



Silicon Valley Independent Living Center

The mission of Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC) is to empower people with disabilities by providing advocacy, training, skill development, and services which enhance every individual's capabilities.

Diverse Needs

Santa Clara County is home to nearly 300,000 people with disabilities who may face barriers in their personal, professional, and community lives.

Like many Silicon Valley residents, people with disabilities experience challenges finding affordable housing, accessible transportation, and appropriate health care. Individuals with disabilities may also have additional needs including access to:

- Assistive technology
- Advocacy
- Peer counseling
- Employment training and services
- Recreation and community involvement opportunities

By meeting these diverse needs, persons with disabilities are better able to increase their personal empowerment and make informed, independent choices to effectively manage their own lives. These personal successes benefit the individuals, their families, and the community.

A Comprehensive Approach

SVILC is a consumer-driven, nonprofit organization that offers quality services to individuals with disabilities in Silicon Valley. The organization strives to eliminate the attitudinal, physical, and communication barriers faced by people with disabilities as they work towards independence and full integration in their communities.

SVILC provides comprehensive programs and services that give individuals with disabilities, and their families, resources that promote self-sufficiency and offer alternatives to long-term or institutional care. SVILC believes that empowerment is essential to self-reliance and works with consumers not only to promote this philosophy, but to leverage it.

*SVILC is unique because it is the only Independent Living Center in Santa Clara County. It is also the only organization in the area that provides comprehensive services for people with **all** types of disabilities.*

Each year SVILC serves consumers with various disabilities including physical, mental, emotional, cognitive, visual, and hearing impairments.

A resource center
for people with
disabilities





Promoting Independence

SVILC was founded as an Independent Living Center in 1976 by a small group of people with disabilities. Independent living is both a goal and philosophy which states that people with disabilities should have the same civil rights, options, and control over their lives as people without disabilities. SVILC is one of 29 consumer-driven Independent Living Centers (ILCs) in California.

In 1997, SVILC opened a second office to better meet the needs of consumers in the areas of Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and San Martin. This location provides easier access to services for people in the more rural areas of southern Santa Clara County. Each year, several hundred consumers use SVILC services in Gilroy.

On average, over 80 percent of SVILC consumers use more than one service. In order to meet their multiple needs, the SVILC offices in San Jose and Gilroy offer “one-stop” access to a variety of programs and services. With choices ranging from vocational training and support, including access to technology,

“You can’t always depend on other people. It is up to each individual to find strategies around their problems. If you don’t try, you aren’t going to go anywhere.”

Carol, SVILC Consumer

to recreational opportunities that enhance life and promote full community involvement, SVILC has something for everyone.

The services at SVILC are enhanced by the people who work and volunteer for the organization. The majority of the staff and board of directors are persons with disabilities who provide expertise on independent living and disability-related issues to consumers and the community.

Eligibility/ Request for Services

Anyone who lives in Santa Clara County and has a disability may apply for SVILC services. People with drug or alcohol-related disabilities need to be enrolled in recovery programs prior to applying for SVILC services.

Individuals must self-initiate the request for services; those unable to do so may request services through a chosen representative.

A request for services appointment will then be scheduled, where individuals will learn about the services and opportunities at SVILC. The staff at SVILC works with each person to create a program that meets his/her personal needs and goals.

There are no application fees for consumers.

If an individual does not qualify for services, referral information will be provided.



SVILC Services

SVILC offers 33 services to consumers. Seven services are core services required by California ILCs and 26 are additional services that the organization has added in response to consumers' needs. SVILC services are complemented by workshops, classes, and support groups and include:

- **Assistive Technology (AT)**
AT devices are tools that enhance independent functioning in daily activities. SVILC offers an AT lab and library, as well as a community outreach program.
- **Counseling**
SVILC seeks to address the mental health/emotional needs of consumers and their families by offering comprehensive, on-site counseling services. Individual and group therapy, family and couples counseling, and *peer counseling* are available.
- **Housing Referral and Placement**
Affordable, accessible housing referral, assisted placement, mediation, and advocacy are offered at SVILC. Educational workshops are also available.
- **Independent Living Skills (ILS)**
Resources and instruction in many aspects of self-sufficiency are offered at SVILC. Classes and individual training in basic living skills, cooking, exercise, and health management are part of the ILS program.
- **Individual and Systems Advocacy**
SVILC works with other community groups to make system-wide changes that support the rights of people with disabilities. Individual advocacy services assist consumers in navigating systems such as health care and transportation.



- **Information and Referral**
A resource library and referral service offer SVILC consumers access to benefits information and a wide-range of disability-related materials.
- **Personal Assistant Services (PAS)**
SVILC offers individual and group instruction on recruiting and managing assistants.
- **Recreation**
SVILC provides opportunities for adults with disabilities to explore leisure activities as a way to meet both physical and social needs. The recreation program provides information and referral, community outings, and out-of-state travel trips.
- **Employment Services**
SVILC provides job preparation, placement, and coaching, as well as worksite assessment and computer training to individuals. Comprehensive services that help employers find appropriate employees and consumers find and maintain employment are offered. The *Job Club* assists individuals with a full-range of employment services in a group environment.

Please contact the SVILC offices for details on services available at each location.

SVILC Funding

SVILC is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization funded in part by the California State Department of Rehabilitation, the Department of Education, the County of Santa Clara, the Cities of San Jose, Santa Clara, Gilroy, and Morgan Hill, and the United Way of Santa Clara County. Foundation and corporate grants and individual contributions also support the organization.

Donating and Volunteering

Many of SVILC's programs and services would not exist without contributions from individuals, community organizations, foundations, and businesses. Direct donations and the gift of time provide people with disabilities in Santa Clara County access to more independent living resources.

Product and service contributions are always welcome and are often used directly by consumers in classes and workshops. Nonperishable food and personal care items stock SVILC's supplemental food closet.

SVILC product and service needs include:

- New/nearly new computers and printers
- Printer cartridges
- Gift cards to grocery/office supply stores
- Nonperishable canned foods
- Personal care items such as toothpaste, shampoo, and toilet paper
- Printing and/or graphic design services
- Volunteers for special projects and administrative support

For more information on how you can make a direct donation or become a volunteer, please contact the main office or visit www.svilc.org.

All donations are tax deductible as allowed by state and federal laws.

Contact Information

Main Office

2306 Zanker Road
San Jose, CA 95131
Phone: 408.894.9041
TTY: 866.945.2205
Fax: 408.894.9050
Hours: Mon. - Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Branch Office

7800 Arroyo Circle, Suite A
Gilroy, CA 95020
Phone: 408.846.1480
TTY: 866.945.2205
Fax: 408.842.2321
Hours: Mon. - Thurs., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SVILC services may also be available at satellite offices at work2future One-Stop Centers in San Jose and Morgan Hill.

Please contact SVILC's main office for details.

SVILC is a scent-free environment. Please do not wear scented products at the offices.

Web Site

www.svilc.org

Email

info@svilc.org

Upon request, this publication is available in accessible formats.

