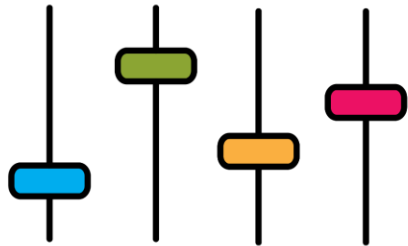


>> SLIDE 1

# LEVEL UP



**BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER**



**2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
ON INDEPENDENT LIVING**

2025 Annual Conference on Independent Living

LEVEL UP: Building Tomorrow Together

Presented by the National Council on Independent Living

>> SLIDE 2

# Breaking Barriers

The First Case of Using Japan's Public Personal Assistance Service  
Abroad for the Long Term.

Date: July 23

Kyota Yagi

# >> SLIDE 3: Introduction

- Kyota Yagi [he/him]
- Vice Director of CIL IROHA in Japan
- I'm currently training at CIL in Berkeley for ten months.
- I control my power wheelchair with my chin.



>> SLIDE 4: Question for audiences

**What image do you have of Japan?**

# >> SLIDE 5: Visual slide



## >> SLIDE 6: Your image will change

**“Japan is one of the countries with advanced personal assistance services.”**

- In this workshop, I will talk about:
  1. Japan’s excellent personal assistant services.
  2. The negotiations I had with the government to make my training in the U.S. possible.

## >> SLIDE 7: History of Japanese CILs

- The first CIL in Japan was founded in Tokyo in 1986.
- Now there are about 120 CILs in Japan.
- These CILs have made it possible for many people with disabilities to live independently in their communities.

## >> SLIDE 8: Japan's PA system

1. Apply to the government and receive a disability level certification.
2. Submit a required personal assistance service plan to the city.
3. If the plan is approved, service hours are granted.
4. Start using the service with public funding.

## >> SLIDE 9: Japan's PA system

- Nationwide standardized public service.
- Services are provided through agencies, not direct contracts.
- Publicly funded services available 24/7, 365 days a year.

# >> SLIDE 10: My Independent Living

- Injured during judo practice at age 15.
- Returned home after one year in the hospital.
- Received daily care from my mother for four years.
- Desire to live independently grows
- Encounter the CIL



# >> SLIDE 11: Support provided by the CIL

CIL provided me with:

1. An Independent Living program
2. Providing personal assistance services
3. Help with housing research
4. Support for creating materials for negotiation
5. Support for negotiating with the city
6. Ongoing support after starting independent living

## >> SLIDE 12: Other Examples

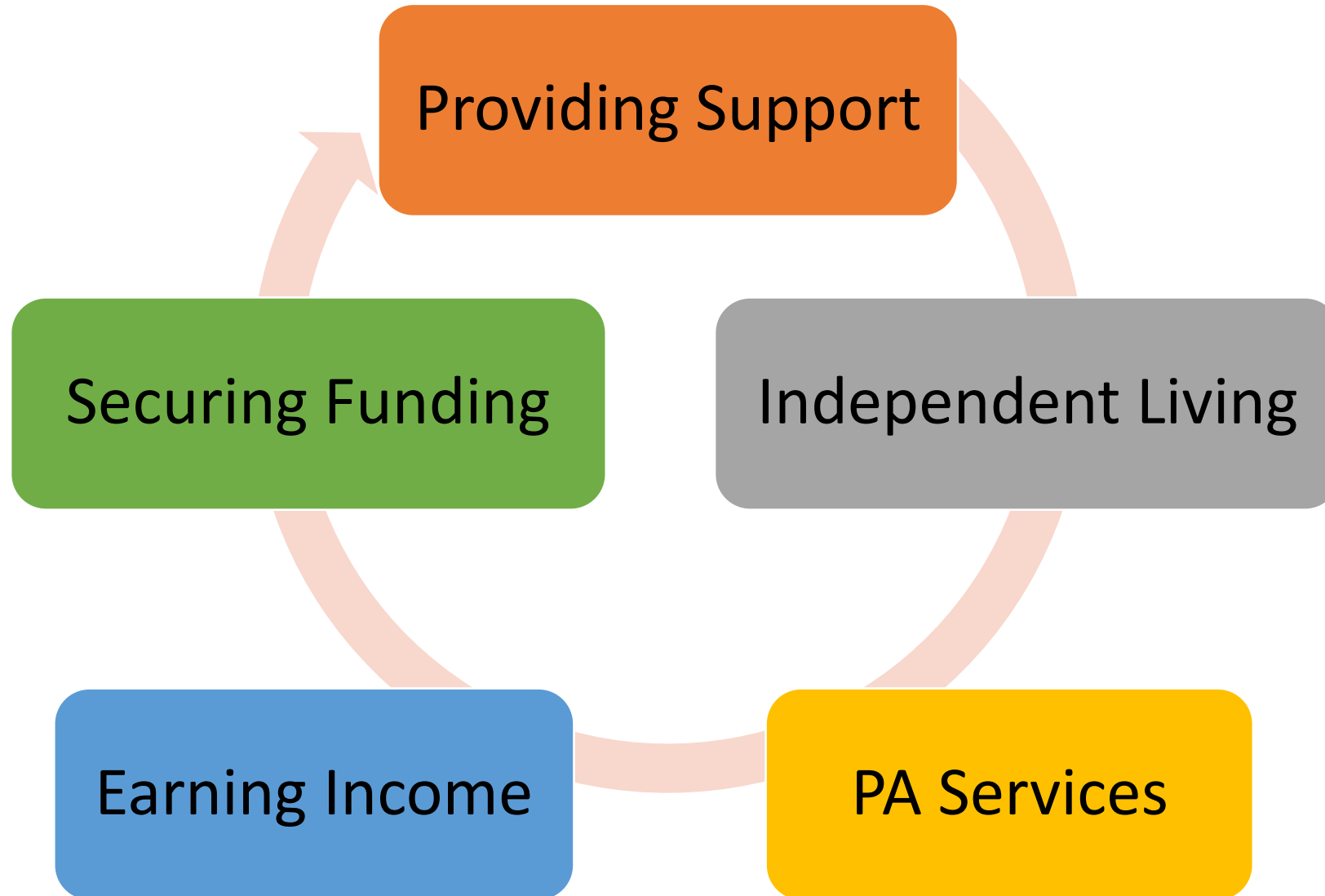
- People with higher support needs can receive assistance from two personal assistants.
- Even individuals with intellectual disabilities can receive 24-hour services.

Thanks to the disability rights movement, PA services in Japan continue to improve!

# >> SLIDE 13: Support and Management

- Japanese CILs operate agencies that provide PA services.
- Provides both independent living support and PA services.
- Income from PA services funds CIL activities.
- A system is in place that balances support and business operations.

# >> SLIDE 14: Support and Management



## >> SLIDE 15: Challenges in Japan

- Shortage of workers in the personal assistant industry.
- Some people are denied the necessary service hours.
- Work and school hours are not covered.
- **Year-round and long-term outings are not covered.**

# >> SLIDE 16: Overseas Training Program

## **“The Duskin overseas leadership training program”**

What’s this program?

- A Japanese private program that supports training costs for people with disabilities who want to study abroad.
- It has been running for over 40 years.
- The disability leaders who founded Japan’s first CIL visited Berkeley through this program.

# >> SLIDE 17: Visual slide



## >> SLIDE 18: The Systemic Barrier

I was selected as a trainee!

However, there was a barrier in the system.

**“Year-round and long-term outings are not covered”**

Without access to public PA services,  
I would have to pay \$150,000 out of pocket  
for assistance during the one-year training.

# >> SLIDE 19: Unprecedented Negotiation

City Office:

“Since there’s no precedent in our city, we will review the case.”

National Government:

“A long term stay in the U.S does not count as residing in Japan, so the services cannot be used.”

→ **As a result, I was denied access to the service.**

# >> SLIDE 20: Visual slide



## >> SLIDE 21: With a national organization

- Consulted Disabled People's International(DPI) Japan
- Started direct negotiations with national officials.

- Found a solution by aligning with tax rules!

→Income Tax Law:

“If the stay abroad is less than one year, there is no need to submit a moving-out notification, **and the person is still considered a resident of Japan.**”

## >> SLIDE 22: Approval Granted!

- After re-negotiation, I was finally allowed to use Japan's public PA services during my training in the U.S.
- Like the Income Tax Law, if the stay is under one year, I'm still considered a Japanese resident and can use services as usual.
- **This became the first case of its kind in Japan!**

## >> SLIDE 23: Don't Stop There

- This decision shouldn't be a one-time exception.
- It's a chance to create a new standard!
- We requested the national government to issue an official notice to local authorities.

## >> SLIDE 24: Creating New Standard!

- In response to our request, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare issued an official notice to local authorities.
- We succeeded in creating a new standard, not just a one-time exception!
- **This opened new possibilities for future overseas training for Japanese people with disabilities.**

# >> SLIDE 25: Visual slide



>> SLIDE 26: Connection with the World

**Let's connect more,**

**Let's collaborate more,**

**Let's move forward together!**

## >> SLIDE 27: With Deepest Gratitude

I thank all the disability rights activists who paved the way for our movement.

Special thanks to Shoji Nakanishi, who recently passed away.

He founded the first CIL in Japan and made a tremendous contribution to our movement.



>> SLIDE 28: To the Future!

**LEAD  
ON!!!**



The text "LEAD ON!!!" is rendered in a large, bold, black serif font. A red ribbon graphic starts from the top right, loops around the top of the word "ON", and ends in a small tag that says "LOVE". The tag is red with the word "LOVE" in white capital letters. The exclamation points are black.

>> SLIDE 29

Questions?