

## THIS IS LIVING! NEWSLETTER

Available in Alternative Format

Spring Edition: April, May, June

Front Page



Celebrating 35 years of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

## 2025 KERN COUNTY ADA CONFERENCE

**SAVE THE DATE | Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Bakersfield Marriott**

**Eventbrite Registration is now open!**

Read more on page 6

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## **Kern County Aging & Disability Resource Connection (Kern ADRC)**

**“One-stop Shop”**

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No Wrong Door (NWD) System opens the door for consumers, their families, and caregivers to access Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) through one organization or agency.

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Visit online to learn more about Kern ADRC at [KernCountyADRC.org](https://www.kerncountyadrc.org) or contact us!

**Phone** (661) 325 - 1063 | **Video Phone** (661) 369 - 8966

**Toll-Free** 1(800) 529 - 9541 | **Email** [info@ilcofkerncounty.org](mailto:info@ilcofkerncounty.org)

### **Electronic Newsletters**

**Agency newsletters will be distributed electronically through email starting Tuesday, July 1, 2025.**

If a physical copy of the newsletter is preferred, please contact your case manager.



**Contact us to update your email address or preference for newsletter format!**

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## **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Rights - *Did you know?***

### **Healthcare Provider Responsibilities under the ADA**

#### **State and Local Governments**

*Did you know?*

People with disabilities must have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all State and Local Government healthcare programs, services, and activities.

#### **Business and Nonprofit Organizations**

*Did you know?*

Businesses and Nonprofit Organizations that provide healthcare must give people with disabilities equal access to their programs, goods and services.

Contact the Pacific ADA Center to learn more about your rights and protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act. (Source: [Pacific ADA](#)).



**Voice / Relay** (510) 831 - 6714

**Toll-Free** 1(800) 949 - 4232

**Email** [info@adapacific.org](mailto:info@adapacific.org)

**Website** [www.adapacific.org](http://www.adapacific.org)

## **Individual & Systems Change Advocacy**

Creating positive change and inclusion for people with disabilities through education, advocacy, and community action in Kern County.



### **Individual Advocacy**

Advocating for people with disabilities about their specific disability-related issues.

### **Systems Change Advocacy**

Focusing on broader disability-related issues affecting people with disabilities at local, state, and federal levels.

**Connect with our Public Policy Coordinator to learn more about advocating for the rights of people with disabilities.**

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## Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024<sup>++</sup>



### Feedback results<sup>+</sup> from Annual Satisfaction ‘Consumer’ Surveys!

**100%** of consumers strongly agree that staff have been kind, sensitive, and courteous.  
**71%** of consumers strongly agree that calls are returned promptly.  
**82%** of consumers strongly agree that staff are knowledgeable about agency services.  
**71%** of consumers strongly agree that staff were knowledgeable about community resources and services.

<sup>+</sup> Results based on seventeen 2023 - 2024 Annual Satisfaction ‘Consumer’ Surveys.

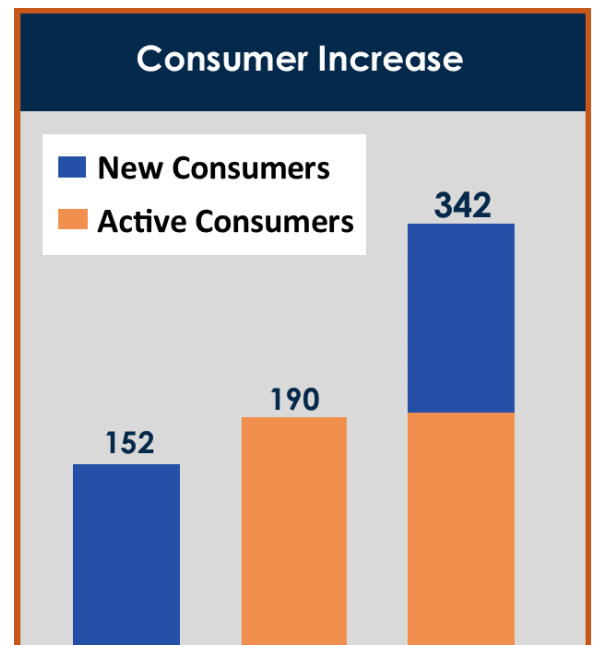
<sup>++</sup> Click the following link to read the complete report.

[Link to Annual Report for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2023 – 2024!](#)

#### FY 2023 – 2024 Survey Comment

“Now I know how to work my phone much better and it is more than just a phone to talk with. [Assistive Technology Specialist] David was the one that worked with me and he taught me a lot and did a very good job and very helpful.”

- Assistive Technology Consumer



## Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024<sup>++</sup> (continued)

### Service Category Totals

ILCKC offers a variety of programs and services! Service Category Totals give an overview of services provided by ILCKC. Depending on the individual's goal to live as independently as possible, one or several services can apply to assisting the individual.

Core Services that are offered at ILCKC include:

- Information & Referral (I&R)
- Independent Living Skills (ILS) Trainings
- Individual & Systems Change Advocacy
- Peer Support
- Transition & Diversion Services

### Service Category Totals

Advocacy - 212  
Assistive Technology - 164  
Personal Assistance - 113  
Vocational Services - 71  
Communication Services - 2  
Transportation Services - 74  
Youth/transition Services - 29  
Information & Referral - 1,643  
Independent Living Skills Training - 132

... and more <sup>++</sup>

<sup>++</sup> Click the following link to read the complete report.  
[Link to Annual Report for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2023 – 2024!](#)

## FY 2023 - 2024 Annual Report Disability Types Assisted

### Disability Types Assisted

3% Cognitive	3% Vision
15% Mental Health	3% Hearing
36% Physical	40% Multiple



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines having a disability as a “physical or mental impairment that substantially [very greatly] limits one or more major life activity.”

(Source: <https://adata.org/faq/what-definition-disability-under-ada>)

Contact us to learn more about disabilities and disability-related resources!

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## **2025 Kern County Americans with Disabilities Act Conference**

Celebrating 35 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

# **2025 KERN COUNTY ADA CONFERENCE**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>  
Bakersfield Marriott**



To register for this event, visit [Eventbrite](#)  
Scan the QR Code to register!

**Interested in having a vendor booth or sponsoring the conference?**  
Please contact [info@ilcofkerncounty.org](mailto:info@ilcofkerncounty.org)

**General Admission \$100.00**

**Learn from Disability-Rights Experts,  
Enjoy Networking, Raffles and much more!**

## **April Sessions and Training Opportunities\***

Independent Living Skills (ILS), Peer Support, and Team Advocacy

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### **April is Autism Awareness Month!**

ILS Training: *Health & Wellness*

■■■■■ Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Team Advocacy: *Systemic Solutions* \* \* \*

■■■■■ Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Peer Support: *Removing Barriers*

■■■■■ Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

### **In-Person**

**Office Location** 5251 Office Park Drive, Suite 200, Bakersfield, CA 93309

### **Zoom Online or By Phone**

**Zoom Link** [Click Here](#)

**Zoom ID** 256 654 8249

**US Dial-In** +1 669 900 9128

Session Notations: \* All sessions subject to change,  
\* \* Location update, \* \* \* Zoom Online will not be available

## May Sessions and Training Opportunities\*

Independent Living Skills (ILS), Peer Support, and Team Advocacy

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

ILS Training: *Tech Tools-using your smart phone*

■■■■■ Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Team Advocacy: *Breaking Barriers* \* \* \*

■■■■■ Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

■ Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> | All Day

Peer Support: *Removing Barriers*

■■■■■ Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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## June Sessions and Training Opportunities\*

Independent Living Skills (ILS), Peer Support, and Team Advocacy

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month!

ILS Training: *Developing a Liberty Plan*

■■■■■ Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Team Advocacy: *Navigating Change* \* \* \*

■■■■■ Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Peer Support: *Removing Barriers*

■■■■■ Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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## Potential Benefits of Artificial Intelligence Assistants

Many individuals are unaware of the potential benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Assistants like Google Assistant<sup>x</sup> (Gemini)<sup>x</sup> for Android devices and Siri for Apple iPhones. These powerful tools offer a wide range of features that can simplify daily life for everyone, including those with disabilities.

These AI assistants can perform tasks such as making phone calls (e.g., "Hey Siri/Google, call Billy Bob"), scheduling calendar events (doctor's appointments, meetings, social gatherings), sending text messages, checking the weather, and telling time. A particularly valuable feature is their ability to activate or deactivate accessibility settings directly, eliminating the need to navigate through menus. These settings include screen readers, magnification/zoom, large text, contrast and color options, voice commands, sound amplification, and live captioning, among others.

Images in order as shown: Google Assistant<sup>x</sup>, Gemini<sup>x</sup>, Siri.



(Sources: Wikimedia, Shutterstock, Apple)

<sup>x</sup> Google Assistant and Gemini are both Google-related services.

(... Artificial Intelligence Assistants - continued on page 11)

### ... **Artificial Intelligence Assistants** *(continued)*

Furthermore, leveraging AI, these assistants learn individual speech patterns, adapting to accents, speech impediments, or other communication differences to provide increasingly accurate assistance. This personalized learning ensures greater effectiveness over time.

Given the breadth of features and continuous updates, AI assistants offer significant potential for enhanced accessibility and convenience. For further information or personalized guidance, please contact one of our Assistive Technology Specialists. We are happy to discuss these tools in more detail and answer any questions you may have. Contact information is the section below >> "Assistive Technology Services"

### **Assistive Technology Services**

Assistive Technology (AT) Specialists are available to help inform people with disabilities, their families and caregivers about AT devices and durable medical equipment (DME) that can help them live more independently.

Services include, but not limited to device demonstrations, computer usage, screen-reader software navigation such as JAWS and Zoom Text, plus more!

#### **AT Repair & Re-Use Program**

Repair & Re-Use program offers pre-owned equipment\* such as wheelchairs, new shower benches, new-to-lightly used crutches, walkers, and more.

\*Based on availability.

Donations accepted for new and lightly used AT and DME that are in good condition and have the potential to be repaired and re-used.

**Connect with one of our AT Specialists today!**

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## Contact Us

**Independent Living Center of Kern County**

**5251 Office Park Drive, Suite 200**

**Bakersfield, CA 93309**

**Phone (661) 325 - 1063**

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**Fax (661) 325 - 6702**

**Email [info@ilcofkerncounty.org](mailto:info@ilcofkerncounty.org)**

**Website [www.ilcofkerncounty.org](http://www.ilcofkerncounty.org)**

## Connect with us Online!

**Instagram | [@ILCKC](https://www.instagram.com/ilckc)**

**X | [@ILC\\_KernCounty](https://twitter.com/ILC_KernCounty)**

**Facebook | [@ILCKC](https://www.facebook.com/ilckc)**

## INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER OF KERN COUNTY

5251 Office Park Drive

Suite 200

Bakersfield, CA 93309

**FREE MATTER**

**for the blind and  
physically disabled**

**Recipient Name**

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code

*Our agency mission is to empower people with disabilities to grow creatively, professionally, and personally. Also, to educate the community about disability-related issues.*

Independent Living Center of Kern County (ILCKC)

[www.ilcofkerncounty.org](http://www.ilcofkerncounty.org)