



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

The mornings are getting cooler, so we know fall is here, and winter isn't far away. Compass IL is preparing to develop our new three-year strategic plan on October 16th. We were fortunate to get the same facilitator as the past two plans. Staff and board members will come together and create a plan to guide the center's programs and activities for the next three years.



We have been hiring staff in all three departments and look forward to filling staff positions in the New Freedom Transportation program and becoming fully staffed. Compass IL received a grant from the Community Foundation of Dunn County to provide no-cost rides to low-income persons with disabilities living in Dunn County. This is the second year Compass IL has received a grant from the foundation, and it has helped people who have difficulty affording the transportation copay. We are hoping to receive grants from the Chippewa County Community and Wispact Foundations as well to provide no-cost rides in other counties in our service area.

Finally, I want to encourage everyone to vote on November 3rd! This is an important election that could impact community-based services and Medicaid funding for people with disabilities. As Justine Dart, the Father of the ADA, said, "Vote as if your life depended on it." I want to remind everyone that Compass IL's transportation program provides free rides to the polls for people with disabilities, older adults, and veterans living in our ten-county service area.

Kyle A. Kleist, Executive Director
Compass IL

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New Compass IL Staff

Hello!

My name is Amariah, and I am the new PAS Support Specialist here at Compass IL. I grew up in a small town outside of Menomonie, in a close-knit community where everyone supports one another. This environment has inspired me to help others.

I am currently attending UW-Stout, majoring in Criminal Justice & Rehabilitation, with a minor in Psychology.

When I am not studying, I enjoy spending time outdoors, painting, and relaxing with my family. I also have a passion for travel, particularly visiting National Parks. One of my goals is to visit all 63 National Parks.

I am excited to join the team as the new PAS Support Specialist and am very grateful for this opportunity.



Hello!

My name is Brayleigh, and I am the new IL Support at Compass IL. I grew up in a small town near Menomonie, which has influenced my values of integrity, perseverance, and my commitment to helping others. I am currently enrolled at UW-Stout, where I am pursuing a major in Psychology with a minor in Disability Services. Outside of work and academics, I enjoy outdoor activities, reading, and maintaining an active lifestyle. One of my personal goals is to hike the Swiss Alps and travel across Europe. I am excited to join the team and look forward to contributing to the organization.



Personal Assistant Services

Voting When You Are Not Your Own Guardian

Facts

If you have a guardian: You can check your Determination and Order form to see if you still have the right to vote.

If you have a Power of Attorney for Health Care: You can still vote unless a court has taken away your right to vote through a guardianship case or a separate court process about your voting rights.

If your right to vote was taken away: You can ask the court to give your voting rights back. You can also ask to have your voting rights restored during your annual Watts review.

For More Information On Voting Please Visit Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition as disabilityvote.org.

Caregiver Highlight

Our featured caregiver for this quarter is Jessaca Feaster. She is a mother of 2 children and has a teddybear dog. She lives in Menomonie. She loves to read and take walks. She recently became a caregiver so that she could help out with her nephew. She really enjoys being able to help people out and do something meaningful with her life.



Thank you, Jessaca, 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- Ray-Ban Meta Glasses

The Ray-Ban Meta Glasses enable users to capture visual and audio content through integrated cameras and microphones. They can be operated via voice commands to make calls, send messages, or adjust media settings, eliminating the need to hold a phone. Notably, these glasses can identify and describe objects in front of the user or read written material they are holding. Users can also request specific information, such as detailed descriptions or word-by-word readings of documents. These glasses combine communication features with advanced technologies, including object recognition, environmental description, and optical character recognition, all integrated into a single device.



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.



Durable Medical Equipment & Supplies Available Through Compass IL

At Compass IL, we know that having the right equipment can make a big difference in a person's ability to remain safe, comfortable, and independent in their home and community. Unfortunately, durable medical equipment can sometimes be expensive or difficult to access when it's needed most.

Compass IL has a variety of durable medical equipment (DME) available for donation to individuals in our community. Our available inventory changes regularly but may include items such as walkers, shower chairs, bed rails, canes, commodes, and other equipment designed to support safety and independence.

If you or a loved one is in need of a piece of equipment, we encourage you to reach out to Compass IL. Even if you're unsure exactly what you need, our staff can help you determine whether we have an item available that may work for you.



Incontinence Supplies Available

Compass IL also has incontinence products available for donation, including a variety of styles and sizes. Availability varies based on current donations and inventory.

These items are available to help reduce barriers and connect people with supplies they may otherwise have difficulty obtaining.



New Freedom Transportation Program

We are proud to announce that Compass IL has been selected as a 2027 Green Bay Packers Foundation grant recipient. This funding will help us provide transportation and strengthen our efforts to enhance transportation. Our sincere thanks to the Packers Foundation for their commitment to Wisconsin communities and their generous support of organizations like ours.



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

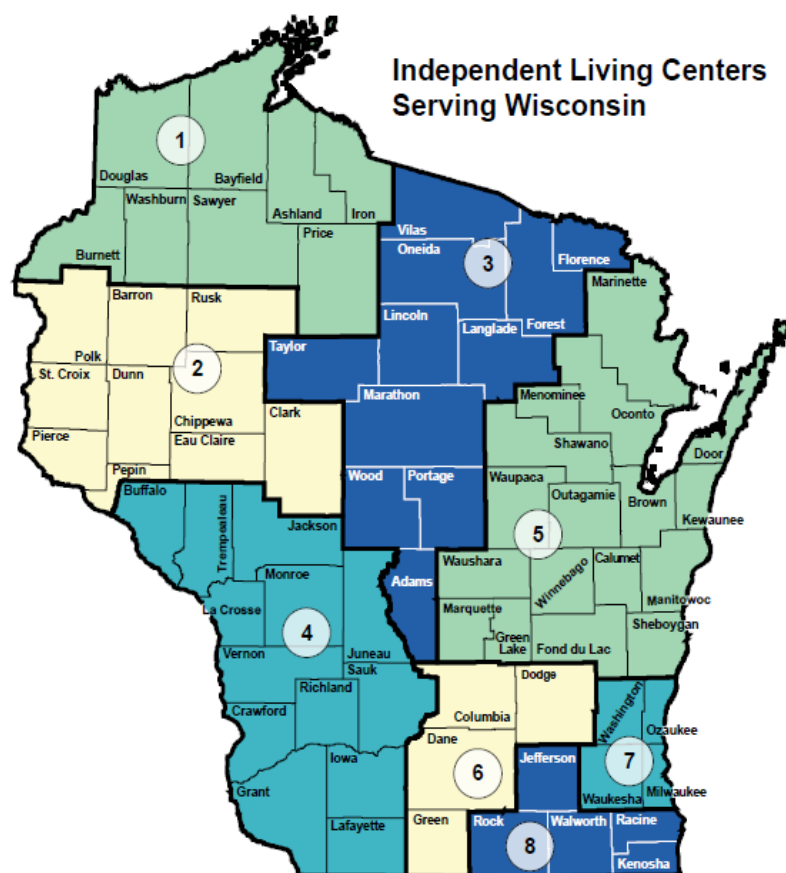
Did you know that Wisconsin has 8 Independent Living Centers? Independent living centers (ILCs) are consumer controlled, community based, cross disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agencies that are designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities, and provide an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