The Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL) is the region’s leading disability advocacy organization. We’re your partner in community progress!

CCCIL’s major accomplishments over the past 30 years include statewide leadership as one of seven Brain Injury Service sites in California serving people with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) for over 21 years.

Our major focus is educating, teaching, and encouraging people with disabilities, and their families, to live full lives with individual choice as a central theme. Our various programs and support services ensure that an individual’s voice is heard and respected as a pathway to progress and freedom in decision making. Our dedicated and passionate staff share their expertise across many knowledge bases solely for your success!

CCCIL is also appreciative of the generosity and financial support of people like yourself. In order to carry our work forward, we rely upon the tax-deductible, charitable contributions of our supporters. We encourage you to visit our website to learn more about our organization, and to factor CCCIL into your community giving and estate planning. We thank you for your generous support!
THE NEW ROBOTIC EXOSKELETON IS HELPING PARALYZED PATIENTS WALK AGAIN

Article by Science Alert

Before robots become clever enough to take over the world, they’re first going to help us overcome the frailties and imperfections of the human body. It’s been five years in the making, but researchers in the U.S. are now showing off an exoskeleton device that’s almost ready to hit the market to help people who have been permanently paralyzed walk again. Developed by a team from the University of California, Berkeley, the suit - called Phoenix - is lightweight, modular, and relatively affordable. For many, Phoenix could act as a replacement for a wheelchair, allowing them to take small but stable steps or even join in a game of soccer. “This machine helps with a couple of different things: rehab, exercise and involvement in everyday lives,” said paraplegic Steve Sanchez. “I’m not the robot, I wear the robot.” Of course, there's other exoskeletons out there, but the big problem with those is their price points.” Michael McKinley, one of the robotics engineers working on the project, says the efforts of volunteers Steve Sanchez and Daniel Fukuchi have been invaluable in developing the final design of the suit: “We’ve worked together, almost as a two-part team. We’re bringing the science and they’re bringing the insight from their reality.”

D.C. WILL FORM DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO IMPROVE SNOW RESPONSE

Article by Washington City Paper

After large amounts of snow fall, people with disabilities find themselves at a disadvantage. Accessible curb cuts become piled with snow, covering the tactile paving designed to signal the beginning of the crosswalk and the dips of the curb that are angled to orient those without sight. For wheelchair users or those who have decreased leg mobility, this makes it nearly impossible to access a sidewalk or lower a ramp to exit their car. For the past two and a half years, the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency has been communicating with advocacy groups when it makes its snow plans so it can know what specific problems individuals with disabilities are facing in these conditions. Officials from the agency began reaching out to disability advocates in an effort to create a board of advisors instead of hearing from hundreds of individual organizations. The goal is to find collaborative solutions to weather-based problems facing individuals with disabilities.
CCCIL PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

MHSA

Through a contract with the Monterey County Behavioral Health Department, CCCIL provides the following benefits counseling services:

- **Problem Solving and Advocacy.** We assist consumers in resolving any issues with the Social Security Administration, Department of Social and Employment Services (Medi-Cal), Department of Rehabilitation, and any other service providers/organizations.

- **Benefits Analysis and Advisement.** CCCIL works with consumers on understanding their options to return to work while keeping their Social Security and Medi-Cal/Medicare benefits. CCCIL provides information about different work incentives such as Medicare, Medi-Cal, Medicare Part D, Extended Medicare Coverage, 250% Working Disabled Program, Trial Work Period (TWP), Extended Period of Eligibility, Cessation and Grace Period, Expeditied Re-Instatement, Subsidies, Impairment Related Work Expense, PASS plans, Countable Earned Income Calculation (for purposes of SSI) Student Earned Income Exclusion and 1619(b). CCCIL writes benefits analysis reports for each consumer, which outlines consumers' benefits, work incentives, and consumers' options to return to work and keep their benefits.

- **Benefits Support Planning.** We assist consumers in the development of a plan to become self-sufficient by establishing an Independent Living Plan (ILP). The ILP outlines goals, objectives, and timelines for activities to be carried out.

- **Benefits Management.** CCCIL works in collaboration with consumers to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate the outcomes of Independent Living Plans.

MHSA consumers also have access to other services and information regarding veterans services, individual advocacy, Independent Living Skills Training, and Assistive Technology.

To learn more, please visit [www.cccil.org](http://www.cccil.org).
CCCIL promotes the independence of people with disabilities by supporting their equal and full participation in life. CCCIL provides advocacy, education, and support to people with disabilities, their families, and the community.

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