



RESOURCE CENTER

for independent living

Consumer Newsletter • Winter 2021

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Office Closures

Dec. 23 & 24 - Christmas
Dec. 31 - New Year's Day

Consumer Christmas Parties

The holiday season is here! RCIL will have their annual consumer Christmas parties during the month of December. Below is a listing of the dates and locations of the parties. Pick the event you would like to attend and RSVP to the RCIL office hosting that event at least one week prior. Please be sure to request special accommodations when you RSVP if necessary.

The Christmas parties are being held in conjunction with the December RCIL Friends meetings. There will be fun activities and prizes. Food is provided at all Christmas parties. If you have questions or would like more information, feel free to contact your local RCIL office.

RCIL staff would like to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and safe travels.



Christmas Parties Schedule

Osage City - Dec. 15 at the Park Place Apartments 207 S. 6th St. from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Eureka - Dec. 14 at the Magic Circle Apartments in the South Community Room 301 Magic Circle Rd. from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

El Dorado - Dec. 15 at the RCIL Office 615 1/2 N. Main St. from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Emporia - Dec. 20 at the Broadview Towers Apartments 110 W. 6th Ave. from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Online Friends - Dec. 21 by Zoom Video Conference on computer or by phone at 2:00pm. 📞

Emergency Broadband Benefit Saves Cost

RCIL consumer Jerry has been working with an RCIL Independent Living Specialist (ILS) to learn how to use the many different programs and features of an iPad to keep track of appointments, communicate with his friends and family, and other Independent Living skills.

Jerry recently learned about the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) through a newsletter he receives from the Area Agency on Aging. The EBB is a discount applied to the internet bills of consumers who qualify. Jerry tried to follow the instructions to enroll via phone, but after hours on the phone and going in circles

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RCIL Directors

Deone Wilson
Executive Director

Mike Pitts
Deputy Director

Becky Brewer
*Director of Financial
Management Services*

Adam Burnett
Director of Core Services

Tania Harrington
*Director of Disability
Services*

Alternate Formats

To receive a copy of this newsletter in an alternate format, please call 1.800.580.7245.




Nominate a Direct Support Worker For RCIL's DSW of the Year Award



The services Direct Support Workers (DSWs) provide are crucial to the health and independence of Kansans with disabilities that receive Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). RCIL wants to provide an opportunity for HCBS consumers and their families to recognize DSWs for their outstanding service and dedication with a "DSW of the Year" Award. This is your opportunity to nominate a Direct Support Worker that you feel is deserving of this recognition. All nominations will be considered. The RCIL Board of Directors will select a Direct Support Worker for the award and then all other nominees will be entered in a drawing for a prize. The

winners will be announced on January 25, 2022.

Deadline: All nominations must be submitted by December 31, 2021. Please submit the following information listed below by email at info@rcilinc.org OR by mail at RCIL P.O. Box 257 Osage City, KS 66523.

1. Your Name:
2. Name of Nominee (Direct Support Worker):
3. What my Direct Support Worker means to me: 

Seeking Youth with Disabilities for KSYLF


The Kansas Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities (KSYLF) is currently searching for motivated young leaders to attend the 21st annual forum held July 11-16, 2022 at Washburn University in Topeka.

The KSYLF is an annual conference serving students with disabilities across the state. During the forum, there will be various sessions that students will learn such as disability history, advocacy, goal setting, leadership, resources, and much more. By the end of the conference, all students will have their own Personal Leadership Plan which will include their future plans and career goals.

All students who are interested in attending the KSYLF must meet the following criteria:

- Reside in Kansas.
- Have a disability as defined with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- Be in the 11th or 12th grade as of December 31, 2021. Please note: Students who are in an 18-21 transition program qualify to apply as well.
- Have demonstrated leadership potential or interest in school and the community.

There will be no cost for students who are selected to attend. All lodging, food, and accommodations are paid for through KSYLF funds. Accommodations such as personal care attendants, sign language interpreters, large print or Braille materials, and other accommodations will be provided for those delegates who need them. Interested students must fill out an application that will be reviewed through a competitive selection process. The application deadline for the 2022 KSYLF is December 15, 2021. Contact the Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA) at 785-215-6655 to request an application or for more information. 

SPIL Outreach Workgroup Update

The Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) has four areas to focus on to help remove barriers for people with disabilities in Kansas. Those four areas turned into SPIL workgroups and they are Employment, Housing, Outreach, and Transportation. RCIL along with other Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Kansas and other community partners are working together in each of the workgroups. Each workgroup has their own goals that will bring awareness to, develop, and promote opportunities for people with disabilities. Today we are going to give you updates on the SPIL outreach workgroup.

The SPIL outreach workgroup is


currently developing a Center for Independent Living video. The purpose of the video is to spread awareness about what Centers for Independent Living can do for people with disabilities in Kansas. The video will include information on where CILs are located in Kansas and about their independent living services.

The workgroup is currently seeking consumer success stories to use in their video. The stories will include how CILs such as RCIL has helped a person with a disability achieve his/her life goals. Examples of life goals are getting a ramp, receiving personal care services in the home, receiving an as-

sistive device, accessible vehicle, and much more. The workgroup will consider any success stories that are written and/or by video. If you have a success story and would like to share your story to the workgroup, contact Beth Burnett at the Osage City office at 785-528-3105.




RCIL is actively involved in all four SPIL workgroups. All workgroups want to invite anyone who is inter-

ested to be advocates for people with disabilities by participating in any of the workgroups. If you are interested and want to get involved, contact an Independent Living Specialist at your local RCIL office. 

Chase County Resource Guide

Information and Referral (I&R) is a Core Service that RCIL offers to anyone with or without a disability. RCIL staff receive calls from consumers with questions about available community resources in their county. Below are a few resources available in Chase County.

Contact RCIL at 785-528-3105 if you have questions or need assistance to locate resources in your area. 



Agency Name	Services	Phone Number
C4 Food Pantry Chase County	Food Pantry once a month for residents. Friday Food Backpack Program Pre K-12 grade. Must reside in Chase County for both programs.	620-412-3015
Chase County General Public Transportation	Provides transportation in Chase County.	620-273-8511
Chase County Health Department	Immunizations, Kansas WIC program.	620-273-6377
Chase County Medical Clinic	Family Practice, Physicians.	620-273-6131
Chase County Old School Development District	The Emergency Food Assistance Program - distribute food the 3rd Wednesday of every month.	620-332-4265
Chase County Senior Center	Hot Meals at Center, Meals delivered to homes, Exercise Program, & Recreational Activities.	620-273-8511
North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging	Provides Friendship Meals, Homemaker Services, assessment for Home & Community Based Services, and Section 8 Choice Voucher Program.	785-776-9294

2022 FRIENDS GROUP SCHEDULE



**RCIL Offices are CLOSED on
Dec. 23-24, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2021!**

**Due to COVID-19 ALL Friends group meetings are subject to
change. PLEASE CALL AHEAD to check the status of your meeting.**

El Dorado	Time	Topic
Jan 19th	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Emergency Kits for Vehicles
Feb 16th	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Volunteering with Limited Mobility
Mar 16th	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Foods You Can Grow Indoors
*Location: RCIL Office 615 1/2 N. Main St., El Dorado, KS 67042		

Emporia	Time	Topic
Jan 31st	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Crockpot Cooking
Feb 28th	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Crip Camp Movie
Mar 28th	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Self and Community Advocacy
*Location: Broadview Towers Apartments 110 W. 6th Ave., Emporia, KS 66801		

Eureka	Time	Topic
Jan 11th	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Emergency Kits for Vehicles
Feb 8th	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Volunteering with Limited Mobility
Mar 8th	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Foods You Can Grow Indoors
*Location: Magic Circle Apartments 301 Magic Circle Rd., Eureka, KS 67045		

Ft Scott	Time	Topic
Jan	Meeting Cancelled	
Feb	Meeting Cancelled	
Mar	Meeting Cancelled	
*Location: Bourbon County Senior Center 26 N. Main St., Fort Scott, KS 66701		

Friends are groups of individuals who have, or have experienced, a disability. We meet monthly to share & learn about disability related topics, to advocate for change in our communities, and to have fun!

Iola	Time	Topic
Jan	Meeting Cancelled	
Feb	Meeting Cancelled	
Mar	Meeting Cancelled	
*Location: Iola Housing Authority—Kitchen 217 N. Washington Ave., Iola, KS 66749		

Osage City	Time	Topic
Jan 26th	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Utilities Assistance Resources
Feb 23rd	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Arts and Crafts
Mar 23rd	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Emergency Preparedness
*Location: Park Place Apartments 207 S. 6th St., Osage City, KS 66523		

Paola	Time	Topic
Jan	Meeting Cancelled	
Feb	Meeting Cancelled	
Mar	Meeting Cancelled	
*Location: Timber Ridge Apartment Homes—Clubhouse 908 N. Hospital Dr., Paola, KS 66071		

Online Friends	Time	Topic
Jan 18th	2:00pm - 3:00pm	LIEAP Utility Assistance
Feb 15th	2:00pm - 3:00pm	CBD Oils
Mar 15th	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Self and Community Advocacy
*Location: Zoom - Video Conference by computer or phone		

For more information about RCIL Friends group or

To request accommodations 2 weeks prior to a meeting

Contact RCIL at: 1-800-580-7245 or info@rcilinc.org
In cases of inclement weather, please call ahead!

Enter For Your Chance To WIN A FREE Prize!

To be entered into a drawing for a **FREE** prize, complete the quiz below and turn it in to RCIL by December 15, 2021 in the following ways:

- By mail: RCIL P.O. Box 257 Osage City, KS 66523
- OR e-mailing your answers to info@rcilinc.org

The winning ticket will be drawn on December 17, 2021 and the prize will be mailed to the winner.



✂ Cut Here

Fill in the Blanks

1. The deadline to submit the 2022 KSYLF application is _____.
2. The EBB is a discount applied to the _____ bills of consumers who qualify.
3. The Cold Weather Rule is designed to keep your _____ connected during the winter months even when you are unable to pay your bill in full.
4. The deadline to submit all nominations for RCIL's DSW of the Year Award is _____.
5. The SPIL Outreach workgroup is currently seeking consumer _____ to use in their Center for Independent Living video.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Emergency Broadband Benefit Continued

Continued from page 1

through the automated menus he contacted his ILS for assistance. Jerry met with his ILS who walked him through the online application on Jerry's iPad.

The day after they completed the application Jerry received approval in his email. When asked how he is more independent Jerry said "this will allow me to put money toward other expenses." Jerry said he isn't sure how much money



the benefit will save him until he sees the discount on his next bill. He knows though that others could also benefit from the program and Jerry encourages other consumers to "read the articles in newsletters!"

If you would like to learn more about the Emergency Broadband Benefit, or would like assistance applying, contact your local RCIL office or visit www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit.

You Asked for It

What day does the Cold Weather Rule start?

The Cold Weather Rule started on November 1, 2021 and it will last through March 31, 2022 according to the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). The Cold Weather Rule is designed to keep your utilities connected during the winter months even when you are unable to pay your bill in full. The rule applies only to residential customers of electric, natural gas, and water utility companies under the KCC's jurisdiction. For more information about the Cold Weather Rule, contact KCC at 1-800-662-0027.

Does RCIL have face masks, gloves, sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizers, disinfectant sprays, face shields, and non-contact thermometers?

Yes! Those supplies are available at RCIL. To request any of those supplies, call your local RCIL office or call RCIL Osage City office at 785-528-3105.

If you have any questions or need any resources contact an Independent Living Specialist at 1-800-580-7245.



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Moved?

If you've moved or changed your phone number, name, or email address, call 1.800.580.7245 so we can keep in contact with you!

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.rcilinc.org

Find us on:



HIPAA Privacy Notice

RCIL's Notice of Privacy Practices based on the Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is available in every RCIL office and on the RCIL website at <http://rcilinc.org/resources>. You can request a copy of the notice at anytime by contacting RCIL at 1.800.580.7245 or info@rcilinc.org.

RCIL Home Office

Address

P.O. Box 257
1137 Laing St.
Osage City, KS 66523

Phone

1.785.528.3105 Voice
1.800.580.7245 Toll Free
1.877.929.7655 Payroll Help Desk

Fax

1.785.528.3665

Payroll Fax

1.785.528.2938

Satellite Offices

El Dorado

615 1/2 N. Main St.
El Dorado, KS 67042
1.316.322.7853 Voice
1.800.960.7853 Toll Free
1.316.322.7888 Fax

Iola

104 S. Washington Ave.
Iola, KS 66749
1.620.365.8144 Voice
1.877.944.8144 Toll Free
1.620.365.7726 Fax

Emporia

215 W. 6th Ave., Suite 201
Emporia, KS 66801
1.620.342.1648 Voice
1.888.261.4024 Toll Free
1.620.342.1821 Fax

Topeka

1507 SW 21st St., Suite 203
Topeka, KS 66604
1.785.267.1717 Voice
1.877.719.1717 Toll Free
1.785.267.1711 Fax