



Signs of Independence



What's New at OSCIL!

OSCIL is pleased to announce that we have joined a network of community providers offering Person Centered Options Counseling (PCOC). Person Centered Options Counseling helps Rhode Islanders understand the choices they have about assistance that could make it easier for them to remain in their home or residence. These services are also known as long-term services and supports (LTSS).

The other members of this network include: The Point, The Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH), Department of Human Services (DHS), and Child and Family Services of RI.

PCOC is free, can be done either by phone or in person, and provides individuals with unbiased information about the long-term care services and supports options available to them. It is an interactive process that helps individuals to identify their needs and goals and connects them to resources in a way they can understand. There are no qualifications. Anyone seeking information private or public can take part.

PCOC is meant to help individuals to better understand their options remain in control over their own decision-making process. If you have any questions or would like more information, **please contact us at OSCIL at 401-738-1013**, or email info@oscil.org and speak with a PCOC Advisor for more information.



OSCIL'S Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, April 28th from 10 am—12 Noon

Location: Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI

Seating is limited. To pre-register, email cmckenna@oscil.org or call 401-738-1013 and leave your name and contact information.

OSCIL's Smart Home Technology Program

Did you know that new Smart Home technology can make your home safer and enable you to live more independently?

OSCIL 's new Smart Home Technology Program may be able to provide you with the Smart Home technology to modify your home to help you reach your goals and live independently and control your environment.

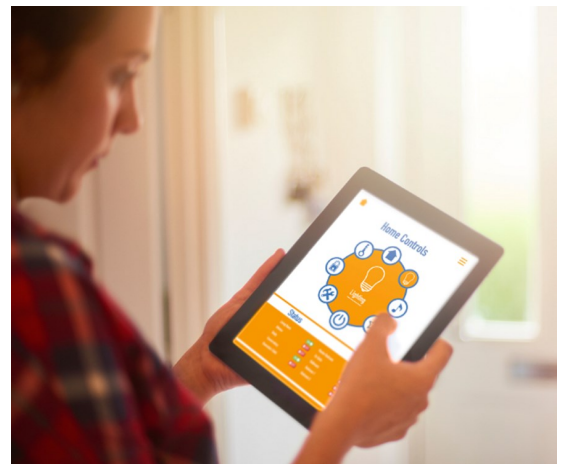
Individuals with disabilities may apply for this technology through OSCIL's Smart Home Technology Program.

This includes devices such as:

- *Smart locks*
- *Video doorbells*
- *Alerting systems*
- *Smart hubs and 2 months of connectivity needed to control the devices.*

To be eligible, you MUST:

- *Be a Rhode Island resident with a disability*
- *Be self-directed*
- *Not be on Medicaid*
- *Be within the program's financial guidelines*



Person using a tablet to control Smart Home Technology

To apply for this program and for more information, please contact us at (401)738-1013 or by email to info@oscil.org.

Upcoming OSCIL Lunch and Learn Workshops

Meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month from 12 Noon—1:30pm.

Location for in-person meeting: OSCIL, 1944 Warwick Ave, Warwick

To attend via Zoom: Meeting ID # 872 2748 0787

SAVE THESE DATES!!!

January 25—White Cross Pharmacy MedPack

February 22— Learn about the RI Statewide Independent Living Council

March 29—Fall Prevention

April—No Workshop

Check our website at oscil.org or call our office at 401-738-1013 for updates and to register!

Diverse Disability Peer Support Group

Diverse Disability is a new OSCIL peer support group for anyone with a disability that is also part of any other under-represented group. Our goal is to bring together disabled people from different minority groups to talk about how the intersection of those groups effect our daily lives and to work on making those groups more accessible so that we might feel more included.

It is our hope that through this group we can start to identify access issues and support one another. The *Diverse Disability* group covers all manner of intersectionality – a term coined in 1989 by professor Kimberlé Crenshaw to describe how race, class, gender, and other individual characteristics “intersect” with one another and overlap. When applied through a disabled lens we can better understand both common and unique challenges faced by our peers. With this understanding, we hope to better the experiences of all disabled people and become a safe haven for people from all backgrounds.

Beyond supporting our members, we hope to gather and think critically about accessibility within minority communities that we belong to, as well as understand our own shortcomings in the disability community when it comes to diversity. If you are interested in attending a meeting or would like to learn more, please call Heather Edwards at 401-738-1013 x 26 or email her at heather.edwards@oscil.org.

Computers for the Blind

Computers for the Blind (CFTB) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to bridging the digital divide for the community of the Blind and visually impaired in the US. They do this by providing affordable, accessible refurbished computers and training. Better yet, their computers are for all ages and abilities.

For over 25 years our dedication has made us a trusted ally for the community of the Blind and visual impaired, and some of us are actually members. This allows us to approach our customers in an authentic way. When it comes to technology, our goal is to provide guidance to ensure that the technology empowers rather than restricts. Our solutions are ready, accessible, and affordable.

Computers are delivered right to the doorstep with JAWS and ZoomText already built in. They empower the individual to lead an independent and connected life - opening up life-long opportunities.

Learn more at computersfortheblind.org.



Visually impaired students using laptops



Ocean State Center for Independent Living
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Winter 2023 Newsletter

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RI Statewide Independent Living Council is Recruiting New Members

The Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council (RI SILC) is currently looking for new members. The RI SILC is responsible for developing the State Independent Living Plan.



This plan identifies the areas where the federal dollars promoting independent living for people with disabilities are spent and what type of activities and training the State Independent Living Center engages in. Meetings are typically conducted 4 to 6 times a year and run between 90 minutes to 2 hours.

Individuals who identify as someone with a disability are strongly encouraged to consider joining the Council. It is essential that those with disabilities have a voice in the development of services to increase independent living.

For more information about the Rhode Island Statewide Independent Council please visit risilc.org. If you are interested in becoming a member please contact Lynne Powers at info@risilc.org or 401.738.1013 x10 for an application.