

Our Mission Statement

As people with disabilities and their advocates, Disability Resource Center strives for equality and empowerment of persons with disabilities in the Will and Grundy County areas.

We inform persons with disabilities of their rights, educate them about their responsibilities, provide support services, promote advocacy, and raise community awareness about disability issues.

Disability Resource Center is a cross-disability, community-based non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that operates solely on grants and contributions. We welcome and appreciate ongoing support from businesses, foundations, individuals and organizations.



A Center for Independent Living

Visit:

77 N. 129th Infantry Drive
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Hours: 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Monday—Friday

Call:

(815) 729-0162 (Voice)

(815) 729-2085 (TTY)

(815) 768-2582 (VP/VRS)

(815) 729-3697 (Fax)

Log on:

www.drcjoliet.org



*Disability
Resource
Center*

**Advocacy
Services**

*Empowering, enhancing &
encouraging
INDEPENDENCE!*

www.drcjoliet.org

Advocacy Services

DRC offers two types of advocacy services:

- * **Individual Advocacy:** the focus is on the individual with a disability and services available within the community to assist them in living independently and to eventually become their own advocate; includes one-on-one assistance with a consumer in obtaining benefits, services, equipment, etc.
- * **Systemic Advocacy:** involves working together to eliminate barriers and allow people with disabilities to fully participate in their community and working with the general public to ensure equal access to opportunities and services provided within the community.



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Voter Registration

DRC believes that the best tool of advocacy is that of the vote. We encourage people with disabilities to become registered voters, learn about candidates running for office, make elected officials accountable, and vote in each election. Several staff members are Deputy Registrars and are permitted to register Will County residents.

Disability Awareness Training for Businesses

Everyone benefits when businesses give customers with disabilities an equal opportunity to obtain their goods and services. DRC provides awareness and sensitivity training to businesses to help them be more effective when interacting with people with disabilities.

Legislative Internship Classes

teach people with disabilities how our government works and why citizens are an important part. Topics include how a bill becomes a law, how a veto works and how to communicate with an elected official. The classes also cover disability-related laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, Fair Housing Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and more.

Fair Housing Advocacy

DRC assists people with disabilities who believe they have been discriminated against in the area of housing. We also work with builders to ensure that multi-family homes are built according to applicable laws.

