

## **Independent Living Concerns Index**

Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development  
The University of Kansas

### **Community Acceptance**

You are offered the same opportunity as other citizens to participate in your community.

Support and help are available from community members.

Your local government responds to your needs in the community.

Community members understand the needs of disabled residents.

Persons with disabilities are effective in advocating for services, programs, and policies that might benefit them.

Resources are provided so that you are offered the same opportunity as other citizens to participate in your community.

You are not socially isolated from the community because of your disability.

Disabled people in the community communicate with each other.

Adequate opportunities are available to interact with other people in your community.

Churches are barrier free.

Churches are sensitive to the needs of disabled members.

Public services are provided on an equal basis to disabled and non-disabled persons.

The community understands the needs of persons of short stature.

In general, this community is a good place for a person with a disability to live.

Persons with disabilities are encouraged and assisted to register to vote.

Your VR agency is responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities.

Polling places are accessible.

People with disabilities can easily cast their vote by absentee ballot when necessary.

Access to traditional religious services (e.g., sweat lodge) is available.

Access to the Native American Church is available.

Access to other (e.g., Christian) religious services is available.

### **Public Safety**

Your community is a safe place to live.

You are safe in your home.

You are safe when traveling.

Deaf citizens can call for help in an emergency using 911.

City streets and sidewalks provide safe and easy access to you.

You are treated fairly by the police and court officials.

You feel safe from physical harm by others.

Sidewalk snow removal is adequate.

City/county/state buildings and offices are accessible to disabled citizens.

Streets and sidewalks built in areas of public housing facilitate safety and access for people with disabilities.

Public buildings are accessible.

### **Medical Services**

Good medical services are available to you.

Good dental care is available.

Good mental health services are available to you.

Health care providers treat you with dignity and respect.

Health care providers are sensitive to the needs of disabled consumers.

Affordable health care is available to you.

You can receive adequate medical care in emergency situations.

Adequate meal programs are available.

Pharmacies are accessible to you.

Doctors and hospitals accept Medicaid and Medicare when you need it.

Pharmacies will deliver medicine to you 24 hours a day.

Prevention programs in alcohol and drug abuse are available to you.

Knowledge about proper nutrition is available.

Your physician will help you deal with prescription drug abuse.

Doctors' offices are barrier free.

Psychiatric care is available from psychiatrists who are aware of the needs of consumers with disabilities.

Medicaid and Medicare regulations adequately provide for durable medical equipment and medications to disabled consumers.

Health care for disabled persons is available through public and private insurance.

Health care insurance is available to you.

Health care insurance is affordable for you.

Coordinated services are available for people with traumatic head injury.

Dentists, doctors, and general practitioners are educated to work with people with severe disabilities.

Medicaid and Medicare will pay for services which make it possible for you to live independently in the community.

Adequate services are available for those who have AIDS.

Home health care is available that you can afford.

The providers of medical care you go to are sensitive to your disability.

Doctors, nurses, etc., have enough knowledge of disabilities to provide safe and competent health care to American Indians who have disabilities.

Practice of proper nutrition with people with people who have diabetes is stressed.

## **Education**

Public schools meet the needs of disabled students.

Adequate educational opportunities are available for you.

Students with disabilities are given the same access to educational and recreational activities as non-disabled students.

Special services in your schools provide good assistance for students with disabilities.

Academic and intelligence tests are administered so that students with disabilities can understand and respond to the test materials.

Financial assistance is available to students with disabilities who want to attend college or technical school.

As part of the school curriculum, all students are educated and made sensitive to attributes and life styles of persons with disabilities.

School announcements are made in the communication methods (e.g., auditory, sign language, Braille) needed for students with disabilities to understand.

Special materials/equipment (e.g., mobility assistive equipment, Braille materials) are provided to students with disabilities.

Colleges and post secondary training facilities are meeting the needs of disabled students.

Colleges meet the needs of disabled students.

School and college physical facilities are accessible.

Opportunities for adults to learn reading and writing are available.

Routed and regularly scheduled transportation systems are available to disabled students.

Disabled parents have access to school buildings where their children's activities take place.

Cruel remarks or acts made toward disabled students are discouraged by teachers.

Children with disabilities can get the appropriate services they need early enough to improve their opportunities in life.

School administrators and teachers are sensitive to the needs of disabled students.

Students who have been identified as disabled are educated with non-disabled peers in a regular classroom.

## **Employment**

Adequate employment opportunities are available.

Employment agencies and prospective employers focus on the strengths and abilities, rather than the deficits and disabilities of an applicant with a disability.

Adequate vocational training is available and accessible to you.

Current job training programs prepare you to be occupationally competitive with non-disabled persons.

Job entrance examinations and eligibility criteria are based on job-related activities and not on a person's disability.

Qualified disabled and non-disabled persons are given the same opportunities at any available jobs.

Employees with disabilities have the same chances for advancement and promotion as non-disabled employees.

Qualified disabled employees are not laid off due to their disability.

Employers will rearrange work space to be accessible and safe for employees with disabilities.

Local agencies assist disabled persons in finding interesting and worthwhile jobs.

Employers are willing to assist and accommodate disabled employees so they can perform job duties.

You have adequate access to your job.

Facilities at your work place permit you to move around as necessary.

A person with a disability can earn enough money at a job to make up for the loss of disability benefits.

Employees with disabilities are evaluated on their strengths and abilities.

You receive an adequate salary for the work you do.

Parking facilities where you work are adequate.

Transportation to and from work is arranged as needed.

Persons with disabilities applying for state civil service jobs are given reasonable accommodation.

Performance of disabled employees is evaluated on the same basis as non-disabled employees.

Coordinated programs to help disabled young adults move from school to adult life are available and adequate.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides enough actual employment services for persons with a severe disability.

### **Transportation**

It is possible to travel within the community in a safe and convenient manner.

Public transit systems (e.g., buses, cabs) are safe and accessible.

Bus drivers assist you as needed.

Taxi cab drivers assist you as needed.

Disabled persons can ride any form of public transit without discrimination.

The city provides adequate transportation for you.

Street signs are easy for you to read and understand.

Transportation to shopping, medical, and recreational centers is available to you.

Non-disabled people comply with handicapped parking ordinances.

Handicapped parking ordinances are strictly enforced.

Door to door transportation services are adequate and available any time of the day or night.

Adequate public transportation is available.

Adequate public transportation from city to city is available.

Affordable transportation services are available as needed for people with disabilities.

Door-to-door paratransit services are adequate.

Accessible and affordable medical AND non-medical emergency transportation is available to severely disabled persons.

Your airport provides safe and easy access for disabled passengers on and off planes.

Public transportation services are dependable.

Accessible handicapped parking spaces are available and adequate.

## **Housing**

Accessible housing is available.

Accessible housing is affordable.

You are not denied housing due to your disability alone.

Disabled persons who own their homes can get financial assistance to remodel their homes to increase accessibility and safety.

Utility bills are affordable.

The physical design of the place you live allows you to be independent.

Building professionals are knowledgeable about adaptive housing modifications necessary for maximum accessibility.

People with disabilities are not discriminated against in housing.

People with mental disabilities (e.g., mental illness, retardation) are not discriminated against in housing.

Help (like advocates or legal assistance) is available for solving problems with landlords, employers, utility companies, etc.

You are aware of housing assistance services in the community.

Affordable housing (both private and public) is available to all types of disabled residents.

Disabled homeowners can get financial assistance to remodel their homes in order to increase accessibility, safety, and fuel efficiency.

Acceptance into low-income housing projects is based on low assets and low income.

Landlords respect tenants' privacy and property.

Help is available for solving problems with landlords, employers, utility companies, etc.

Public housing units are accessible to disabled consumers.

Disabled persons who own their homes can get financial assistance to remodel to increase accessibility.

Housing assistance services are available in your community.

Accessible public housing units are available.

Landlords will make moderate changes to make their rental units safe and barrier free.

Accessible housing is available at an affordable cost.

Group home placement is available in your community.

### **Social Services**

Adequate social services are available.

Social agency staff treat you with dignity and respect given your cultural background.

Social agencies are adequate to meet the individual needs of persons with disabilities.

Shopping assistance is available.

Assistance with housekeeping is available.

Volunteer home visiting services are available.

Social agency staff understand your needs.

Help is available for paying your utility bills.

You can get help in applying for food stamps, welfare, etc.

Social agencies help you meet your basic needs. (e.g., food, clothing, housing, health).

Disability categories used by the state civil service system are adequate.

Social agencies inform you of benefits and services for which you qualify.

Local service agencies are barrier free.

Social agencies advocate for the needs of disabled clients.

Social agencies are aware of the benefits available to disabled customers.

Social agencies are responsible for the providing information and referral services.

Collecting of information on community services and referral sources is an ongoing process at social agencies.

Determination of eligibility for Social Security programs is fair and reasonable.

Social agencies have outreach services to contact all American Indians in the community who have a disability.

Determination of eligibility for Vocational Rehabilitation services is fair and reasonable.

Social agencies fully utilize all resources for independent living available in the community.

Social service agencies inform all clients of all services available in the community.

Your state government is responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities.

Determination of eligibility for service (e.g., SSI, SSDI, general assistance, vocational rehabilitation) is fair and reasonable.

Adequate services are available to permit independent living.

Qualified interpreters are available to deaf persons to permit use of public services.

Social services are provided on an equal basis to disabled and non-disabled persons.

Consumers with a disability are actively involved in directing and operating programs designed to serve them.

Your state or local government, or social agencies provide support to people awaiting SSI or SSDI appeals decisions.

### **Personal Care**

Trained personal care attendants are available.

Financial assistance in hiring a personal care attendant is available.

Local agencies can assist in locating trained personal care attendants.

You have direct control over the management of your personal care attendant.

Training for personal care attendants is available.

Local agencies can provide assistance in supervision of personal care attendants.

Disabled consumers can get emergency personal care services if needed.

Individuals with disabilities using attendant services can get training in how to locate, hire, and manage personal care attendants.

Personal care assistance is available to you.

You can call for and get help in an emergency.

### **Mental Health Services**

Counseling services are available to you.

Available counseling services are accessible and helpful to you.

Counselors are sensitive to the attitudes and lifestyles of their disabled clients.

Counseling in problem-solving is accessible to you.

Assertiveness counseling is available to you.

Family counseling is available to you.

Financial counseling is available to you.

Drug abuse counseling is available to you.

Counseling on sexuality is available.

Competent professional counseling is available to persons with disabilities and their families.

Support groups are available for people with disabilities and their families.

Counseling centers and counselor's offices are barrier free.

You can meet with other disabled persons to discuss and solve problems.

Counselors skilled in sign language are available to deaf consumers.

Your vocational rehabilitation counselor gives you enough information to make good decisions.

Assistance in family planning is available to you.

Counseling on issues related to disabilities is available.

Social agencies provide training for peer counselors.

Social agency staff appropriately match peer counselors and disabled consumers.

Disabled consumers have access to peer counselors with similar disabilities and life experiences.

Counseling for disabled youths is available.

Counselors with disabilities are available to you.

Adequate career counseling is available to people with disabilities.

## **Family**

Assistance in family related issues is available to you and your family.

Your community supports you in your efforts to be independent.

You and your family can get financial assistance.

You receive social support from your family.

Your family accepts you as any other member.

Your family does not isolate you from the community.

You and your family are not isolated from the community.

Families and communities encourage disabled members to be independent.

Your family encourages you to be independent.

Support and assistance are available from family, friends, and neighbors to care for a disabled family member.

You can get respite care or attendant care from an agency for a disabled family member.

Two single people receiving disability benefits can marry without their combined benefits being reduced.

## **Retail Services**

Stores are accessible to you.

Salespeople are trained to deal with the special needs of disabled shoppers.

Checkout stands and aisles are safe and accessible for disabled shoppers.

Elevator floor selector buttons are marked in Braille.

Elevator floor selector buttons are within reach of shoppers in a wheelchair.

Adequate handicapped parking spaces are available.

Store clerks are friendly and helpful to you.

Store clerks can communicate with hearing-impaired shoppers.

Auditory and visual announcements of sales, special offers, etc., are made in the store for visual and hearing-impaired shoppers.

Stores and restaurants follow the white cane law.

Handicapped parking places are available in downtown shopping areas.

Downtown department stores have accessible elevators.

Generally, most public buildings have accessible restrooms.

Restaurants and stores are accessible to disabled consumers.

Auto, life, and liability insurance is available to disabled consumers on the same basis as it is to non-disabled consumers.

Discounts are available to disabled persons on the same basis as they are to senior citizens.

Local merchants accept the state identification card used by non-drivers instead of a driver's license for check cashing purposes.

## **Restaurants**

Restaurants are accessible to disabled customers.

Braille menus are available at restaurants.

Restaurant restrooms are accessible to all customers.

You can be comfortably seated at a table without being disturbed.

You can be comfortably seated at a table without having your wheelchair protrude into the aisle.

You are not denied service because of the type of assistive device (e.g., guide dog, cane, wheelchair) you use.

Guide dogs are permitted in public places (e.g. restaurants, theatres, grocery stores).

You have access to local news, happenings, and activities.

The media (radio, TV, etc.) inform you about recreational and cultural programs planned for people with disabilities.

You are aware by different media (radio, TV, newspapers, etc.) of the recreational and cultural programs planned for people with disabilities.

The needs of persons with disabilities are considered by the local media (radio, TV, newspapers).

Closed-captioned television installments are available at an affordable cost.

The media (radio, TV, etc.) inform you about benefits for which you qualify.

Reader services for the blind are available.

The media portray persons with disabilities in a realistic and positive way.

Local media provide education and adequate information about the disabled community.

Local media provides education and adequate information for the disabled community.

Publicity (e.g., newsletters, lectures, pamphlets) about the independent living movement is available in the community.

Newly disabled people have adequate access to information regarding services and programs available to them.

Skilled sign language interpreters, TDD availability, and readers are available to aid you with communication.

Emergency broadcasts on television use both visual and audio warnings.

Communication devices and services are available to you.

## **Recreation**

Recreational opportunities are available to you.

Public events are accessible.

You can participate in any community organizations (e.g. Boy Scouts, local social clubs).

There are recreational facilities that are accessible and useable.

The city provides easy access to parks.

Recreational opportunities are adequate.

Transportation to and from public events is available on holidays and Sundays.

Public events are accessible and safe.

## **Rehabilitation & Training**

You have the opportunity to receive the specialized rehabilitation services you need (physical, occupational, etc.)

Specialized skills training programs are available.

Specialized skills training programs are adequate.

The vocational training you received makes you feel like a useful person.

Skill training in activities for daily living is available.

You can set your own goals and priorities for skill training.

Skill training in self-help activities is available.

You have easy access to the specialized training you need.

Adequate vocational training is available and accessible to you.

Vocational training programs are available to disabled students through interpreters, readers, and physical access.

### **Assistive Technology**

Reasonably priced assistive devices (e.g., wheelchairs, braces, hearing aids) are available to purchase.

Assistive devices (e.g., wheelchairs, walkers) are available to rent.

Service and repair of assistive devices (e.g. wheelchairs, braces, hearing aids) are available at affordable cost.

Examinations to assure the proper fit of an assistive device (e.g. wheelchairs, braces, hearing aids, glasses) are available at an affordable price.

Retailers of assistive devices (e.g., wheelchairs, braces, hearing aids) are understanding of the special needs of disabled customers.

Financial assistance is available for assistive devices that are not covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

Retailers have a wide variety of devices for your choice.

Assistive devices (e.g. wheelchairs, orthopedic appliances, phone amplifiers, hearing aids) are available.

Assistive devices (e.g., wheelchairs, orthopedic appliances, phone amplifiers, hearing aids, seeing eye dogs) are available at an affordable price.

Affordable adaptive equipment for your personal transportation (e.g., family car) is available.

Financial assistance is available to adapt personal transportation.

Financial assistance is available to rent or purchase assistive devices.

You can afford assistive devices (e.g., wheelchairs, walkers) that are available to rent.

Twenty-four hour a day wheelchair repair is available.

You can provide input into the design of your assistive device.

The latest technology to assist persons with disabilities is available to you.

## **Legal**

Social agencies are informed about legal issues related to disability and independent living services.

Social agencies remain informed on local, state, and federal legislation related to disability.

You are informed about legal issues related to disability and independent living.

Advocates work to gain community support for issues related to persons with disabilities and independent living.

Training in self-advocacy is available.

Disabled consumers are actively involved in advocacy activities.

Disabled consumers are active in local service and professional organizations.

Disabled consumers can advocate for eligibility standards for social service assistance.

Social agencies work to assure that disabled consumers are useful and vocal members of the community.

You know your rights as a disabled citizen.

You can successfully obtain services for your needs on your own.

Social agencies inform you about legal issues related to disability and independent living services.

Individuals with disabilities advocate effectively on disability issues at the state, regional, and national levels.

You can get affordable legal help in cases of discrimination or social security appeals.