

CLOSED

Office Closures

Veteran's Day
November 11, 2025

Thanksgiving
November 27 - 28, 2025

Christmas
December 25 - 26, 2025



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below.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KEEP YOUR HCBS ELIGIBILITY!



You may recall having a yearly visit with a representative from your local Area Agency on Aging to complete a "Functional Assessment" to determine your continued eligibility for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). This assessment was to determine if there were still enough activities that you needed assistance with so that you continued to be eligible for HCBS.

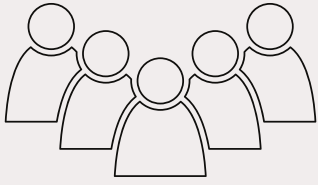
As of July 1, 2025, a new company called Maximus is completing those Functional Assessments. It is extremely important that you have this Functional Assessment completed every year to help ensure you do not lose your HCBS eligibility.

A new Functional Assessment needs to be completed each year before the date of your last Functional Assessment. For example, if your last Functional Assessment was completed on July 10, 2025, your next Functional Assessment should be completed before July 10, 2026.

Information received from Maximus says a consumer will receive a call from Maximus Scheduling Team 45 days or less before their Functional Assessment is due. Other information from Maximus included, "Maximus will make three attempts to contact the individual at different dates and times and exhaust all possible avenues for connecting with them before we (Maximus) tell the state that we were unable to reach them (the consumer) and the state closes their case. If we reach them after the due date we can attempt to reinstate, but it isn't a guarantee."

Another change you will see is that Liberty Healthcare has been chosen as the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to provide "Options Counseling" to new or current consumers. Options Counseling include helping the consumer ensure they are pursuing the waiver most appropriate for their needs and any questions they may have about choosing a Managed Care Organization (MCO) or starting HCBS. After a new consumer receives Options Counseling from Liberty (ADRC), the ADRC will then make a referral to Maximus for a Functional Assessment, if needed.

Continued on page 2



RCIL Board of Directors

Loren DeBaun
Osage City, KS

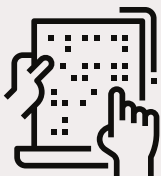
Carrie Hagemann
Topeka, KS

Kraig Kettler
Chairperson
Paola, KS

Dana Pinkston
Lyndon, KS

Tim Reeser
Melvern, KS

Carrie Sunday
Overbrook, KS



Alternate Formats

To receive a copy of this newsletter in an alternate format, please call RCIL at 785-528-3105.

HCBS Eligibility Continued

Continued from page 1

Maximus will follow up with the individual within 24 hours of receiving the referral from the ADRC to schedule the Functional Assessment.

If you are unsure what date your Functional Assessment is due, call Maximus at 785-265-3600 and ask for the date of your last Functional Assessment. Consumers can also contact Liberty ADRC at 1-855-200-ADRC (2372) to obtain the date of their last Functional Assessment.

Reminder: Your Medicaid eligibility is also renewed every year. Contact the KanCare Clearinghouse for the date of your Medicaid renewal. Do not miss getting your Medicaid renewed annually to avoid an interruption in your Medicaid coverage and HCBS.

Important numbers for you:



Liberty ADRC – 1-855-200-2372

- Date of your last Functional Assessment and any other information on choosing an MCO or starting your HCBS.

Maximus – 1-785-268-3600

- Functional Assessment – Mandatory every year.

KanCare Clearinghouse – 1-800-792-4884

- Medicaid Issues – Medicaid is also renewed every year. Call the KanCare Clearinghouse to see when your Medicaid renewal is due.

Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. – 785-528-3105

- Contact RCIL for any questions you have regarding your Home and Community Based Services.

If you would like to have RCIL to help you keep track of those important dates, please provide those dates to RCIL and we will do our best to remind you of those important dates.

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum

Every year the Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYE) hosts their annual Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KSYLF). RCIL is proud to have sent two Independent Living Specialists (ILS), Macy Collins and Dana Kiesling, to be KSYLF volunteers for this event in July 2025. Macy shared that this is her favorite event of the year. She said, "It's amazing and so rewarding to see these delegates leave totally different youth. They leave with confidence and knowledge to become our next generation of advocates."



Pictured: Dana Kiesling (left) and Macy Collins (right) wearing their KSYLF shirt and smiling at the camera at KSYLF.

Continued on page 8

Butler 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 Butler County.



Pictured: A person dialing their phone to make a phone call.

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

Agency Name	Services	Phone Number
Augusta Housing Authority	Low Income Housing.	316-775-6971
Butler County Transit	General Public Transportation. Curb-to-Curb service. Wheelchair accessible.	316-775-0500
Butler County Health Department	Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Health Education, Healthy Start Home Visits, Immunizations, and WIC.	316-321-3400
Kansas Food Bank	Mobile Food and Hygiene Pantries.	316-265-3663
LifeLine - Home Buddy	Personal emergency response systems (PERS), medication dispensers, and remote patient monitoring for senior care.	316-448-6897
Salvation Army Family Store	Emergency Social Services in Butler County. Food, rent and utility assistance. Vouchers for clothing and household items.	316-321-6130

RCIL's New Full Time Staff

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



Rachel Johnson, Information and Assistance Specialist, started at RCIL on July 28, 2025 in the Osage City office. She will be providing a variety of payroll functions for consumers who are self-directing their personal care services through HCBS Waivers.

Summer Shields, Independent Living Specialist, started at RCIL on September 2, 2025 in the Osage City office. She will be providing RCIL's five core services in Osage County and surrounding counties. The core services are information and referral, advocacy, peer counseling, independent living skills training, and transition services.



HIPAA Privacy Notice

RCIL's Notice of Privacy Practices based on the Health Insurance Portability and 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.



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!

2024 Highlights & Donors

RCIL 2024 Highlights

Throughout the year of 2024, the Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL) accomplished several great things, including having a ribbon cutting at the RCIL El Dorado Office, receiving a grant from KDADS to purchase various household supplies, educating over 350 elementary students and faculty members about disability history and awareness, enhancing professional training and continuing education for staff, expanding Core Services in Shawnee County, offering emergency preparedness trainings and self-direction trainings, moving two RCIL offices, celebrating RCIL 40th Anniversary, and participating at Independent Living Day at the Capitol. While the accomplishments described below highlight some of the great things that happened at RCIL, there is great pride in the many accomplishments for 2024 and we are excited to see what opportunities and challenges RCIL will face in 2025!

RCIL El Dorado Office Ribbon Cutting

RCIL had their Ribbon Cutting at their RCIL El Dorado Office on March 1, 2024. The event was hosted by their local Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber filmed and posted their video about this event on YouTube. The link to watch the video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3emWW011WYk>.



Pictured: RCIL staff and local Chamber of Commerce members gathered for the event.

Disability History and Awareness

RCIL went to two elementary schools in RCIL's Core Services counties in Kansas to educate students and faculty members about disability history and awareness in 2024. RCIL offered several disability awareness stations at both schools. RCIL held the events on:

- April 30, 2024 at the Sunflower Elementary School in Paola. There were approximately 150 4th graders and 15 school staff that participated in the event. There were six stations and they were a wheelchair maneuvering course, beep ball, disability awareness video, white cane techniques, accessible coding, and a hearing loss activity. RCIL staff partnered with The Kansas State School for the Blind and the Sunflower Elementary School to assist with the stations during the event.
- October 24, 2024 at the Lyndon Elementary School in Lyndon. There were over 230 1st through 5th grade students and school staff that participated in the event. The stations were a wheelchair maneuvering course, accessible vehicles, beep ball, and a Braille activity. RCIL staff partnered with Ms. Wheelchair America Tamara Blackwell of BelAire, KS and the Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEa) to assist with the stations during the event.



Pictured: RCIL staff Adam Burnett presenting a wheelchair maneuvering course at Disability Awareness event at Lyndon Elementary School in Lyndon.

By the end of the day at each school, students and faculty members were inspired and had a better understanding about people with disabilities. The overwhelming positive feedback from teachers and students has prompted to continue to make plans to educate on disability history and awareness in elementary schools in 2025!

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

Oct. 22 Maintaining Mobility Equipment
Nov. 19 What is Ableism?
Dec. 17 Consumer Christmas Party
*Location: Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL)
120 S. Gordy St., Suite 3 El Dorado, KS 67042*

Eureka

Oct. 14 Maintaining Mobility Equipment
Nov. 18 What is Ableism?
Dec. 9 Consumer Christmas Party
*Location: Magic Circle Apartments
401 Magic Circle Rd., Eureka, KS 67045*

Iola

Oct. 28 Cooking for One
Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Coping Skills Ideas
Dec. 23 Consumer Christmas Party
*Location: Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL)
214 N. Jefferson Ave., Iola, KS 66749*

Osage City

Oct. 22 Transportation Resources
Nov. 24 Tips for Eating Healthy During the Holidays
Dec. 17 Consumer Christmas Party
*Location: Osage City Public Library
515 Main St., Osage City, KS 66523*

Emporia

Oct. 27 Safety Education for People with Disabilities
Nov. 24 AT Devices in Action for People with Disabilities
Dec. 29 Mental Health Disparities
*Location: Broadview Towers Apartments
110 W. 6th Ave., Emporia, KS 66801*

Fort Scott

Oct. **Coming soon!**
Nov.
Dec. **Call the Iola Office if interested in attending!**
*Location: Fort Scott Housing Authority
315 Scott Ave., Fort Scott, KS 66701*

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

Oct. 21 Assistive Technology (AT) for Kansans
Nov. 18 Tenant Rights and Landlord Responsibilities
Dec. 16 Mental Health During the Holidays
Location: Zoom - Video Conference by computer or phone

Topeka

Oct. 31 Fall Party with Costume Contest
Nov. 21 Pot Luck with Craft
Dec. 19 Consumer Christmas Party
*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

2024 Highlights & Donors

Two RCIL Offices Moved in 2024



Pictured: RCIL Lola Office

RCIL was excited to move two of their offices in 2024. RCIL moved their Lola office into a bigger office space at 214 N. Jefferson Avenue on June 25, 2024. The office hours remain the same which is Monday and Tuesday from 8:00am – 4:00pm and Wednesday from 8:00am – 12:00pm.

RCIL moved their Emporia office to its new location at 624 Commercial Street on September 24, 2024. The office hours remain the same which is Monday through Friday from 8:00am – 4:00pm.



Pictured: RCIL Emporia Office

Self-Direction Trainings



Pictured: A group of RCIL staff smiled at the camera before they presented their Self-Direction Training at Luther Place Apartments in Topeka.

RCIL hosted five self-direction trainings between October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 for Self-Directed Consumers and their Direct Support Workers. The trainings were held in Emporia, Garnett, Lola, Osage City, and Topeka. There were approximately 80 individuals that participated in the trainings. Some of the topics include how to recruit, interview, train and manage their Direct Support Workers, how to use AuthentiCare Mobile Application, and to learn about background checks. RCIL is making plans to offer this training on a monthly basis at their RCIL Topeka Office in 2025.

Emergency Preparedness Kits and Trainings

In October 2024, RCIL hosted two consumer emergency preparedness trainings. They were located at the Osage City Public Library in Osage City and at the RCIL Office in El Dorado. At each event, RCIL presented emergency preparedness information, assisted consumers with developing a personal preparedness plan, and provided them with free items to start their emergency kits. Items included fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide/smoke detectors, and weather radios. There were eight consumers that completed the training. RCIL is making plans to provide the training in Emporia, Topeka, and Lola in 2025.



Pictured: A fire extinguisher, weather radio, and a smoke detector displayed on a table.

488

Total professional training hours among all RCIL staff from 10/1/23 – 9/30/24.

Professional Training and Continuing Education Opportunities for Staff

RCIL had the privilege to send staff to several trainings during 2024 to help them enhance their knowledge and skills in their work. Some of the trainings were 2024 Virtual National ADA Symposium, Education Advocate Training, Independent Living Summit, Fair Housing, Intentional Community Outreach, Kansas Disability Caucus Webinar Series, Family Advocacy, Support, and Training (FAST), and Kansas Housing Conference.

2024 Highlights & Donors

RCIL Expands Core Services to Shawnee County



Pictured: RCIL Topeka Office

In July 2024, RCIL received state and federal awards to provide its “Core Services” to individuals with disabilities in Shawnee County. Shawnee County is being added to RCIL’s current fifteen county service area throughout Eastern Kansas. Core Services include: Information and Referral Service; Advocacy; Independent Living Skills Training; Peer Support Services; Youth Services and Deinstitutionalization. RCIL purchased an office in Topeka at 2200 SW 10th Avenue by the end of 2024 for expanded office space. RCIL plans to move into their new office in January 2025.

KDADS Grant Project

In 2024, RCIL provided various supplies including personal hygiene products, household cleaning supplies, face masks, disposable gloves, fans, bedding sets, and nutritional drinks to approximately 211 individuals through a grant opportunity from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS).



Pictured: Gloves and face mask displayed on table.

RCIL 40th Anniversary Celebration



Pictured: RCIL staff group picture at the RCIL 40th Anniversary Celebration in Emporia.

On September 20, 2024 RCIL staff got together to celebrate RCIL’s 40th Anniversary in Emporia. They started their day touring their new RCIL Emporia Office at 624 Commercial Street and then walked across the street to the Lyon County History Center for their 40th Anniversary Celebration.

RCIL was established on September 21, 1984 in Carbondale, KS. RCIL is committed to working with individuals, families, and communities to promote independent living and individual choice to persons with disabilities. RCIL is located in Osage City and has four satellite offices in El Dorado, Emporia, Iola, and Topeka.

IL Day at the Capitol

On February 22, 2024, RCIL and the other Centers for Independent Living in Kansas gathered at the Capitol in Topeka for their Independent Living (IL) Day. RCIL staff Adam Burnett, Beth Burnett, and Deone Wilson attended this event. They set up a RCIL booth and visited with legislators who serve in RCIL’s Core Services counties about Core Services.



Pictured: RCIL staff Beth Burnett posing at the RCIL booth at the IL Day at the Capitol.

2024 Highlights & Donors

RCIL 2024 Donors

RCIL serves more than 1,700 individuals through our many programs and services every year. While we receive funding from state and federal grants and waiver programs, many of our programs and services would not be as successful without the continued support of local businesses, organizations and individuals. In 2024, we were able to add new equipment to the Durable Medical Equipment Loan Program and share issues concerning the disability community in person and virtually with community members. These are just a couple of the great ways RCIL is able to use donations to serve Kansans with disabilities. We cannot thank our donors enough, but we would like to recognize the many businesses, organizations and individuals who helped make 2024 a successful year for RCIL.

General Fund

BTCO P.A.	Gerald and Carolyn McMillin
Burlingame Chapters IQ P.E.O.	New York Life
Mark Carson	James Reed
Community Care Network of KS	Sandra Sturdy
Jean Curtis	Joni Thompson
Frederick Good	Lynette Valentine
Shirley Gray	Linda Winters
Barb Haskins	Zion Lutheran Church/Daughters of Zion
Patty Householder	
Alice Keazer	



Pictured: Items of durable medical equipment from the RCIL's Equipment Loan Program.

Equipment Loan Program

Donald Anstaett	Mary Glover	Tamara Mollach
Jason Barfoot	Kristina Grayson	Michelle Mullinix
Joanne Bauer	Lee Harrison	Dan Nichols
Anne Becker	Susan Heck	Gerry O'Connor
Claudia Bennett	Jimmy Hinck	Jerry Seyler
Tammi Brabb	Help House	Jeanette Stromgren
Gary Briggs	Hope Unlimited	Frances Summers
Danita Collins	Gregg and Kristy Hoy	Sandy Sweetwood
Janet Colstrom	Sandra Hunsinger	Franklin Syfrett
Jeannine Colstrom	Ruth Klumpe	Lois Vilander
Jesse Davies	Barbara Lacore	Rick Vilander
Ardis Diehl	Vida Lewis	Connie Waldner
Lisa Dieker	Patricia Lira	Laura Wassam
Tiffany Dunham	Jolene Miller	Wanda Weiche
ECAT	Patty Miranda	Dave Wiley

RCIL accepts monetary donations for their general fund or the fund designated by the donor. RCIL also accepts gently used or new durable medical equipment for the Durable Medical Equipment Loan Program inventory to loan or to give away as needed or requested.

Futhermore, RCIL has a Volunteer Program to allow individuals who want to volunteer their time and have a meaningful experience at RCIL.

175 Total volunteer hours RCIL received from 10/1/23 - 9/30/24.

Widen Doorway with New Door Hinges

RCIL was able to assist a consumer who needed their doorway widened. Below is the story RCIL received from the consumer.

After recently losing my leg, I found myself having to adjust living my life in a wheelchair. One of the struggles I found, was simply getting in and out of my front door. Even with the door wide open, I found myself still scraping the edges. We had priced replacing the door and widening the doorway, that would have cost us \$500 to \$750. Fortunately, we talked to RCIL and they were able to give us new door hinges that allow the door to open another inch or two. If you find yourself in the same situation, contact RCIL about some free door hinges.



KSYLF Continued

Continued from page 2

Dana attended the event for the first time. She said, "YLF was one of the greatest opportunities I got to be involved with so far during my time at RCIL. My favorite part was watching once shy and timid youth leave the forum as bold and courageous advocates. Watching young lives being transformed in front of your eyes has got to be one of my biggest privileges while serving YLF."



Pictured: YLF logo.

YLF is a motivational five-day forum in which a group of about 20-25 high school juniors and seniors, with various disabilities, come together to learn about leadership, advocacy, and goal setting. Delegates and volunteers from all over the state gather on a local university campus to experience this intensive, resourceful conference. Through various small and large sessions, delegates are able to interact with and learn from each other and successful adults with disabilities. Small sessions give delegates the opportunity to share experiences and explore personal leadership and career plans. Large sessions involve speakers in the community. These speakers address everything from disability history to advocacy, from goal setting to assertiveness.

Other activities throughout the week include but not limited to:

- Mentor Luncheon in which delegates are paired up with successful adults in their community.
- KSYLF delegates speak in Senate Chambers, a legislative activity in the State Capitol. Each delegate is able to sit at an actual Senator's desk and participate in a mock debate of a bullying bill to learn the legislative process of how a bill is passed into law. Also included is a tour of the Capitol.
- Adaptive recreation session. This has involved a wheelchair basketball demonstration and bocchia game.
- Resource Fair and Real-Life Affair. Delegates learn about available technology and organization resources available to them. The Real-Life Affair allows participants to experience the "real world" through a variety of stations.

Who can attend? To be a delegate to the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, students must:

- Be a junior or senior in high school, or in an 18-21 transition program, as of December 31 of the current year.
- Reside in Kansas.
- Have a disability (as defined with the Americans with Disabilities Act).
- Have demonstrated leadership potential or interest in their school and the community.

For more information or to apply for KSYLF, please call KYEA at 785-215-6655 or visit their website at www.kyea.org.

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 October 20, 2025 in the following ways:

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



The winning ticket will be drawn on October 21, 2025 and the prize will be mailed to the winner.



Cut Here

Fill in the Blanks

1. Call the _____ to find out when your Medicaid renewal is due.
2. _____ does the functional assessment.
3. One of the criteria to be a delegate at YLF is, you must be a junior or senior in high school, or in an 18-21 transition program, as of December _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you Prepared?

As the cooler weather of Fall approaches now is the time to plan for potential emergencies or to take action to avoid an emergency. If you have a woodburning stove or fireplace make sure you have it inspected and cleaned by a professional. Dirty chimneys and flues create a dangerous situation that can lead to losing everything in a house fire. Many people also utilize space heaters to stay warm. Be sure to use proper outlets, avoid excessive extension cords, and use caution not to overload a power strip. Keep items well away from a space heater and never ever leave them on and unattended. Keep in mind if you use a gas or propane heater or generator make sure that it is vented outdoors and away from windows and doorways. If you would like more information on ensuring your home's safety or creating emergency preparedness plans please call your local RCIL office!



Pictured: A space heater and a soft wicker basket with a blanket sitting next to it on hardwood floors.



You Asked For It Will RCIL have a booth at a community event this fall?

Yes! RCIL will be having a booth at the following events below.

October 4 - Topeka

Shawnee County
Community
Developmental Disability
Organization (CDDO)
Resource Fair

Where:

West Ridge Mall

Time:

10:30am - 2:30pm

October 15 - Emporia

Flint Hills Senior Life Fair

Where:

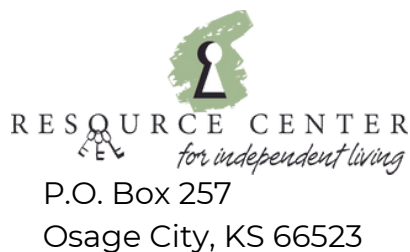
Lyon County Fairgrounds
Anderson Building

Time:

8:00am - 2:00pm

If you are in the area,
stop by and see us!

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



Non-Profit
Organization
PAID
Osage City, KS
Permit No. 93

OFFICE CLOSURES
NOVEMBER 11, 2025
NOVEMBER 27-28, 2025
DECEMBER 25 - 26, 2025

RCIL Home Office

Address

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

Phone

785-528-3105 Voice
800-580-7245 Toll Free
877-929-7655 Payroll Help Desk

Fax

785-528-3665

Payroll Fax

785-528-2938

Satellite Offices

El Dorado

120 S. Gordy St., Suite 3
El Dorado, KS 67042
316-322-7853 Voice
800-960-7853 Toll Free
316-322-7888 Fax

Emporia

624 Commercial St.
Emporia, KS 66801
620-342-1648 Voice
888-458-2036 Toll Free
620-342-1821 Fax

Iola

214 N. Jefferson Ave.
Iola, KS 66749
620-365-8144 Voice
877-944-8144 Toll Free
620-365-7726 Fax

Topeka

2200 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66604
785-267-1717 Voice
877-719-1717 Toll Free
785-267-1711 Fax