

Funding Issues:

FSI supports increases in funding necessary to maintain or enhance critical support services that allow people with disabilities to live, work, and engage in recreation in the community.

- All Medicaid Waiver Programs
- Birth-to-Three-Program
- Division of Rehabilitation Services Employment Attendant Care Program
- Extended Supported Employment Services
- Family Support
- Long-term and Services and Supports
- Medicaid Expansion Program
- Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Program (RYPAS)
- Independent Living Services (CLSP)

Contact us:

Paul Smith, FSI Coordinator
WVSILC

6908 MacCorkle Avenue, St. Albans WV, 25177

Phone: 304-766-4624

Fax: 304-721-8242

Email: Paul.Smith@wvsilc.org

Website: www.wvsilc.org



2025

Disability Priorities

Fair Shake Initiative is a program of the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council formed to carry on the work of the Fair Shake Network.

These are the legislative issues that are important to the disability community of West Virginia.

We hope you will support these issues and the thirty-seven percent of West Virginians who lives with a disability.

Because we all deserve a Fair Shake

Below are the top issues chosen to be important to the people of WV with disabilities. It is the goal of WVSILC to educate the public and the WV legislature in the importance of these issues.

Home and Community Based Services

FSI will advocate for legislation for Home and Community based services.

(So people with disabilities can live in their homes, not in nursing homes, hospitals, large group homes etc.)

Expanding Independent Living Centers

FSI will advocate for funding to expand the network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) statewide to ensure every West Virginian with a disability has access to the services and resources provided by a CIL.

(So people with disabilities will have more Centers for Independent Living and the services they provide)

Inclusive Education

FSI will advocate for inclusive education for students with disabilities to receive a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment by providing the supports and services they need to prepare them for adult life and active community participation. We will also advocate against students with disabilities being wrongly expelled or suspended because they were not provided the appropriate behavioral supports.

(So school systems will be required to provide a free and appropriate public education for students with disabilities so they are prepared for post-secondary education and adult life.)

Accessible Transportation

FSI will advocate for legislation and initiatives that will increase access to affordable accessible transportation statewide. (So people with disabilities will have the opportunity to work and participate in the communities they live in.)

Supported Decision Making

FSI will advocate for legislation to establish Supported Decision Making as an alternative to guardianship, and to maximize autonomy for adults with disabilities by permitting the choice of a supporter to assist them with making their own decisions about their life.

(So people with disabilities can make informed choices and control their own lives.)

FSI is dedicated to informing people with disabilities about issues that affect their lives and will monitor all legislation introduced during the 2025 legislative session. We will follow all issues that affect people with disabilities. We will pass this information on to our network of members so that they will be informed and prepared to advocate on the issues that affect their lives. In addition to the issues you have told us are most important to you, we will be monitoring other issues such as:

- * Healthcare
- * Civil Commitment Process
- * Affordable Housing
- * Elimination of Out-of-State Placements