

Who We Serve

Arkansas Center for Independence is a 501c(3) non-profit organization providing day-to-day support and services to adults 18 years and older with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. We work with our consumers daily to help them develop skills to become more independent and better integrated into their community. The state of Arkansas has certain requirements that must be met in order to qualify for services. For more information on how to qualify, please contact our administrative staff.



Our Commitment

We recognize the value of family life and encourage all families to be involved in the development of individual program plans and the selection of services and medical care of your loved one. Each individual is embraced as family at ACI with every staff member knowing their name, personality and specific needs. The staff of ACI are truly committed to the people we serve. ACI is able to boast an average staff tenure of over 11 years in our day program, with several employees having over 20 years of experience. Our staff truly love what they do and it shows!



Arkansas Center for Independence

Providing support & services for adults with developmental disabilities since 1959

Programs & Services

- Day Program
- Residential Services
- Waiver Integrated Support
 - Shared Staffing
 - Individual Staffing
- Medical Management
- Work Programs
- Transportation

Arkansas Center for Independence

 

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Our Beginning

ACI was the second organization of its type founded in Arkansas in 1959. The organization began as a residential and educational facility for adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As children with ID/DD became integrated into the public school system, children's services were discontinued and adults were moved into group homes in order to better integrate them into the community.

ACI now serves only adults ages 18 and over through various programs. ACI remains a small, tight-knit organization that is able to have the flexibility to structure programs and supports to meet the needs of each individual served.



Day Program

Our new day facility provides a unique environment for learning. Our clients learn independent living skills in our household skills classroom that is set up like an efficiency apartment. In this classroom they learn basic cooking skills, laundry and housekeeping skills.

We are able to teach basic computer skills and internet safety in our computer lab as well as provide design skills and product development with our advanced equipment. Clients are able to work on other daily life skills such as counting money, telling time, personal safety, money management and more in our two traditional classroom settings.

We also have a fitness center and indoor half-court basketball court to encourage healthy living and allow time to practice for Special Olympics. Our facility provides lunch daily and monitors the client's personal medication during this time. There is no fee for clients to attend the day program.



Housing

ACI provides exceptional options for housing including:

- Group Homes
- In-Home Support
- Single Community Integrated Apartments

Our Group Homes are dispersed within Newport city limits. All are in great neighborhoods where many of our staff live. Most group homes are limited to four individuals; however, where space and state requirements allow there could be more. All group home clients attend the day program. When the clients are home, staff is on-site to assist them with independent living skills. For families that choose to keep their loved ones at home, we can also provide waiver staffing support and services based upon the client's needs.



Work Programs

Clients have the opportunity to work and earn money through our work programs. Working allows our consumers to strengthen their interpersonal skills and gain self-confidence. The jobs in our work program can range from integrated community employment, to sheltered work in our thrift store, "More Old Treasures," or to designing and making products for resell in our new computer lab.

Transportation

ACI has a fleet of regular and handicap accessible vans that provide transportation to and from the day facility at no cost. Clients are picked up at their house in the morning and delivered home in the afternoon. Each group home has a vehicle for the staff to use when transporting the clients, when dining out, shopping and for recreational activities.

Life Experiences

Our clients thrive in our day program and outside the classroom because we encourage team work, kindness and socialization among peers and the community by providing life experiences.

We strive to make learning a fun and engaging process. Our clients enjoy going on field trips to places like the zoo, baseball games, movie theatres and participating in Special Olympics. The clients also enjoy weekly outings into the community to put the skills they've learned in the classroom to practice through experiences like shopping for supplies, groceries, making change, and budgeting.

