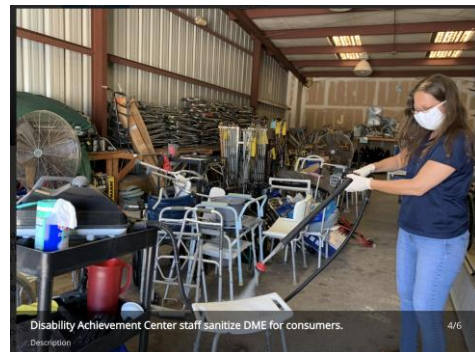


Florida's Centers for Independent Living COVID RESPONSE

Immediately following Governor DeSantis' declaration of a State of Emergency on March 9, 2020, the Florida CILs went into action

Pre vaccine:

- CIL representative sent to the State Emergency Operation Center.
- CILs re-worked their service delivery to ensure their consumers could stay safely at home.
- CILs identified individuals with disabilities in their community who experienced food insecurity and either distributed food or connected them to food assistance.
- CILs provided sterilized durable medical equipment and PPE.
- CILs provided virtual benefits for those who use SNAP EBT cards to purchase online groceries.
- CILs held virtual gatherings to address isolation.
- CILs leveraged partnerships with local transportation to ensure local health care services were not interrupted.



The Florida CILs, in partnership with the Department of Health and Florida Division of Emergency Management, has identified and ensured Florida's most vulnerable population had received the COVID Vaccine. Other states are duplicating this process as a best practice.

Post vaccine:

- CILs were approved as a vaccine site by DOH and FDEM to reach vulnerable populations in February 2021.
- CILs worked the 4 FEMA sites and provided training, accommodations, and DME.
- CILs contacted thousands of present and past consumers, informing them of vaccination options. **This resulted in 2,000 consumers receiving the COVID vaccination**
- CILs also identified individuals that are homebound and notified DOH and FDEM.
- 13 CILs are host vaccine sites. The other two CILs are working through county partners to ensure their consumers are receiving the vaccine.
- The CIL in South Florida has hosted several Med Talk virtual presentations with Miami Baptist Health. The purpose is to discuss fears, concerns and to get COVID -19 vaccine questions answered.

