

"An IL Response to Housing the People"

ILR's two year journey of listening to consumers' needs and responding with renewed housing supports

Today's Topics

- **Reflecting on Community Needs for People with Disabilities**
- ***Rent Well* Program Restart: 2024 – Present**
- **Diversifying *Rent Well* and Community-Based Outcomes**
- **Piloting *Housing Connectors* with Summer 2025 Outcomes**
- **Systems Advocacy and Community Housing Partnerships**
- **Bridging Housing Insecurity: Medicaid Waiver & ILR's May Fund**
- **Building CIL Capacity: What Are Your Next Steps?**

Reflecting on Community Need

2023-2024 Review: Transition

- Portland's 10-Year Housing Crisis
- ILR Consumers: 70% Homeless/Housing Insecure
- Seniors: Fastest growing sector becoming homeless
- Transition Needs: Youth, Adults, Seniors (with disabilities)
- Organizing an Independent Living (IL) Response
- ILR's Rent Well Classes: A Post-Pandemic Restart

Features of Rent Well

- Oregon & Washington Nonprofit Program
- Curriculum: Weekly 2.5 – 3.0 Hour Classes (16 Hours Total)
- Promotes Skills Training & Self-Advocacy (Housing Portfolio)
- Property Manager Screening : Rent Well Certificate Option
- Graduates: Landlord Protection Certificate (\$5,000)
- ILR: Only Certified RW Program for People with Disabilities

Rent Well Program Restart

Winter 2024

ILR Office-Based Rent Well Classes

- Limited Success: 2024 - present (20 +/- graduates)
- Recruitment Challenges, Low Turnout

Exploring Community-Based Options

- City of Portland: New “Safe Rest Villages” Opening
- Sunderland RV Site, Bridgeway to Hope, 4D (Youth)

Rent Well Program Restart

Winter 2024

Sunderland

- 2024 – 2025 (8 Rounds with 50+ Graduates)
- Consumer Engagement Model (on-site supports)

Bridgeway of Hope

- Post-Recovery Residential Program
- 2024 - 2025 (6 Rounds with 35+ Graduates)

Diversifying Rent Well

2025 - 2026

Sunderland Just Closed

- Displaced consumers living in 40+ RVs
- Exploring RW for other Safe Rest Villages (6)

School Districts/YTP

- Interest, but unable to start a pilot
- Oregon VR: Major reductions (School contracts 60+ to 42)

School Districts/YTP

- 4th Dimension (4D) Young Adults
- Post-Recovery Residential Program: Oct 2025 Pilot

“Housing Connectors”

Summer 2025 Pilot

Housing Connectors

- Portland Non-Profit Presence (Funded by SHS 1% Tax 2020-30)
- Curates Inventory of Rental Units: Low Barrier Options
- Resident Incentive: Access to Financial Assistance for 24-Months
- ILR’s Partner Responsibilities: Mediator Caseload (12 months)

Summer Pilot Outcomes

- ILR Screened 40+ Consumers for *Housing Connector* Units
- ILR placed 15 +/- HC Units (Mediator Caseload) 2/15 Mediated
- Some of 25 not placed with HC, placed in alternate rental units
- Learned: Valuable, labor intensive, 12-24 month, needs funding

“Community Conversations”

Benefits of Portland’s Homelessness Services

Here Together Housing Coalition sponsored

- Real-Time, Interactive Education & Dialogue (1 hour)
- Goals: Learn about city’s homelessness responses to continue support for funding beyond 2030 for supportive services approved by voters in 2020
- Format: Community Setting: Libraries, Churches, etc.
- Summer/Fall 2025 - 50+ Sessions 6 Hosted by Nikki

Systems Advocacy

Policy Changes Benefit People with Disabilities

Creating solutions “from the inside out”

- Mayor's Housing Response Action Plan (HRAP)
Citizen's Advisory Council (CAC): Five-Year Term
- 200 candidates, Top 25 interviewed, Narrowed to 15
SOC appoints 11 in 2024, expands to 14 in 2025
- Nikki appointed to CAC in 2024, Co-Chair: 2025
- Co-Chair serves on SOC, CAC, Implementation Cmte.

ILR's Housing Partnerships

Here Together and Housing Oregon Coalitions

- **ILR joins the *Here Together Coalition* in 2024**

Attends Portland Housing Summit April 2024

- **ILR joins the *Housing Oregon Coalition* in 2025**

Attends Housing Oregon Statewide Conference 2025

- **Housing Oregon's "Star Player Award" to Nikki Dolan**

Nikki recognized for success implementing innovative strategies empowering people with disabilities to new community living opportunities

Finding Stability

Bridging Housing Insecurity

Oregon's Medicaid Waiver System (Oregon Health Plan)

- HRSN Housing Stability Funds (6 months rent)
- Designed to stabilize existing OHP renters in crisis
- Run by OHPs Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs)
... Sub-awarded for fiscal distribution to agencies
- Barriers to making Portland Metro Area awards
- Consumers approved, but 6 months on, no funds!
- Consumers delay eviction, evicted later with debt!

New ILR Consumer Fund: 2024

Bridging Insecurity

Estate Gift: May Altman Fund (Past ILR Deputy Director)

- ILR's former Deputy Director leaves \$200,000 estate gift to ILR: *to benefit consumers in need.*
- ILR Board Approves 3-Tier Fund with Sunsets
 - Resources Fund: 10 Year Horizon (up to \$250)
 - Opportunity Fund: 5 Year Horizon (\$250 - \$1,000)
 - Bridge Fund: 5 Year Horizon (\$1,000 - \$3,000)

Awards are last resort, surprise gifts, staff nominated

Summary

ILR Responds to Community Need (70% Housing Insecure)

- New Lens for Transition Services (OILP Review)
Youth/Young Adults, All-Age Transitions to Stable Options

Restart of Rent Well: Community-Based Settings

- Sunderland SRV, Bridgeway of Hope, 4th Dimension
100+ Graduates in 18 Months

Systems Advocacy, Housing Coalitions, Bridge Funds

- Mayor's HRAP, Here Together/Oregon Housing, ILR Fund

ILR's Next Step Dreams

Expand Capacity: ILS and Housing Connectors

- \$100,000 for full-time staff member
seeking grant funds (VA Grant, Community Grant)

Expand Rent Well Course Offerings

- \$50,000 for ½ time dedicated staff member
seeking grant funds (VA Grant, Community Grant)
To more Safe Rest Villages, Recovery, YTP Programs

Municipal, Regional, State Systems Advocacy

- Nominate people with disabilities to be “*at the table*”

Building Your CIL's Capacity

What are Your Next Steps?

- 1. What are you learning about housing needs, as you listen to consumers and community partners?**
- 2. How are you responding to consumer housing self-advocacy needs in your community?**
- 3. How can you empower CIL staff as direct-service and systems advocacy community leaders?**
- 4. What are your stories? Needs? Creative responses?**