

MARIN CENTER
FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

2026-2030

STRATEGIC PLAN SNAPSHOT

MARIN CIL

MATRIX parents

MARINCIL.ORG • 415-459-6245



Letter from the CEO, Ted Jackson

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

I am thrilled to share the **2026–2030 Marin Center for Independent Living (Marin CIL) Strategic Plan**, a visionary roadmap built on the grassroots input of our vibrant community. Following our transformative 2024 merger with Matrix Parents, this plan solidifies our commitment to a unified mission: advancing independence, choice, and community inclusion for people with disabilities across the North Bay.

Driven by our core values of empowerment, interconnectedness, belonging, and solidarity, we have established three strategic pillars. First, we will expand our peer-led support across the lifespan, from early childhood to older adulthood. Second, we will achieve full organizational integration, aligning our structures, data systems, and brand into a single, cohesive powerhouse. Finally, we will champion aggressive systems change to dismantle barriers to access.

Together, we are building a strong, financially sustainable foundation. Thank you for your continued partnership as we ensure everyone thrives in a universally accessible world.

In solidarity,



CEO, Marin Center for Independent Living

What We Do, Who We Serve

Independent Living Core Services

The Independent Living (IL) philosophy states that people with disabilities are the best experts on their own needs, promoting consumer control, and individual empowerment and choice over institutional dependency. IL core services help individuals remain in the most integrated setting in the community of their choosing through a series of home and community-based services and long-term support systems.

Parent Center Services

Helping all families who have a child with disabilities from birth to age 26. Collaborating with parents and professionals on behalf of disabled children. Building partnerships with special education departments, regional centers, and more to support our North Bay disabled families. Services are provided in English and Spanish.

Community Support Programs

Going beyond the core services to engage new and innovative programming that aligns with IL principles and values to address the needs of the whole person and maintain their independence and community integration.

All of our programs are offered in Spanish and English languages. Services are free of charge and supported by grants and donations from the community.

Strategic Pillars

Support Across the Lifespan: Provide Navigation for Disability Services Across the Lifespan from Birth to Older Adulthood

We will serve as a trusted, accessible resource and service provider, seeking to fill significant emerging and reemerging gaps in community inclusion.

- Accessing services, benefits and resources throughout the region.
- Disabled youth transition to adulthood.
- Fill gaps in diversion or transition from institutionalization and community access.
- Expand focus on unserved populations, youth with disabilities, Veterans, and West Marin residents
- Deepen partnerships with aging, education, and healthcare organizations and regional centers.
- Support paid and unpaid caregivers and registry services.

Organizational Integration: Integrate MCIL and Matrix Identity, Structure, and Culture, Providing Coordinated and Integrated Services

The 2024 merger between MCIL and Matrix Parents created the opportunity to provide integrated support. We will align our organizational identities, mission, culture, systems, and processes.

- A new name and brand identity that honors the legacy of both organizations.
- Develop and implement a unified identity, shared mission and organizational story.
- Build a new website that encompasses all programming as a single one-stop resource.
- Align organizational structures, processes and operating systems for cohesion and efficiency
- Establish Marin CIL's next office, large enough to welcome our expanded staff and clients.

Systems Change: Advance Systems Change That Increases Access to Services and Supports

We will engage the community, stakeholders, and deciders on issues and systemic access barriers and gaps in public and private resources encountered by people with disabilities, older adults and their families and caregivers.

- Removing systems-level barriers to independence, self-determination, and community inclusion.
- Forge community and organizations partnerships to advance collective impact.
- Engage underrepresented and unserved community members in systems change advocacy efforts.
- Monitor emerging and reemerging policy changes.







Our History

A Legacy of Peer-Led Advocacy and Inclusion

Our organization brings together two pioneering movements to build a more equitable world. In 2024, the **Marin Center for Independent Living (MCIL)** and **Matrix Parent Network & Resource Center** officially merged, uniting decades of grassroots advocacy into a lifelong support ecosystem for disabled individuals and families in Northern California.

Rooted in the 1960s Disability Rights Movement, MCIL was founded in 1979 to ensure individuals could live independently on their own terms. Simultaneously, Matrix was born at a Mill Valley kitchen table in 1983 when three mothers created a peer-led support network to navigate the isolation of raising children with disabilities.

Through the 1980s and 1990s, both organizations scaled rapidly—purchasing a permanent resource hub in San Rafael, launching vital caregiver registries, and securing federal grants to expand family training. Today, we stand as a united force, providing an uninterrupted pipeline of care from early childhood diagnosis through independent adulthood.

Finding Her Voice as an Advocate for Her Son

When Maria Guerrero de Vasquez began navigating the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process for her son, Daniel, she felt completely overwhelmed and unsure how to advocate for his educational needs.

Seeking help, Maria turned to Matrix Parent Network and connected with Ana. Ana provided patient support, critical guidance, and the resources necessary for Maria to fully understand her parental rights. This empowering connection gave Maria the confidence she needed to actively participate in school meetings and secure appropriate educational accommodations for Daniel.

Deeply grateful, Maria shared a heartfelt thank-you message with the Matrix team. She credited the organization with transforming her from someone who didn't know how to stand up for her son into a highly effective advocate.

Housing Stability and Benefits Navigation

After 35 years in her rental, Kathleen faced unexpected relocation. Living on Social Security while raising her grandson with autism, limited income and credit issues created severe housing barriers under a tight timeline.

The Marin Center for Independent Living (MCIL) stepped in, coordinating with community partners to secure temporary housing. MCIL helped Kathleen replace her grandson's Social Security card, navigate housing applications, and become his IHSS caregiver to increase their monthly income.

After successfully advocating to extend their temporary stay, MCIL partnered with Saint Vincent de Paul to secure a security deposit and monthly rental assistance. Through persistent landlord advocacy, Kathleen and her grandson finally moved into a permanent, stable home. Overjoyed, Kathleen shared deep gratitude for having a place of her own.

Scan the QR code and make a donation to Marin CIL today!

MARIN CIL

MATRIX parents

Vision

Everyone thrives in a universally accessible and inclusive community.

Mission

To advance the independence, choice, and community inclusion of people with disabilities, from early childhood to older adulthood, and support their families and caregivers, through self directed and peer-led programming, services, education and advocacy.

Values

Empowerment: We value the uniqueness, choices, and lived experiences of every individual, prioritizing confidentiality and person-centered services.

Interconnectedness: We believe that we are strongest when we work collectively.

Belonging: We believe in everyone's potential for continuous growth, learning, and community inclusion across all stages of life.

Solidarity: We champion shared hope with allied communities as the foundation for optimism and future growth.

MARIN CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
MARINCIL.ORG • 415-459-6245