Access Living is a disability service and advocacy organization based in Chicago. Since 1980, our organization has been challenging disability stereotypes, protecting civil rights, and championing social reforms to create an accessible and inclusive society for disabled people to live self-directed lives of their choosing.

We offer vital services and supports for Chicagoans with disabilities, as well as consulting services to companies and nonprofits to help make their business practices more inclusive. We are a Center for Independent Living, and the majority of our staff and board are people with disabilities.

Our Consumers

BY DISABILITY— some identify with one or more

- A - Physical - 45%
- B - Vision - 28%
- C - Mental/Emotional - 24%
- D - Cognitive - 23%
- E - Hearing - 1%
- F - Other - 5%

BY RACE—

- A - Black or African American - 61%
- B - Hispanic/Latinx - 18%
- C - White or Caucasian - 17%
- D - Asian - 1%
- E - Unknown - 2%
- F - Two or more - 1%

BY AGE—

- A - 60 and over - 21%
- B - 25 to 59 - 49%
- C - 20 to 24 - 10%
- D - 5 to 19 - 15%
- E - Unknown - 5%

Access Living:

- Responded to 11,151 calls from people with disabilities needing support services.
- Reached over 2,000 employees through the Disability Inclusion Institute which provides customized training to employees in the non-profit, government, and corporate sectors on how to be more disability inclusive in hiring, retention and workplace accessibility.
- Assisted 299 people with housing needs
- Prepared 164 high school youth with disabilities at 16 Chicago Public high schools to transition into higher education or the workforce through our youth leadership trainings and supports.
- Transitioned 92 people with disabilities out of nursing facilities into the community.
- Provided 44 people with disabilities with a free laptop or tablet and designed and delivered a new 8-session digital literacy program, helping to close the disability digital divide.
- Handled 55 Fair Housing cases, defending the rights of people with disabilities to live in the homes of their choice with the accommodations they need.

Looking Ahead to 2024 and Beyond

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Access Living recently introduced a digital accessibility consulting team composed of experts with disabilities working to ensure the accessibility of websites and digital spaces. Learn More.

SURVIVORS OF FIREARM/GUN VIOLENCE RESOURCE PROJECT

Access Living will be launching one of the first direct service programs to support Chicagoans who have become disabled as a result of firearm/gun violence. Learn More.

THE INDEPENDENT LIVING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (ILTP)

This program will help close the digital divide by providing disabled individuals with essential technology and internet skills, enabling them to lead fuller, more independent lives. Learn More.

Highlight of FY2023

The Year of MacKenzie Scott

Access Living received an $8M gift from billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. These unrestricted funds are advancing our strategic priorities, including economic opportunity, racial and health equity, greater community-based support, and digital inclusion.

To invest in closing the leading disability gaps, contact: Barbara Khalouf, Director of Development
BKhalouf@AccessLiving.org | (312) 640-2198