Specific programs and eligibility vary. Ask the local CIL about available services.

Missouri’s independent living partners

01 CILs provide local services and bring community needs into planning.

02 MO SILC helps develop the SPIL and monitors its progress.

03 The DSE administers Part B and state IL grants and supports accountability.

04 MOCIL is the statewide association of Missouri CILs.

What is the SPIL?

State Plan for Independent Living

01 A three-year plan for improving independent living across Missouri.

02 It sets goals, identifies service needs, and explains the use of IL funds.

03 MO SILC and CIL directors develop the plan with public input.

04 The SILC chair, at least 51% of CIL directors, and DSE director sign it.

Current cycle: federal fiscal years 2025–2027. Amended July 1, 2025.

What the SPIL covers

Services and priorities

Goals, activities, and ways to measure progress

Services, outreach, and coordination

CIL service areas and network funding

Roles and accountability

DSE responsibilities for IL funds

SILC independence and resources

Certifications, assurances, and compliance

The plan connects local needs with statewide action and financial planning.

Missouri’s current SPIL priorities

Peer support

More opportunities to connect with peers

Council representation

Recruit applicants from underserved groups

Transportation

Collect and share local transportation options

Youth services

Clear information about local youth programs

Housing

Connect CILs and housing advocates

Emergency preparedness

Connect CILs with emergency planning groups

Community input guides the plan

What communities can share

Barriers to accessible housing or reliable transportation

Gaps in peer support, youth services, or personal assistance

Communication, access, and outreach needs

How the network responds

Public hearings and surveys gather lived experience.

CILs and MO SILC use input to set priorities.

Progress reports show where plans need adjustment.

A service area on a map does not guarantee that every need is met.

What is an Area Agency on Aging?

A regional organization that plans and coordinates aging services

01 Missouri has 10 AAAs covering the entire state.

02 Most Older Americans Act services focus on adults age 60 and older.

03 AAAs also support caregivers and offer some programs with other eligibility rules.

04 Services may come from the AAA, senior centers, or contracted providers.

Local services may include meals, transportation, caregiver support, and in-home help.

CILs and AAAs: people and planning

Feature	Centers for Independent Living	Area Agencies on Aging
Primary focus	People with disabilities across ages	Older adults and caregivers
Leadership	Disability majority on board and staff	Regional governance and older adult advisory input
Approach	Consumer goals, peer support, and disability rights	Regional planning and coordination of aging services
Planning	State Plan for Independent Living	State Plan on Aging and local area plans

CILs and AAAs: shared work and strengths

Shared work

Information, referrals, and community connections

Support for living at home and participating in community life

Transportation, access, and caregiver partnerships

Distinct strengths

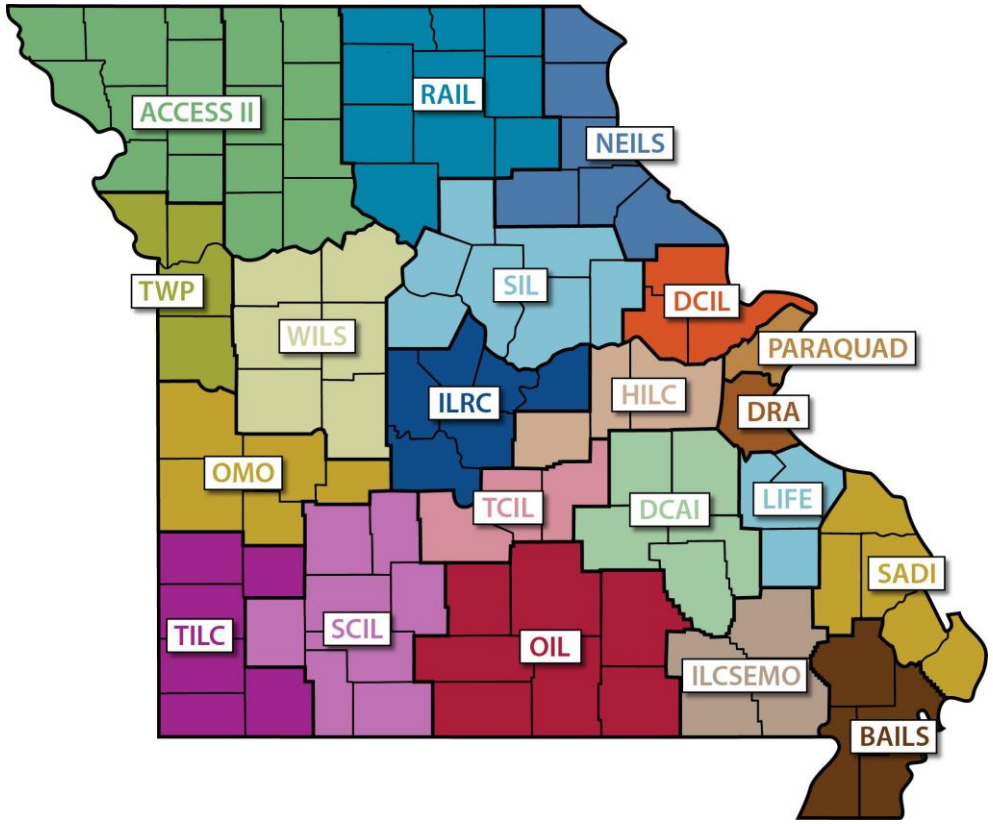
CILs: disability leadership, peer support, independent living skills, and systems advocacy

AAAs: nutrition programs, caregiver services, and a regional network of aging supports

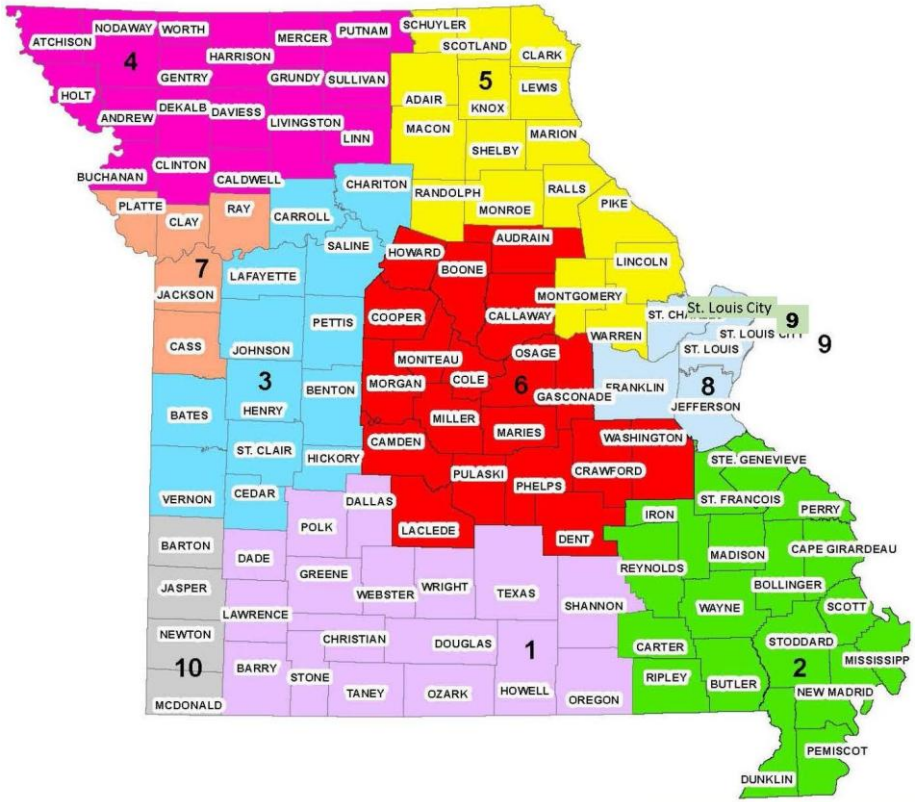
An older adult with a disability may benefit from both organizations.

Missouri coverage areas, side by side

21 Centers for Independent Living



10 Area Agencies on Aging



Both networks cover Missouri. Regional boundaries differ. Colors do not match across maps.

Reading the AAA regions

1 SeniorAge

2 Aging Matters

3 Care Connection for Aging Services

4 Young at Heart Resources

5 Northeast Missouri AAA

6 Aging Best

7 Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)

8 Aging Ahead

9 St. Louis Area Agency on Aging

10 Region X Area Agency on Aging

One AAA region often overlaps several CIL service areas.

CIL map abbreviations

Access II: Access II Independent Living

BAILS: Bootheel Area Independent Living Services

DCAI: Disability Coalition for Access & Independence

DCIL: Delta Center for Independent Living

DRA: Disability Resource Association

HILC: Heartland Independent Living Center

ILCSEMO: Independent Living Center of Southeast MO

ILRC: Independent Living Resource Center

LIFE: Living Independently for Everyone

NEILS: Northeast Independent Living Services

OIL: Ozark Independent Living

OMO: On My Own

Paraquad: Paraquad

RAIL: Rural Advocates for Independent Living

SADI: SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence

SCIL: now Empower Abilities

SIL: Services for Independent Living

TCIL: Tri-County Center for Independent Living

TILC: The Independent Living Center

TWP: The Whole Person

WILS: West-Central Independent Living Solutions

How Missouri CILs receive funding

Public IL operating support

Federal Part C grants go directly to designated CIL grantees.

Federal Part B and state IL funds flow through Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation.

The DSE also commits Social Security reimbursement funds to IL.

Other revenue varies by center

Medicaid payments for authorized services, such as Consumer Directed Services

Other service contracts and grants

Local support and donations

Public IL operating grants and Medicaid service payments are separate revenue streams.

How Missouri AAAs receive funding

Federal and state support

Older Americans Act funds flow from ACL through Missouri DHSS to AAAs.

Title III supports meals, supportive services, health promotion, and caregivers.

State general revenue and other grants also support programs.

Local and other support

Local government and senior tax funds, where available

Private grants, donations, and voluntary participant contributions

Other contracts or service payments, depending on the AAA

AAAs use funds within program rules and approved area plans.

Funding comparison: allocation and purpose

Feature	Centers for Independent Living	Area Agencies on Aging
Federal basis	Rehabilitation Act, Title VII	Older Americans Act
Main state partner	DESE / Vocational Rehabilitation	DHSS / Senior and Disability Services
Allocation approach	SPIL describes equalized public IL operating support	State formula allocates funds using social and economic need
Other revenue	Service payments, contracts, grants, and donations	Local funds, contributions, contracts, grants, and donations

Equalized IL grants do not mean equal total CIL budgets. AAA awards also differ by funding source.

A practical CIL and AAA partnership

An older adult with a disability wants to stay at home

The CIL can help with	The AAA can help with
Peer support and independent living skills	Meals and local aging services
Disability advocacy and accessible housing resources	Caregiver support and transportation resources
Personal assistance options and transition support	Connections to in-home help and benefits assistance

With consent, partners coordinate referrals around the person’s goals and available services.

Questions and local connections

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Find a local CIL
www.mocil.org

Find a local AAA
1-800-235-5503
www.ma4web.org

Sources and reference documents

Missouri DESE	Independent Living overview and CIL map, updated 2025
MO SILC	Missouri SPIL, FFY 2025–2027, amended July 1, 2025
Missouri DHSS	AAA directory, regional map, and State Plan on Aging 2024–2027
Administration for Community Living	SPIL responsibilities, signatures, and core IL services
MOCIL and ma4	Missouri network information and funding context

Direct source links and additional detail appear in the notes for each relevant slide.