



**FIGHTING**  
For Our Future

# ACCESS LIVING

## IMPACT AT-A-GLANCE

Access Living is a disability service and advocacy organization based in Chicago. Established in 1980, we challenge disability stereotypes, protect civil rights, and champion social reforms to create an accessible world for disabled people to live self-directed lives of their choosing.

We offer vital services and supports for Chicagoans with disabilities to live independently, as well as consulting and training services to companies and nonprofits to improve accessibility in their business practices. As a Center for Independent Living, we are disability-led and the majority of our staff and board are people with disabilities.

### OUR WORK BY THE NUMBERS (All data in this document is from Fiscal Year 2025)

- **3,331**  
Consumers with disabilities received Information and Referral services
- **172**  
Households received our housing counseling services to improve living conditions
- **249**  
Individuals were recruited and trained as personal assistants for people with disabilities
- **1,580**  
Participants in community organizing meetings, to advance disability policy
- **230**  
High school students with disabilities prepared to transition into higher education or the workforce through our youth leadership trainings in 17 schools
- **118**  
Disabled Consumers received a computer or tablet and the training necessary to use that device to improve digital literacy and increase independence
- **3,700**  
People reached through our disability inclusion consulting and training to the corporate, non-profit and philanthropic sectors
- **609**  
Meetings with elected officials to advance disability rights and policy change
- **48**  
New or ongoing legal cases related to the Fair Housing Amendments Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act
- **1,728**  
Disabled Chicagoans received independent living supports through our partnership with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
- **85**  
Disabled Consumers received assistive devices and training to help them live more independently
- **18**  
Disability discrimination cases resolved
- **1,614**  
External collaboration meetings, expanding the reach and impact of organizing efforts
- **73**  
Disabled Consumers graduated from an 11-week financial literacy training, and shared that they have improved their financial positions as a result
- **21**  
Cultural events and cross-disability support group sessions held for community-building
- **1,018**  
Participants reached through book readings, art making for mental health, storytelling workshops and more
- **113**  
Disabled Consumers transitioned out of nursing facilities





### Expanding Our Physical Presence

At Access Living, we believe disability support should never depend on a ZIP code. Every person with a disability deserves access to essential services and the chance to build community where they already live. That's why we're expanding our reach by opening a new location, bringing critical resources directly to community members who have been historically underserved and may not yet know Access Living is here for them.



### Building Relationships & Collaboration

This expansion is an investment in relationships and collaboration. By working alongside trusted community partners, we aim to co-create programs that reflect the priorities and lived experiences of those we serve. Together, we will strengthen the independent living movement, amplify diverse voices, and build a more inclusive Chicago for all.



### Embracing Innovation

We are also exploring how emerging technologies – particularly how artificial intelligence can help advance our mission. From improving accessibility in digital communications to supporting advocacy efforts through data-driven insights – and making the lives of those we serve easier and more accessible – AI offers powerful tools to enhance independence and expand opportunity. We are committed to approaching this work thoughtfully and ethically, ensuring that innovation remains rooted in the values of self-determination.



### Our Shared Future

The future holds tremendous potential for growth, learning, and transformation, and we remain steadfast in our belief that when communities come together, barriers fall and possibilities expand.