



City announces Dayton Recovery Plan investment of more than \$250,000 for the Access Center for Independent Living

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Today, the City of Dayton announced it is investing \$264,500 to allow renovations of a building by the Access Center of Independent Living and its Recycled Equipment Donated for Independence (REDI) project.

The Access Center for Independent Living empowers people with disabilities to achieve independence. The REDI project provides durable medical equipment at no cost to disabled individuals so they may remain independent in the community. This support is made possible by the Dayton Recovery Plan as a result of the ARPA money granted to the City in 2021.

This investment is a part of the Dayton Recovery Plan's Aiding Community Investments and Small Business Recovery allocation of \$7.2 million, which supports community-driven projects to partners and community groups offering programs and services serving the hardest hit areas and economic sectors.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a significant decrease in the level of service provided by the center and REDI. The small space the project operates from now continues to make serving community members with disabilities challenging while implementing COVID-19 safety protocols. This funding is essential to relocate the project to its own building at 165 E. Helena St., which would allow COVID-19 safety protocols to be fully implemented and additional consumers to be served.

The REDI Project benefits individuals with disabilities who have been severely impacted and are at risk for becoming institutionalized or homeless due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals with disabilities often rely on in-home healthcare workers, public transportation, and other home and community-based services to remain independent. The pandemic created a shortage of in-home healthcare workers, which put individuals with disabilities at risk for institutionalization and homelessness. Often individuals with disabilities rely on durable medical equipment such as Hoyer lifts, wheelchairs, walkers, bath chairs, canes, and hospital beds to assist them in remaining independent.

“One of the benefits of the Dayton Recovery Plan is that we can help those people in our community who need assistance to stay independent,” said Dayton City Manager Shelley Dickstein. “The Access Center for Independent Living has proven its positive impact in our community and we are eager to help them do more with these resources.”

About the Access Center for Independent Living

The Access Center for Independent Living (ACIL) was founded in 1984 by a group of concerned citizens, the majority of whom were persons with disabilities. Those founding activists had a vision of affecting change that would make the community accessible to any person with a disability who wished to pursue a more independent, self-directed lifestyle. During the first year of operation, ACIL provided independent living services to more than 200 customers. Since that time, the Access Center has served thousands of people with disabilities. The vision that the small group of founding activists once had continues today, as the Access Center for Independent Living remains committed to affecting change in the community.

About the Dayton Recovery Plan

The Dayton Recovery Plan was developed using a data-driven approach that analyzed socio-economic, health, and demographic data to make informed funding decisions that benefit minority communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. It also addresses long-standing economic and social inequities in our city. On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law. Based on a modified CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) formula, the Local Fiscal Relief section of the bill provides \$138 million to the City of Dayton in two equal installments: the largest grant in the City’s history.

The key goals of the proposed Dayton Recovery Plan:

- Improve the quality of life in Dayton neighborhoods to attract people and businesses to our community.
- Create long-term transformational and sustainable impacts in our City, especially in targeted geographies.

What this spending and support will offer is an opportunity to capitalize on the positive impact to improve the quality of life in our communities for our neighbors and keep businesses in Dayton while also bringing more business and economic development to the area. The overall program is generally referred to as the American Rescue Plan Act, but we refer locally to our specific efforts as the Dayton Recovery Plan. We want our residents to know that all the money received will be used locally and impacts only projects and people in our own communities.

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