Mission, vision and values

The mission of the Center for Disability Services is to help people who are aging, living with an illness or disability or need special assistance live life to the fullest. Through our community living services, care coordination, on-campus skill building programs and aging services, our goal is to support a person's intellectual and physical functioning and independence by minimizing the impact of age or disability on their life, and assisting them to remain living at home and participating in their community.

Our vision is for our organization to become experts at providing the supports and accommodations to help all people maintain wellbeing.

Our values

- All people are valued members of society.
- All people have the right to make choices affecting their lives.
- All people have purpose and deserve respect.

The Center for Disability Services is dedicated to:
- Maintaining integrity and high ethical standards
- Providing consumer-driven services
- Providing valuable educational experiences for WMU students

Accreditation

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), has accredited the Center for Disability Services for its Community Services: Community Integration, Community Services Coordination, and Supported Living programs as well as Adult Day Service programs. This accreditation represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization’s substantial conformance to the CARF standards.
The programs offered at CDS are designed to empower individuals with disabilities to become more independent, participate in their community and get the supports they need to live a joyful and healthy life.

Our Program Offerings

Services for Adults with Disabilities

Community Connections Skill Building
This on-campus skill building program was created for adults with disabilities. The program provides the opportunity for community volunteering and a variety of meaningful activities both in the community and on campus. Individuals can improve skills, personal health and wellness and develop meaningful relationships while being engaged outside of their home during the day.
(269) 387-7414

Community Living Services
Staff support individuals residing in their own home by teaching and assisting with activities of daily living, leisure and social activities, scheduling and attending appointments and monitoring medical issues. Individuals may receive services from 15 hours per week to 24 hours per day, CDS strives to assist the individual with support staff to create a sense of ownership within their home.
(269) 387-7995

Supports Coordination
Supports coordinators work with individuals and their families to plan various types of health and social care services. Individuals served are assisted in gaining access to needed services, financial assistance, housing, employment, education, social services, and other services and supports identified through the person centered planning process.
(269) 387-7061

Services for Seniors

Adult Day Services
WMU Senior Day Services is an adult day program designed to serve individuals who are diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of dementia (or those requiring assistance throughout the day) in a group community setting. Our approach to adult day programming is a combination of social interaction and rehabilitative activities that encourage using the individuals’ strengths to improve health.
(269) 387-7994

Senior In-Home Care and Support Services
WMU Adult Wellness Programs also provide services for seniors in their homes. Services are personalized to the individuals specific needs. Services include respite care and personal care in addition to care management services that assess the individual’s social and medical needs.
(269) 387-7995

Ishler Wellness Lab
The George Ishler Wellness Lab was created to help older adults remain healthy and actively engaged, while providing university students with opportunities for interprofessional practice. The Wellness Lab hosts opportunities for social engagement, education and access to clinical services each semester.
wmiddu.edu/ageingservices/adultwellness/ishlerlab

Impact on Academics
CDS provides students with an opportunity for innovative learning and discovery in the field of disabilities. The practical experience promotes engagement and service to the community and encourages students to pursue careers in related fields. The Center has strong partnerships with the Department of Occupational Therapy, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Interdisciplinary Health Services, Department of Psychology, Physical Therapy, School of Music and the Department of Human Performance and Health Education.

Impact on individuals
It is our belief that all people are valued members of society and have the right to make choices affecting their lives. People who receive our services are unique individuals who should be cherished, treated with respect and provided with lifelong learning opportunities.

wmich.edu/disabilitycenter