Resource Center for Independent Living

Consumer Newsletter

Summer 2025

Have you Moved?

If you have moved or changed your phone number, name, or email address, call 1-800-580-7245 so we can keep in contact with you!

Office Closures

Independence Day

July 4, 2025

Labor Day

September 1, 2025

We are on the Web!

Visit us at:

[www.rcilinc.org](http://www.rcilinc.org)

Find us on:

Facebook and Twitter

Like and Follow us!

DON’T LOSE YOUR MEDICAID AND

HCBS ELIGIBILITY!!

In order to remain eligible for Medicaid and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), there are some important things you need to do.

Each year you will need to complete a **Functional Assessment** to verify that you continue to qualify for HCBS. In the past, these Functional Assessments were completed by the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) through your local Area Agency on Aging.

Starting July 1, 2025, a new company, Maximus, will complete these annual assessments instead of the ADRC/Area Agency on Aging. Maximus will provide the Functional Assessment for those consumers receiving services on the Physical Disability (PD), Frail Elderly (FE), and Brain Injury (BI) HCBS waivers. Individuals receiving services on the Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled (I/DD) and Technology Assisted waivers (TA) will continue to be assessed annually by their current assessor organizations.

If you do not know when your annual HCBS eligibility assessment is due, contact your Managed Care Organization, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Waiver Program Manager for your waiver, or Maximus.

**If you miss the HCBS Eligibility Assessment due date, your services may end.**

Your Medicaid eligibility is also renewed every year. You should receive a letter from the KanCare Clearinghouse when it is time for your eligibility to be renewed. It is very important that you respond by the due date on the letter. If you want to know the date your Medicaid eligibility is due, contact the KanCare Clearinghouse at 1-800-792-4884 or call the number on the back of your Medicaid card and ask your Managed Care Organization.

Please be sure the KanCare Clearinghouse has your current contact information (address, telephone number) by calling 1-800-792-4884.

**If you miss the renewal due date, your benefits may end or be interrupted.**

RCIL Directors

Deone Wilson

Executive Director

Mike Pitts

Deputy Director

Becky Brewer

Director of Consumer Directed 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 RCIL at 785-528-3105.

Made An Emergency Preparedness Plan

A consumer came to RCIL with a need for vouchers to use for public transportation and for laundry mat because of her limited income. She needed transportation to attend her appointments, to do her laundry, and to go grocery shopping. During the course of the paperwork with an Independent Living Specialist (ILS), the consumer stated she did not have an emergency preparedness plan. The ILS asked her if she would like to develop a plan and the consumer said she would. They scheduled an appointment to go through the Emergency Preparedness Training. The consumer came to the training happy and excited. She discussed several emergency situations with her ILS. The consumer divulged that she did not have a fire extinguisher or a smoke detector at her apartment. After completing the Emergency Preparedness Training, the consumer was surprised to receive a fire extinguisher, smoke/carbon monoxide detector, first aid kit, and a weather radio. She stated she needed those items but she could not afford to purchase them. She thanked her ILS for her assistance and explained she feels more prepared now when she is in an emergency situation.

Operation Red File

Are you or your loved ones prepared for a sudden medical emergency? Do you have important medical information written down or memorized such as prescription details, doctor contacts, or all your allergies and medical conditions? If you do not, there is a simple fix! Contact RCIL and one of our Independent Living Specialists will help you set up a “red file.” Operation Red File is a statewide program that provides three pages of important details for first responders should they be called to your home. You fill out the red file forms and post them on your refrigerator in a red file that responders are trained to look for. If you are incapacitated, the paramedics can open the red file and get the info they need to provide you with lifesaving care. Call RCIL to get a FREE red file folder and all its contents.

Need Gloves and Face Masks?

RCIL currently has gloves and face masks available in each of their offices. If you need these supplies, call your local RCIL office.

Bourbon 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 Bourbon 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** |
| SEK Multi-County Health Department | Immunizations, Health and Wellness, &Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program. | 620-223-4464 |
| The Beacon | Food services and financial assistance. | 620-223-6869 |
| CareVan General Public Transportation | Provides rides for residents who live in Bourbon County. | 833-228-7433 |
| First Missionary Baptist Church | Food Pantry, Personal Care Items, and Cleaning/Laundry Items. | 620-224-7438 |
| Care 4 All Home Medical Equipment | Home medical equipment and respiratory care. | 620-223-4141 |
| Fort Scott Housing Authority | Low Income Housing. | 620-223-4570 |

Free Home Modification Items

RCIL has a limited number of FREE grab bars, special door hinges, and reachers available for consumers in our Core Service counties which includes Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Butler, Chase, Coffey, Cowley, Elk, Greenwood, Linn, Lyon, Marion, Miami, Morris, Osage, and Shawnee.

Swing-away door hinges will widen most entrances by swinging the door out of the entrance, adding a couple of inches to the clearance width of most doorways. Reachers are available in different lengths to help grab items out of reach. Grab bars are available in different lengths. Call to discuss your need. Consumers are responsible for installation.

For more information or if you need any of these items, contact your local RCIL office.

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.

2025 RCIL Friends Group Schedule

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

All Friends group meetings are from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm unless otherwise noted on the schedule.

El Dorado

July 23 ADA 35th Anniversary Celebration

Aug. 20 Self Advocacy

Sept. 17 Disability Rights Center

Location: Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL)

120 S. Gordy St., Suite 3 El Dorado, KS 67042

Emporia

 July 28 ADA 35th Anniversary Celebration

 Aug. 25 Government Benefits

 Sept. 29 HCBS Waivers

Location: Broadview Towers Apartments

 110 W. 6th Ave., Emporia, KS 66801

Eureka

July 8 ADA 35th Anniversary Celebration

Aug. 12 Self Advocacy

 Sept. 9 Disability Rights Center

Location: Magic Circle Apartments

 401 Magic Circle Rd., Eureka, KS 67045

Fort Scott

July

 Aug. Coming Soon! Call the Iola Office if interested in attending!

 Sept.

Location: Fort Scott Housing Authority

 315 Scott Ave., Fort Scott, KS 66701

Iola

July 22 ADA 35th Anniversary Celebration

 Aug. 26 First Aid

 Sept. 23 Hydration

Location: Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL)

 214 N. Jefferson Ave., Iola, KS 66749

Online Meeting Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

July 1 Change, Not Charity: The Americans with Disabilities Act

Aug. 19 Home Health and How it Can Help You

 Sept. 16 Pain Management Therapy

Location: Zoom – Video Conference by computer or phone

Osage City

July 17 ADA 35th Anniversary Celebration

 Aug. 27 Community Events for Seniors

 Sept. 24 Cooking for One

Location: Osage City Public Library

 515 Main St., Osage City, KS 66523

Topeka

July 25 ADA 35th Anniversary Celebration

 Aug. 29 Stress Relief

 Sept. 26 Money Management

Location: Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL)

 2200 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604

PLEASE CALL AHEAD to check the status of your meeting. All Friends group meetings are subject to change.

For more information about RCIL Friends group or to request accommodations two weeks prior to a meeting. Contact RCIL at 1-800-580-7245 or info@rcilinc.org

**Kansas Voter Registration Instructions**

For further information, contact the Office of the Secretary of State, 1-800-262-VOTE (8683) V/TTY. This form is available at www.sos.ks.gov.

**You can use this application to**:

* register to vote in Kansas
* change your name, address, or affiliation with a political party

**To register to vote, you must:**

* be a U.S. citizen and a resident of the state of Kansas.
* have reached the age of 18 years before the next election.
* have received final discharge from imprisonment, parole, or condi­tional release if convicted of a felony.
* have abandoned your former residence and/or name.

**How to register to vote:**

* Return your completed application to your county. Addresses are on the back of this application. Your county election officer will mail you a notice when your application has been processed.
* Voter registration closes 21 days before any election. In order to be eligible to vote in that election, your application must be postmarked on or before that date.
* If you decline to register to vote, that fact will remain confidential and will be used for voter registration purposes only. If you do register to vote, the office where you apply will be kept confidential and will be used for voter registration purposes only.
* If this form is incomplete, it may be rejected.

**Identification number requirements**

Enter your current Kansas driver’s license number or nondriver’s identifica­tion card number. If you do not have either one, enter the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have any of these numbers, write “none” in the box. The number will be used for administrative pur­poses only and will not be disclosed to the public. K.S.A. 25-2309

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 July 17, 2025 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 July 18, 2025 and the prize will be mailed to the winner.

Fill in the Blanks

1. RCIL currently has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and face masks available in each of their offices.
2. Operation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ File is a statewide program that provides three pages of important details for first responders should they be called to your home.
3. Each \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you will need to complete a Functional Assessment to verify that you continue to qualify for HCBS.
4. If you have moved or changed your phone number, name, or email address, call \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so RCIL can keep in contact with you!
5. Contact your local \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ office if you need help completing the Kansas Voter Registration Application Form.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

RCIL’s New Full Time Staff

RCIL is excited to introduce their newest staff members to their team!

Crystal Galton, Independent Living Specialist, started at RCIL on May 9, 2025 in the Topeka office. She will be providing RCIL’s five core services in Shawnee County and surrounding counties. The core services are information and referral, advocacy, peer counseling, independent living skills training, and transition services.

You Asked For It

**How can I register to vote in Kansas?**

The Kansas Voter Registration Application form is in this newsletter. Cut on the dotted line that is located on the left side of the form. Complete the form and mail it to your local county courthouse.

If you are already registered to vote but you had a name change, or moved to a different address, or wanted to change your party affiliation for voting you must complete the Kansas Voter Registration Application form in order to vote at the next election.

Contact your local RCIL office if you need help completing the Kansas Voter Registration Application form.

If you have questions or need any resources call RCIL at 1-800-580-7245.

Office Closures

July 4, 2025

September 1, 2025

RCIL Home Office

Address: Phone: Fax:

P.O. Box 257 785-528-3105 Voice 785-528-3665

1137 Laing St. 800-580-7245 Toll Free

Osage City, KS 66523 877-929-7655 Payroll Help Desk Payroll Fax:

 785-528-2938

Satellite Offices

El Dorado Emporia

120 S. Gordy St., Suite 3 624 Commercial St.

El Dorado, KS 67042 Emporia, KS 66801

316-322-7853 Voice 620-342-1648 Voice

800-960-7853 Toll Free 888-458-2036 Toll Free

316-322-7888 Fax 620-342-1821 Fax

Iola Topeka

214 N. Jefferson Ave. 2200 SW 10th Ave.

Iola, KS 66749 Topeka, KS 66604

620-365-8144 Voice 785-267-1717 Voice

877-944-8144 Toll Free 877-719-1717 Toll Free

620-365-7726 Fax 785-267-1711 Fax