



Navigating Toward Independence
and Freedom

2920 SCHNEIDER AVE SE

MENOMONIE, WI 54751

2nd QUARTER 2026

Compass IL is a community based, nonresidential, private nonprofit agency that is staffed and governed by people with disabilities. Our focus is to empower people in making choices that maintain or increase their independence. We serve people with disabilities, their families, and the community in which they live. We also work with area businesses and service providers that need assistance in responding to the needs of people with disabilities.

Note from the Executive Director

It looks like summer is here, and so far it has been a hot and rainy one. I have been busy with meetings and writing grants for the New Freedom transportation program. Same as we were doing in the spring! We have also had some recent issues I have been advocating with our legislators on, both State and Federal. Recently, there was a Department of Justice (DOJ) opinion memo that would undermine the Olmstead decision, which gave people with disabilities the right to live in the community. There have been both State and Federal "attacks" on community-based living versus institutionalization, undermining 30 years of disability rights and integration. However, advocates across the country responded! We need to remind ourselves that Advocacy is one of the five core services of independent living.



Compass IL is getting ready to do our new three-year strategic plan. I am hoping to get the same facilitator as the past two plans. This is an opportunity for staff and board members to come together and put together a plan to guide the programs and activities of the center for the next three years. I am looking forward to a new plan, as the past two strategic plans I have been involved with have been nothing short of outstanding in my opinion!

Finally, we have been hiring staff in all three departments. We are looking forward to filling staff positions in the New Freedom Transportation and Personal Assistant Services programs. We recently filled a position in Independent Living. Jenesis Lindbo was a former IL Specialist who had left Compass IL for a new job three years ago, so she was able to jump right back into providing services to consumers. We are happy to have Jenesis back on our IL team!

Kyle A. Kleist, Executive Director

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New Compass IL Staff

Hi! I'm Jenesis Lindbo. I will be starting as an Independent Living Specialist in June 2026. I used to work at the center from 2015 to 2023, and I'm excited to be back! I've spent most of my life helping people with disabilities because my mom was a special education teacher for over 30 years. I truly enjoy supporting others. I went to the University of Wisconsin - Stout, where I earned a degree in Human Development and Family Studies, along with a Social Work Certificate and a focus on Social Welfare.

In my free time, I like learning new skills, working with technology, playing video games, and mentoring gamers with disabilities!



I'm Tony ,
New to the team and I'm not quite a specialist yet but in due time I will be.

I'm originally from Mississippi grew up in between both Tennessee and Mississippi.

I enjoy cooking, gaming and hanging out with my boys on the weekends I have off.

I take pride in being a great dad, leadership being one of my strengths, I try to lead by example.

I love to make people laugh and smile, it does something for soul.

I look forward to learning and growing here with you all. 🙌😊🙌

Personal Assistant Services

More Than Assistance: Promoting Independence, Dignity, and Quality of Life

Caregivers do much more than help with daily tasks—they empower individuals to maintain their independence, stay connected to their communities, and continue living in the comfort of their own homes. We recognize the compassion and dedication of caregivers and encourage families to communicate openly about their loved one's changing needs.

Recently, a caregiver reported the hospitalization of their consumer. Following this report, we were able to connect with the family and learned that transportation to and from the hospital to visit their loved one was a barrier. We worked with our transportation department, New Freedom Transportation, and provided the family with a free ride once a week to visit their loved one. We have remained in contact with the family while the consumer is hospitalized and get updates often, and will be as ready as possible when the time comes, and they can be discharged back into the home they love and be surrounded by those who love them.

Our department also has a large supply of durable medical equipment. We receive items as donations, ensure they are working properly, sanitize them, and donate them back out at no cost to the individual. From walkers and wheelchairs, bath benches and commodes, we have a little bit of everything. Our complete list can be found on our website at www.compassil.org.

Caregiver Highlight

Our featured caregiver for this quarter is JulieAnn Anderson. JulieAnn began her caregiving journey with Compass in March of 2025, and her dedication truly shines through. When she isn't working, JulieAnn immerses herself in reading and happily spends time with her beloved dogs. When asked what she finds most rewarding about caregiving, JulieAnn wholeheartedly shared that she loves helping people stay in their homes and find happiness—making a genuine difference in their lives.



Thank you, JulieAnn, for the heartfelt care and unwavering support you give to your consumers.

Are you searching for a truly fulfilling side hustle? We need caregivers to provide compassionate care in homes. Paid training and part-time hours. Competitive pay, flexible scheduling, and health benefits offered for full-time hours. Make a positive impact today as a caregiver. Start your fulfilling career now. Individuals with a criminal background are encouraged to apply—everyone deserves a chance to make a positive impact.

If you would like more information or an application contact

Tina Joiner tinaj@compassil.org 715.233.1070 ext. 231.



AT Programs & Services



Assistive Technology Demonstration & Loan Program

WisTech is Wisconsin's Assistive Technology (AT) program. AT is a device or service that allows people to function as independently as possible at home, school, work, and in the community. Compass IL is a regional AT Device and Demonstration Center. Compass IL has almost 2,000 different AT devices that we can loan and/or demonstrate to people. Compass IL staff can bring devices to people's homes, answer questions about devices, loan devices for a short period of time, give vendor and funding resources, and use their experience to help find the most cost effective options.

AT Highlight- Tile by Life360

If you struggle with short-term memory loss or executive dysfunction, you probably know the stress of misplacing your wallet or car keys.

One solution is Tile—a small Bluetooth tracker that comes in a variety of shapes to suit your most essential items, like a keychain, a card that slips into your wallet, or a sticker you can place on just about anything.

Once your Tile is attached, just open the free Life360 app (available on both Android and iOS), and use the feature to play a chime from the Tile device, helping you to find your item. You can also choose to see its location on the map. If you misplaced your cell phone, you can locate any of your connected Tile trackers and use them to ring your phone—even if you left it on silent mode.

Tile has a number of trackers and bundles that can be purchased on their website, [Life360.com](https://www.life360.com).



Compass IL offers the opportunity for individuals to borrow or try out items mentioned in our articles before making a purchase.

To learn more about this assistive device or other devices that can improve your independence, please contact Compass IL at 715.233.1070 or 800.228.3287. Our services are provided free of charge. However, we do not directly fund the purchase of assistive technology. Through the WisTech Assistive Technology Program, Compass IL provides a variety of services, including information on alternative financing options like WisLoan, Telework, and TEPP, upon request.

AT Programs & Services

TEPP



Are you or someone you know....

- Having difficulty hearing or using the telephone?
- Hard of hearing?
- Deaf or severely hard of hearing?
- Mobility/Motion impaired?
- Speech impaired?
- Deaf with low vision or blindness?
- Deaf and blind?



If you answered yes, you may be interested in finding the AT you need to access telephone services. Equipment could be amplified phones, captioning phones, neck loops, and other devices. Schedule an appointment to try a variety of equipment with one on one assistance from knowledgeable and experienced staff!

Staff can also help you apply for funding through TEPP: Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program. Money collected through WI telephone service providers goes in the WI Universal Service Fund, which pays for TEPP. Compass IL's role is to help you access the funding you need to get the equipment you need!

Loan Programs

WisLoan offers loans to help people buy assistive technology or equipment such as modified vehicles, wheelchairs, and ramps. There are no income requirements and individuals are not required to exhaust personal or public funding. Under the program, banks provide loans at a fixed interest rate of 6.5% to qualified borrowers. Loan amounts depend on the item and ability to repay.

Telework is a loan program that allows residents with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from home or from other remote sites away from the office, such as work on the road or at a Telework center.

Annual Resource Fair



Compass IL hosted its first annual resource fair with participation from over 25 vendors. Throughout the event, attendees were able to enjoy offerings from the Vallarta Tacos food truck, Avagayle's Main Squeeze lemonade and popcorn truck, and The Creamery Courier ice cream truck, all available in our parking lot. We sincerely thank all our vendors and attendees for their support. We look forward to welcoming everyone again next year.

Comfort and Connection Dementia Grant

Compass IL continues to participate in the Comfort and Connection Dementia Grant. This grant includes an Assistive Technology component, featuring specialized tools for individuals with dementia to assist with daily activities. Examples include baby dolls, fidget blankets, and digital calendars.

Additionally, our PAS department offers caregiver stipends to support those providing daily assistance to family members living with dementia.

The attached photo shows a recipient of a baby doll purchased through the grant funds.

Please contact our office today to learn more.





New Freedom Transportation Program

Do you need a little extra cash in your pocket?

Too much time on your hands? Like to be around people?

Volunteer drivers are needed to provide rides for people with disabilities and the frail elderly. You can help people by providing rides for medical appointments, shopping, or social and recreational activities. You will receive mileage reimbursement at the Federal Rate which is currently .72 ½ cents per mile.

Please call for more information and to get your application

715-233-1070 ext. 211

Ask for Bobbi



Make your voice heard!

Vote in the upcoming elections

Upcoming Elections for 2026
Partisan Primary: August 11, 2026
General Election: November 3, 2026



New Freedom Transportation can provide you with a ride to the polls!
Call us at 1-800-228-3287

Main Office
2920 Schneider Ave SE
Menomonie, WI 54751

Phone: 715-233-1070 (v/tty)
Toll Free: 1-800-228-3287
Fax: 715-233.1083

Find your local Independent Living Center

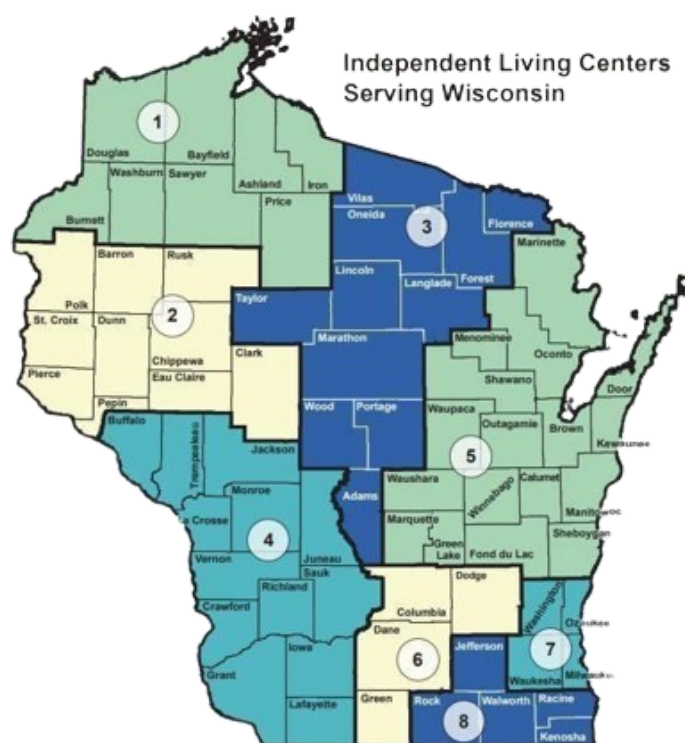
Did you know that Wisconsin has 8 Independent Living Centers? Independent living centers (ILCs) are consumer controlled, community based, cross disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agencies that are designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities, and provide an array of independent living services.

Need help finding a personal care attendant?

Looking for advice or support from someone with the same disability as you?

Want to find an accessible form of recreation?

All this and much more is available at your local independent living center.



1. indiGO
2. Compass IL
3. Midstate Independent Living Choices
4. Independent Living Resources
5. Options for Independent Living
6. Access to Independence
7. IndependenceFirst
8. Society's Assests