



DPC Issue Brief

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for Texans with disabilities.

Title: Independent Living Centers

Background: Independent Living Centers are community-based, non-residential nonprofit corporation operated by and for people with disabilities, providing direct services that promote independence and community integration for people of all ages with all types of disabilities. Services address individual needs in areas such as housing, financial assistance, employment, medical services and personal care. Fourteen organizations operate Independent Living Centers in twenty locations across the state, with federal funding at \$4.5 million, state general revenue funding in 10 grants totaling about \$1.4 million, and \$4 million developed from other grants, contracts and other activities (FY 2005).

Funding of Exceptional Item 3 in the DARS Legislative Appropriations Request will allow operation of 2 new Independent Living Centers in unserved areas of the state. Funding of Exceptional Item 4 will bring several under-funded Independent Living Centers up to the nationally-recognized standard necessary for successful operation.

Recommendation: The Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) recommends that the Texas Legislature supports full funding of Exceptional Items 3 & 4 in the DARS Legislative Appropriations Request.

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MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: *Statewide Members:* Advocacy, Incorporated, Brain Injury Association of Texas, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Epilepsy Coalition of Texas, The Institute for Disability Access/ADAPT, Lone Star Association for Persons in Supported Employment, Mental Health Association in Texas, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Texas, National Multiple Sclerosis Society of Texas, Texas Advocates, Texas AIDS Network, Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living, Texas Association of the Deaf, Texas Center for Disability Studies/ Texas Technology Access Project, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, Texas Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Texas Legal Services Center, Texas Mental Health Consumers, Texas State Independent Living Council, Texas State Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, The Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University, Council for Families for Children, United Cerebral Palsy of Texas, The Spina Bifida Association of Texas, Inc., and the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Texas. *Local Members:* Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas. REACH Resource Centers on Independent Living – Dallas, Fort Worth and Denton, Corpus Christi Committee for Persons with Disabilities, Goodwill of Central Texas and Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living