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This is Living! Newsletter

Summer Edition: July, August, September

Front Page



2025 Kern County Americans with Disabilities Act Conference

This inspiring event brings together Disability Rights advocates, the disability-community and disability-related resources under one roof for one day.

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Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) Rights - Did you know?

“The A.D.A. has no requirement for service animals to be certified. The federal government has not approved any type of form, application, vest, or picture I.D. to show an animal is a service animal. People often buy online documentation that says their animal is a service animal...”

There are only two questions someone can ask if it is unclear whether someone's dog is a service animal:

1. Is the dog a service animal that is required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

Contact the Pacific A.D.A. Center to learn more about your rights and protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act. (Source: [Pacific A.D.A.](https://www.adapacific.org)).



Voice / Relay (510) 831 - 6714
Toll-Free 1(800) 949 - 4232
Email info@adapacific.org
Website 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.

Scan the Quick Response (Q.R.) code or reach us by:



Phone (661) 325 - 1063 | **Video Phone** (661) 369 - 8966
Toll-Free 1(800) 529 - 9541 | **Email** info@ilcofkerncounty.org
Website www.ilcofkerncounty.org

Celebrating 35 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.)

2025 Kern County A.D.A. Conference

Conference Speakers

Jan Garrett

*Deputy Director of A.D.A. Programs
Pacific A.D.A. Center*

Hidden Barriers

*Identifying and Eliminating
Non-Physical Accessibility*

Christina N. Teixeira

*Attorney, Outreach and Education,
Executive Programs Division
California Civil Rights Department*

Breaking Barriers

*Understanding the Complaint
Process for Disability Rights*

Thursday, July 24, 2025

Bakersfield Marriott

801 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, California 93301

Panel Discussions

Kiosk Accessibility

United States (U.S.)
Department of Health
& Human Services, Office for
Civil Rights

California Commission on
Disability Access

Fennemore Law

Accessibility Compliance Fund

California Commission
on Disability Access

Fennemore Law

Division of the State Architect

City of Bakersfield

Registration is open!

General Admission \$100.00



Scan the Q.R. Code to register
through Eventbrite!

Brought to you by Independent Living Center of Kern County



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

Email info@ilcofkerncounty.org

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Evolving Smartphone Accessibility

Smartphones are continually evolving to offer increasingly sophisticated accessibility tools for people with disabilities, leveraging advancements in Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and user-interface design. For individuals with visual impairments, features like enhanced screen readers (for example, Apple's VoiceOver and Android's TalkBack) provide detailed audio descriptions of on-screen elements, while new Magnifier apps (now on Mac as well) allow users to zoom in, read text, and detect objects with greater control over brightness, contrast, and color filters. A.I.-powered apps like Lookout and Seeing A.I. can identify objects, read text, and describe scenes using the phone's camera, offering a new level of environmental awareness. For those with hearing disabilities, Live Caption and Live Transcribe provide real-time captions for audio content and conversations in multiple languages and new Music Haptics on iPhones translate music into taps and vibrations. Mobility-focused tools include Eye Tracking and Camera Switch, enabling users to control their devices with eye movements or facial gestures, and Virtual Trackpads for AssistiveTouch offer alternative navigation for physical disabilities. Furthermore, ongoing developments in areas like personalized speech recognition (for example, Google's Project Relate) are empowering individuals with non-standard speech to communicate more easily. These innovations, often built directly into the operating system or available through specialized apps, are making smartphones incredibly versatile assistive technologies, promoting greater independence and inclusivity.



Welcome to the I.L.C.K.C. Team!

Aaron Markovits

Program Manager

Dan Urban

Special Projects Provider

Susan Wells

Independent Living Specialist

Teresa Estrada

Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Services Provider

Tammy Reynolds

Independent Living Specialist

Esperanza Ortiz-Rosales

Intake Specialist

Maria Garcia-Ayon

Independent Living Specialist

Kathleen Castañon

Accounting Clerk

July Training and Session Opportunities*

Independent Living Skills (I.L.S.), Team Advocacy and Peer Support

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		



I.L.S. Training



Team Advocacy



Peer Support



Office Closed

July is Disability Pride Month!

Observance of United States of America (U.S.A.) Independence Day

Friday, July 4, 2025 | Office is Closed All Day

I.L.S. Training**, Parenting Skills

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 | 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Team Advocacy Session, Access & Action

Monday, July 21, 2025 | 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Peer Support Session, Removing Barriers

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 | 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

2025 Kern County Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) Conference
(refer to Page 3)

Thursday, July 24, 2025 | Office is Closed All Day

In-Person

Office Location 5251 Office Park Drive, Suite 200, Bakersfield, California 93309

**** Zoom Online is Available!**

Zoom Online or By Phone

Zoom Link [Click Here](#)

Zoom Identifier (ID) 256 654 8249

United States (U.S.) Dial-In +1 669 900 9128



* All trainings and sessions are subject to change.

August Training and Session Opportunities*

Independent Living Skills (I.L.S.), Team Advocacy and Peer Support

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						



I.L.S. Training



Team Advocacy



Peer Support

August is National Immunization Awareness Month!

I.L.S. Training**, Exercise Class ***

Beale Library located at 701 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93301

■■■■■ Wednesday, August 13, 2025 | 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Team Advocacy Session, Policy Change

■■■■■ Monday, August 18, 2025 | 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Peer Support Session, Removing Barriers

■■■■■ Wednesday, August 27, 2025 | 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

In-Person

Office Location 5251 Office Park Drive, Suite 200, Bakersfield, California 93309

**** Zoom Online is Available!**

Zoom Online or By Phone

Zoom Link [Click Here](#)

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* All trainings and sessions are subject to change.

*** Location Update

September Session Opportunities*

Team Advocacy and Peer Support

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				



Team Advocacy



Peer Support




Office Closed

September is National Recovery Month!


Observance of Labor Day

 Monday, September 1, 2025 | Office is Closed All Day

Team Advocacy Session, Inclusive Access

 Monday, September 15, 2025 | 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Peer Support Session, Removing Barriers

 Wednesday, September 24, 2025 | 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

In-Person

Office Location 5251 Office Park Drive, Suite 200, Bakersfield, California 93309

* All sessions are subject to change.



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Agency Contact Information

Independent Living Center of Kern County

5251 Office Park Drive, Suite 200

Bakersfield, California 93309

Phone (661) 325 - 1063

Video Phone (661) 369 - 8966

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Email info@ilcofkerncounty.org

Website www.ilcofkerncounty.org

Connect Online!

Instagram | @ILCKC

X | @ILC_KernCounty

Facebook | @ILCKC



Scan the
Quick Response (Q.R.)
code to visit the website.

Independent Living Center of Kern County

5251 Office Park Drive

Suite 200

Bakersfield, California 93309

FREE MATTER

**for the blind and
physically disabled**

Recipient Name

Street Address

City, State ZIP Code

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