

CLOSED

Office Closures

Veteran's Day
November 11, 2026

Thanksgiving
November 26 - 27, 2026

Christmas
December 24 - 25, 2026



We are on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.rcilinc.org
or scan our QR code
below.



Find us on:



Like and Follow us!

Are You Ready To Vote?

Everyone is gearing up for the General Election on November 3, 2026. People with disabilities who are registered to vote are allowed to receive any assistance they need to cast their ballots. Below are some options:

- **Permanent Advance Voting** – is available for Kansans with a permanent disability that choose to vote at home. The advanced ballot will be mailed to all permanent advance voters for every election. It is a one-time application process and the application can be found on the Kansas Secretary of State website at www.kssos.org/forms/Elections/AV2.pdf. You can also request a copy at your local County Courthouse.

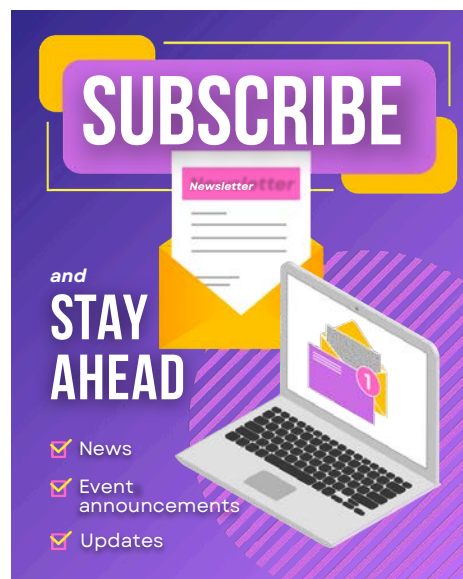


Pictured: An older man in a wheelchair received a voting ballot from a man at the registration table.

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Join Our Newsletter Email List!

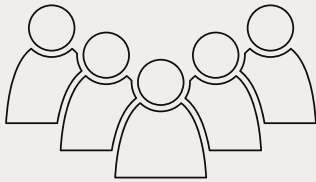
- Do you know that RCIL sends newsletters by email?
- Do you want to receive news, event announcements, and updates quicker?
- Do you have an email address?



Sign Up Today at RCIL
by calling 785-528-3105 or emailing
at info@rcilinc.org.

Don't have an email address and want to learn how to set up an email account?

RCIL has Independent Living Specialists that would be happy to teach you how to set up an email account and how to send an email. Are you interested? Contact RCIL at 785-528-3105.



RCIL Board of Directors

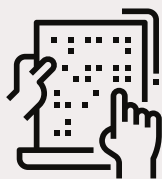
Loren DeBaun
Osage City, KS

Carrie Hagemann
Topeka, KS

Kraig Kettler
Chairperson
Paola, KS

Dana Pinkston
Lyndon, 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.

Autumn Safety Tips

It's difficult to think about the fall season while it's still over 90 degrees everyday, but we know the cooler weather will be here before we know it. As the seasons change, it is a good time to remember some simple tips to help keep yourself and your home safe and prevent an emergency.



Pictured: A notepad with a pencil that reads "Emergency Plan" in red and a check list underneath.

1. Test and/or change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
2. If you use a stove or fireplace, have the chimney inspected.
3. Get a fire extinguisher or check the pressure of your current one.
4. Keep your sidewalks and walkways clear of leaves, sticks, or other trip hazards.
5. Make sure space heaters are well ventilated and not placed near flammable items.

If you want to create a personal emergency preparedness plan or develop an emergency kit, RCIL has items and staff that can help! Call your local RCIL office to request assistance.

Kansas Disability Caucus

On August 12 - 14, 2026, RCIL's Core Services staff members along with 200 disability advocates across the state, gathered at the Hotel Topeka at City Center in Topeka, Kansas for the 17th Kansas Disability Caucus. The purpose of the Caucus is to develop new disability leadership in Kansas, to educate Kansans with disabilities about the process of policy making and encourage their participation in it, and to determine major issues facing Kansans with disabilities and possible solutions for these issues. The Caucus had several breakout sessions and Regional Sessions. The Caucus also had an Awards Banquet and they gave out six awards to six individuals who are advocates for people with disabilities. RCIL is proud to have three RCIL staff on the Disability Caucus Board and they were honored to present the Kansas Disability Lifetime Achievement Award to Becky Brewer who recently retired from RCIL after almost 30 years. Picture on the right: From left to right, Macy Gaines, Becky Brewer, Adam Burnett, and Kim Dietrich.

Congratulations Becky!



Elk 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 Elk County.

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



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



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!

Agency Name	Services	Phone Number
Elk County Council on Aging	General Public Transportation for individuals who live in Elk County.	Howard Office: 620-374-2403 Moline Office: 620-647-6335
Elk County Health Department	Immunization, WIC, Communicable Disease Control, Screenings and Physicals, and Community Safety and Licensing.	620-374-2277
Elk County Ministerial Alliance Food Bank	Food assistance for individuals who reside in Elk County.	620-647-8165
Howard Housing Authority	Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Income Based Housing.	620-374-2386
Kansas Department for Children and Family Services (DCF)	Food assistance, Cash assistance (TANF), SUN Bucks, Utility assistance, Child Care assistance, Employment training, Prevention and Protection Services, and Vocational Rehabilitation.	620-221-4936

RCIL's New Full Time Staff

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



Kurtis Alexander, Payroll Clerk, started at RCIL on August 6, 2026 and Arin Neary, Hiring Clerk, started at RCIL on August 31, 2026. They both work in the Financial Management Services (FMS) department in the Osage City office. They both will be providing a variety of payroll functions for consumers who are self-directing their personal care services through the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers.



2026 Upcoming Events

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

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

Flint Hills Senior Life Fair

When:

October 21, 2026

Time:

8:00am - 1:00pm

Where:

Lyon County
Fairgrounds - Anderson
Building
2700 W. Hwy 50
Emporia, KS 66801

Farm City Days

When:

October 17, 2026

Time:

10:00am - 2:00pm

Where:

Iola Town Square
Iola, KS 66749



Medicaid Fraud is a Crime

Medicaid Fraud is committed when a Consumer, Direct Support Worker, or Provider intentionally provides false information to the Medicaid program about services rendered to Medicaid recipients.

Examples of Medicaid Fraud, include:

- Claiming time worked when the consumer/employer is out of the home due to hospitalization, nursing facility, rehabilitation facility or incarceration (jail or prison).
- Claiming time for activities not provided.
- Claiming time while the Direct Support Worker is unable to work.
- Splitting paychecks with the Consumer/employer.
- Submitting incorrect dates and times for services performed.
- Claiming time for services performed that are not authorized on the Plan of Care/Service Plan.



Pictured: A woman making a phone call at her computer.

To report suspected Medicaid Fraud, please notify RCIL immediately or contact the Attorney General's office at: 1-866-551-6328 or 785-368-6220.

Ways to safeguard yourself against Medicaid Fraud:

- Direct Support Workers must clock in and out from inside the Consumer/employer's home.
- Keep a detailed log on paper of Dates of Service worked, clocked in and out times, and activities performed while on the clock.
- Never give your Direct Support Worker your Medicaid ID number.
- NEVER ask your Direct Support Worker for their employee ID number, and NEVER clock your Direct Support Worker in or out.
- If a situation feels "off" or seems suspicious, call RCIL at 785-528-3105.

RCIL Equipment Loan Program

RCIL offers short term equipment loan programs in each of their offices located in Osage City, El Dorado, Emporia, Iola, and Topeka. Contact your local RCIL office if you need to borrow equipment or need assistance to locate resources in your area that offers equipment loan programs.



2026 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!

El Dorado		Emporia	
Oct 21	Self Advocacy	Oct 26	Pain Management
Nov 18	Mug Meals	Nov 30	Consumer Christmas Party
Dec 16	Consumer Christmas Party	Dec 28	Lyon County Resources
Location: Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL) 120 S. Gordy St., Suite 3, El Dorado, KS 67042		Location: Broadview Towers Apartments 110 W. 6th Ave., Emporia, KS 66801	
Eureka		Fort Scott	
Oct 13	Self Advocacy	Oct 20	Fall Prevention
Nov 10	Mug Meals	Nov 17	Holiday Meal/Things to be Thankful For
Dec 8	Consumer Christmas Party	Dec 15	Consumer Christmas Party
Location: Magic Circle Apartments - Main Community Room 301 Magic Circle Rd., Eureka, KS 67045		Location: Fort Scott Housing Authority 315 Scott Ave., Fort Scott, KS 66701	
Iola		Online	
Oct 27	Breast Cancer Awareness	Oct 20	K-Loan
Nov 24	Thanksgiving Dinner/Things to be Thankful For	Nov 17	Kansas Workforce One
Dec 22	Consumer Christmas Party	Dec 15	Frauds and Scams
Location: Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL) 214 N. Jefferson Ave., Iola, KS 66749		Location: Zoom - Video Conference by computer or phone	
Osage City		Topeka	
Oct 28	RCIL Services	Oct 16	Making New Friends
Nov 18	Diabetes Awareness Month	Nov 20	Choosing Gratitude Potluck
Dec 16	Consumer Christmas Party	Dec 18	Consumer Christmas Party
Location: Osage City Public Library 515 Main St., Osage City, KS 66523		Location: Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL) 2200 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604	

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

Topeka

Oct 23	Making New Friends
Nov 13	Choosing Gratitude Potluck
Dec 1	Consumer Christmas Party

**Location: Luther Place I Apartments
5000 SW Huntoon, St., Topeka, KS 66604**

**Meeting Time:
9:00am - 10:30am**

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

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



6 Steps to Prevent a Fall

Falls Prevention Awareness Week was observed from September 21 – 25, 2026. The National Council on Aging promoted this awareness and provided good information about falls. Below are 6 steps to prevent a fall that they shared on their website at www.ncoa.org.

1. Find a good balance and exercise program.
2. Talk to your health care provider.
3. Regularly review your medications with your doctor or pharmacist.
4. Get your vision and hearing checked annually and update your eyeglasses.
5. Keep your home safe.
6. Talk to your family members.

To learn more about these 6 steps to prevent a fall, visit the National Council on Aging at www.ncoa.org/FallsPrevention.

Are You Ready To Vote? Continued

Continued from page 1

- **One-Time Advance Voting** – is available for any registered voters in Kansas that choose to vote at home. Voters who want to vote at home have to apply for advance voting at least 20 days prior to an election. You can apply online at www.ksvotes.org or you can request a copy at your local County Courthouse.
- **Curbside Voting** – elderly voters and people with disabilities are entitled to vote from their car. Polling places should have the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible buttons connected to a wireless bell or some other effective method to inform workers that someone wants to vote curbside. One poll worker from each political party should accompany the ballot or accessible voting machine to the voter's car.



Pictured: A sign with arrow that says, "Advance Voting".

If you need assistance to register to vote, contact RCIL at 785-528-3105.

A Family Determined



Pictured: A man figure assisting an elderly man figure with a cane.

A consumer had suffered a stroke while in his home several years prior while he was employed by the Post Office. Then just one month later he suffered a more severe stroke and was unable to return to the workforce. He called RCIL requesting information about the process to hire his adult son as his caregiver in his home. The Assistant Director of Core Services, Judie, learned that he had not been assessed for the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver services yet, so she provided him with the contact information to request options counseling through Liberty and explained the next steps to expect, including receiving a phone call from Maximus to schedule a functional assessment in his home to determine his waiver eligibility.

Over the next few months there was an ongoing issue with his eligibility not being approved after Judie made many phone calls and some research it was finally understood that the missing piece was a letter from his physician stating his medical condition and that in-home services were medically necessary. After learning that, the consumer could hire his son through the Veteran Affairs in-home program almost immediately, he opted to apply for the program and was approved, no longer needing to wait for the lengthy paperwork process for HCBS. After years of cooking and cleaning for his dad, the consumer hired his son to continue his efforts of love, now getting compensated to help take care of his own little family.

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 29, 2026 in the following ways:

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



Pictured: A phrase "Enter to Win!" written on a red circle.



Fill in the Blanks

1. October 13, 2026 is the _____ day to register to vote for the General Election.
2. Flint Hills Senior Life Fair in Emporia is on October _____ 2026.
3. Sign up today at RCIL to receive newsletters by _____,

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Medicare Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for Medicare beneficiaries is October 15, 2026 through December 7, 2026. During this time, beneficiaries that have Medicare Part D plans also known as prescription drug plans, can compare and find a plan that will continue to cover their medicines or be more cost-effective in the new year. Beneficiaries with Medicare Advantage plans can also make changes to their coverage during this time. Medicare beneficiaries may also qualify for Extra Help with paying for Medicare premiums or drug costs.

Our Independent Living Specialist, Kim Dietrich, is also a SHICK Counselor. SHICK stands for Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas. Kim would be happy to assist you with your Medicare questions. For assistance, contact our Topeka Office at 785-267-1717.



Pictured: Medicare Part D Annual Enrollment October 15 through December 7.



You Asked For It

How many years has RCIL been in business?

42 years!

RCIL was established on September 21, 1984. Happy Anniversary RCIL!

When is the deadline to register to vote for the General Election?

October 13, 2026

When is the first day of advance voting for the General Election?

October 14, 2026

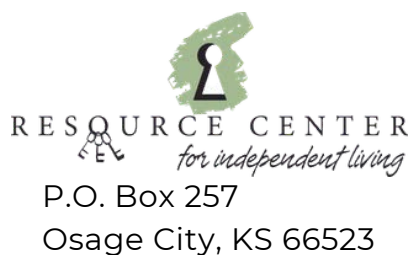
When is the General Election?

November 3, 2026

Where can I find information about voting rights and how to register to vote?

You can find voting information on the Disability Rights Center of Kansas website at <https://www.drckansas.org/about/news/2026kansasvotingupdate>

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



Non-Profit
Organization

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Osage City, KS
Permit No. 93

OFFICE CLOSURES
NOVEMBER 11, 2026
NOVEMBER 26-27, 2026
DECEMBER 24-25, 2026

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