

## 2020 Budget Request Form – Douglas County, KS

### Summary and Community Partner Overview

Community Partner:	<b>Independence, Inc.</b>
2020 Request	<b>\$215,000.00</b>

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#### Community Partner Overview:

Independence, Inc. is an Independent Living Resource Center, founded in 1978. The mission of the organization is to maximize the independence of people with disabilities through advocacy, peer support, training, transportation and community education. We are a nonprofit, community-based organization run by and for people with disabilities. Fifty-one percent of our staff and board of directors have a disability.

Independence, Inc. offers the following Core Services mandated of all Centers for Independent Living:

**Advocacy** – We teach people with disabilities self-advocacy skills used in a wide variety of situations, and how to use and enjoy rights based on federal, state and local laws that prohibit discrimination based on disability. This training includes how to request reasonable accommodation, auxiliary aids and services, and apply other aspects of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Fair Housing Act, and other laws. Our advocacy efforts extend to community, state and national level systems change.

**Independent Living Skills Training** – This service focuses on assisting people to develop the skills necessary for successful independent living. Examples include budgeting and shopping skills, communication and self-advocacy, obtaining affordable and/or accessible housing, household management, and meal planning and cooking. Group activities over the years have included: Cooking Club, Music Appreciation Group, Accessible Garden Group, Movie Club, Living Well with a Disability, GROOVE (Getting Ready for Outstanding Outcomes from Vibrant Exercise), Adaptive Fitness and You, Arts and Crafts, Book Club, Science Fiction and Fantasy Club and The Writers Corner.

**Information & Referral** – This service is available to assist anyone needing information on agency or community resources and programs. Staff are available over the phone or to meet face-to-face in order to problem-solve issues and seek resolution. Referrals are based on need and circumstance and are made to Independence, Inc. staff, or, when appropriate, to other community agencies.

**Peer Counseling and Peer Support** – We provide informal support through the volunteer mentoring program. Volunteers with disabilities are trained as mentors and matched with people with newly acquired disabilities or who are just beginning to seek independent living services.

**Transition Services-** Services that facilitate transition from nursing homes and other institutions to the community, provide assistance to those at risk of entering institutions, and facilitate transition of youth to postsecondary life. This includes finding affordable and accessible housing, access to personal care attendant services, and other community resources.

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Independence, Inc. also offers the following additional services:

**Transportation-** Accessible transportation within Douglas County limit. Transportation is also provided to individuals within Douglas County needing a ride to medical appointments in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area, Leavenworth, and Topeka.

**Equipment Loan Program-** Free loan of walkers, wheelchairs, canes, commodes, shower chairs, etc. If the individual is able, we accept donations for the use of the equipment.

**Assistive Technology-** We also serve as a demonstration site for the Kansas Telecommunications Access Program, providing phones for people with a sensory, speech, mobility or cognitive disability.

**Computer Learning Center-** Open, free access to computers with assistive technology and self-paced training software.

**Financial Management Service (FMS) -** Payroll processing service for people with disabilities eligible for Home Community Based Services. Individuals using this service are receiving funding through one of the State Medicaid waivers and managed by KanCare.

**Youth Employment Program -** Paid 80-hour work trials for youth with disabilities aged 15-21 that for some youth result in being hired.

Funding from Douglas County is used to support Transportation Services within Douglas County.

This program provides transportation to individuals with disabilities and the general public. General public rides are primarily provided in rural Douglas County. Transportation for people with disabilities includes rides for medical trips to Kansas City, Topeka, Leavenworth and rides from rural communities into Lawrence for work, medical appointments, and recreation. Generally, rides within Lawrence are limited to assistance for individuals who cannot access services on the T Lift door-to-door shared ride paratransit service. Efforts are made to ensure that transportation provided by Independence, Inc. complements and does not duplicate services provided by the Lawrence Transit System. All seniors requesting services are directed to request service first from the Senior Resource Center.

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### Service Overview - Metrics and/or data that describe the service impact:

Independence, Inc. receives funding from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), which requires Independence, Inc. to have local funding to match. Douglas County funding is used for this match and to offset the costs of our additional services and the administrative expenses relating to hosting the service (i.e., office space, utilities, etc.). We added a new vehicle to our fleet in 2017 and will be adding another in the summer of 2019. Transportation expenses are related to the operating costs of six vehicles equipped with lifts for people who are unable to step up into the vehicle. These expenses include fuel, vehicle maintenance, insurance, vehicle registration, salaries and training of staff. We also request the option to use funds for general operating expenses if needed.

The transportation department expenses have historically exceeded revenues. Independence, Inc. requires supplemental funding to continue filling this void in the community. Depending on which van is used the cost of a ride is anywhere from \$18.00 up to \$40.00 per **one way** ride (or \$36.00 up to \$80.00 per round trip). We charge \$3 in town for rides and \$5 to individuals in the county needing transport into Lawrence per one way ride. Our out-of-town medical riders are asked to pay \$30. The Douglas County Grant allows us to continue to subsidize this much needed service throughout the community, where otherwise there would be no other options for public transport, or for those needing special assistance due to accessibility. Rides in the county typically are more expensive than city rides. This is due to the fuel costs associated with the miles driven and the time it takes to accommodate these rides, as the distance is further and not as many people can be served in any given day. As a result, we are allocating the entire portion of the Douglas County grant to transportation. On average we provide over 600 rides a month. Of these rides, approximately 175 are county rides and 35 are out-of- town medical appointments. Even with this number of people being served we turned down an average of 20 rides a month. Total rides provided by our Transportation Department were up 12% from last fiscal year. We are the only transportation service available to county residents at this time.

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### Alignment to County Focus Areas and Collaboration:

Community Partner:	<b style="color: red;">Independence, Inc.</b>
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<b>Focus Area:</b>	Human Services
<p>Independence, Inc. is in alignment with several of the focus areas of the County. We are a Human Service provider and through transportation we also support the areas of Infrastructure, Emergency Services and Workforce Development.</p> <p>Independence, Inc. is primarily a Human Service provider. We provide services to individuals with disabilities. Our vision is to work together in transforming our communities to be the best places in which people with disabilities can live, learn and work. Below are some examples of our work in the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A consumer was able to maintain housing due to assistance from Independence, Inc. staff. This individual was struggling to respond to his landlord’s documentation request to maintain his subsidized housing. Independence, Inc. staff were able to meet with the consumer to go through and organize his paperwork to respond to his landlord’s request.</li> <li>• A consumer who is deaf met with our staff to learn how to use her iPad and laptop computer to communicate with family and friends.</li> <li>• Independence, Inc. staff routinely assist consumers with applying for Medicaid, Food Assistance, Low Income Energy Assistance and Social Security Disability.</li> <li>• Assisted a 19 year old youth with establishing his first checking account.</li> <li>• Routinely provide rides to and from LMH health for doctor visits and medical tests.</li> </ul> <p>Through transportation we support Emergency Services by providing rides to and from hospitals and doctor offices. This assists individuals in maintaining their health and refraining from using ambulance services when they are not needed. We provide rides daily to individuals so they can maintain their jobs in the community, therefore supporting the focus of Workforce Development and innovative Infrastructure.</p> <p>Independence, Inc. Transportation collaborates with numerous other community providers. We have a positive relationship with LMH health and are frequently called by the social work department to provide rides to their patients. We collaborate with the Lawrence Transit Service and the Senior Resource Wheels. We strive to not duplicate services and make referrals to each of those agencies when appropriate. We assist individuals with filling out the paperwork required to set up the T Lift door-to-door paratransit services within the city limits and will provide rides to that individual until their application with the city transit is approved. We have a reciprocal agreement with the Senior Resource Center that if they are unable to provide rides for some unforeseen reason Independence, Inc. will work to provide transportation as needed for their population.</p> <p>Independence, Inc. is involved in the United Way of Douglas County and actively engages with other community partners through that process. We are also part of Douglas County Human Services Coalition and Access to Care workgroup. We collaborate with Health Care Access, Bert Nash, USD 497 and doctors’ offices throughout the County.</p>	

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double click on spreadsheet to open

[2020 Budget Request Detail](#)

calculated fields

Community Partner:	<b>Independence, Inc.</b>					
	2016 Actuals	2017 Actuals	2018 Actuals	2019 Adopted Budget	2019 Current Estimates	2020 Budget Request
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Unrestricted Fund Balance 1/1/xx	1,063,302	1,128,090	1,168,597	1,173,427	1,173,427	1,181,459
<b>Douglas County</b>	<b>215,000</b>	<b>215,000</b>	<b>215,000</b>	<b>215,000</b>	<b>215,000</b>	<b>215,000</b>
City of Lawrence	3,477	2,976	4,917	4,000	4,000	3,000
United Way	25,167	17,223	21,850	21,850	21,850	21,850
Grants	341,186	362,845	352,694	348,954	365,350	360,000
Fundraisers	825	7,315	15	0	0	0
Contributions	14,514	17,140	17,408	15,000	19,000	20,000
Other:	1,969,063	1,930,131	1,983,057	1,895,691	1,946,691	1,980,500
Other:						
Interest	812	829	3,862	600	5,200	5,000
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>2,570,044</b>	<b>2,553,459</b>	<b>2,598,803</b>	<b>2,501,095</b>	<b>2,577,091</b>	<b>2,605,350</b>
<b>Total Revenues and Fund Balance</b>	<b>3,633,346</b>	<b>3,681,549</b>	<b>3,767,400</b>	<b>3,674,522</b>	<b>3,750,518</b>	<b>3,786,809</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Salaries	2,026,263	2,015,316	2,009,046	1,870,519	2,000,315	2,000,500
Employee Benefits	84,213	87,115	87,183	100,200	90,000	95,000
Health Insurance	71,858	67,275	80,036	86,580	85,000	88,500
Supplies	3,738	5,435	3,525	4,850	3,600	4,000
Utilities, Building Maintenance	53,164	55,909	59,381	43,950	55,000	60,000
Travel & Training	11,572	11,964	8,323	10,200	8,500	9,500
Office Equipment	7,950	6,813	5,876	8,000	6,144	5,800
Debt Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other:	27,191	26,929	38,863	41,500	35,000	38,500
Other:	219,307	236,196	301,740	310,044	285,500	300,500
Other:						
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>2,505,256</b>	<b>2,512,952</b>	<b>2,593,973</b>	<b>2,475,843</b>	<b>2,569,059</b>	<b>2,602,300</b>
<b>Ending Fund Balance 12/31/xx</b>	<b>1,128,090</b>	<b>1,168,597</b>	<b>1,173,427</b>	<b>1,198,679</b>	<b>1,181,459</b>	<b>1,184,509</b>

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## Budget Request Analysis

Community Partner: **Independence, Inc.**

### Analysis of Revenue Sources:

Independence, Inc. currently relies on Federal, State and various other grant funding. We rely heavily on Medicaid and fee for service reimbursements.

Funding from Douglas County is used to support Transportation Services within Douglas County.

Current funding to support Independence, Inc. Transportation is as follows:

- Douglas County-grant funding
- KDOT-grant funding
- Medicaid-only for individuals who have Medicaid through KanCare and are going to a Medicaid approved medical appointment
- Consumer Fares-money collected from individuals using our transportation service outlined in the service overview section of this application

This program provides transportation to individuals with disabilities and the general public. General public rides are primarily provided in rural Douglas County. Transportation for people with disabilities includes rides for medical trips to Kansas City, Topeka, Leavenworth and rides from rural communities into Lawrence for work, medical appointments, and recreation.

We continue to explore possible options of how to utilize the property we own behind our current building to increase revenue and support our mission. We have sub-contracted with Managed Care Organizations to provide Medicaid transport to and from medical appointments. We have also sub-contracted with four Workman Compensation Companies to provide transport to and from medical appointments. We are part of a state-wide collaborative effort to explore funding options for the long-term financial security of Independent Living Resource Centers. We have set up an endowed fund with Douglas County Community Foundation to support the organization temporarily if something major happens with funding at a State or Federal level. We explore ways to obtain grants to pay for building maintenance where possible and have had some success. We continue to explore business ventures that fit our mission and would offer ongoing unrestricted revenue.

### Analysis of beginning & ending fund balances, and dedicated or restricted cash reserves:

Independence, Inc. has experienced an increase in ridership over the last year. Therefore, putting more demand on resources. As an agency, we have experienced significant maintenance costs this last year. This is due in part to the age of our building and some of our vehicles as well as unforeseen emergency maintenance (broken water pipe into our building, flooding of our basement).

\*\*We do not have any restrictions on dedicated cash reserves at this time.

\*\*Independence, Inc. has a yearly GAAP audit, a triennial review with KDOT that includes a review of policies by KDOT personnel and an outside accounting firm that reviews financial documentation.

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### Analysis of expenditure changes:

Independence, Inc. has experienced higher than normal maintenance expenses to our vehicles this past year. We have a new vehicle on order that should be delivered this summer. We do routine maintenance on all our vehicles, but with the number of rides we provide they accumulate high mileage quickly. We have experienced an increase in demand for rides. Our ridership is up by 12% from last fiscal year.