



# Southwest Center for Independence Board Opportunity

SWCI's Board of Directors is actively seeking passionate, diverse, and experienced great board members to help guide the organization as it grows.

## Our Mission

SWCI provides supports and training for the disability and aging communities to live the life they want in the 5 counties of Southwest Colorado. We envision a world where people with disabilities and elders are respected included members of their communities, making their own decisions, directing the supports and services they need to live well in the community, and giving back to the community from their strengths.

## Our Core Services

- Information & Referral
- Options Counseling
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Peer Support & Mentoring
- Individual Advocacy
- Diversion from Institutionalization
- Transition from Nursing Homes
- Transition to Adult Life
- Employment Services
- Transportation
- Housing Services
- Systems Advocacy

## Our Core Values

- Cross disability means all disabilities are included. While the daily details of our disabilities are different, we all experience the same societal barriers & oppression. We serve anyone with **any disability, any age, and any financial situation**.
- Consumer control means that the individual with a disability must be able to make his or her own choices, and to be in charge of his or her own life. Consumer control also means that the organizations best suited to assist us are not run by parents, social workers, or medical people, but by us, people who have disabilities. **CILs are run and governed by people with disabilities**.
- Self-help and peer support means that **people learn and grow** by discussing their needs, concerns and issues with people who have had similar experiences.
- Equal access to society means that as **barriers are removed and legal rights are honored**, society in its broadest sense appreciates & includes people with disabilities in education, employment, housing, recreation, transportation, and all other forms of public and private group activity.

## What Makes SWCI Unique

Independent Living is movement and a way of life. IL philosophy doesn't try to "rehabilitate" a person, but focuses on reducing and removing the societal barriers that limit our choices. Our goals for people with disabilities are empowerment and self-determination. Our goals for communities are to achieve equal access and equal opportunities. The outcome we want is self-determination and full community participation for people with all disabilities.

**To Apply** Contact [info@swilc.org](mailto:info@swilc.org) or call 970-259-1672 for details and an application. Board meetings are in Durango on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month, from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. Leaders with disabilities are encouraged to apply!