Winter & Spring Guide

2027

Experience Life's Possibilities



Programs & Services for People with Developmental Disabilities

New Club Café Program, Page 8

Sweetheart Dance is Friday, February 12

Winter Getaway in Wisconsin Dells!

Financial Aid is available, see page 32 for more information.



Our Mission

Empowering people with developmental disabilities to belong and thrive as we strengthen the communities we share.

Our Vision

Every person is valued and belongs, and disability is embraced as part of the human experience.



Follow us on Social Media @CELfriends

INSIDE

5 Sunday Fun Day – 18+
6 Monday Night Bowling – 18+
6 Winter Whisks – 18+
7 Tuesday Night Art – 18+
8 Wednesday Night Sampler – 18+
8 Club Café – 18+
9 Thursday Ladies Night – 18+
9 Thursday Guys Night – 18+
10 Thursday CEL Social Wellness – 18+
10 Friday Night Bingo – 18+
11 Sweetheart Dance – 18+
12 Saturday Friendship Club – 18+
13 Saturday Out and About – 18+
14 Afternoon Social Club (Adults) – 18+
15 Member Voices / Get Involved
16 Teen & Young Adult Programs 13 – 22
19 Excursions 13 – 22
20 Sunday Events – 18+
22 Adult Excursions – 18+
24 Winter Getaway Trip – 22+
25 Virtual Programs
26 CEL's New Payment System for Social/Rec Programs
27 REACH Adult Day Program
28 Catalyst Life Skills Program
29 Employment Opportunities
30 CEL's The Nora Project
32 Registration
34 World of Difference Campaign
35 FAQs

HOW TO REGISTER

1. Find programs you're interested in!
2. **NEW MEMBERS:**
   Contact us at 847.948.7001 or Outreach@ExperienceCEL.org to get started.
   RETURNING MEMBERS:
   Fill out the Returning Member Registration Form in this guide or scan to access it online.
3. Program availability will be determined before we process all registrations and payments.

Questions? Outreach@ExperienceCEL.org

WINTER & SPRING

We are introducing some new and returning opportunities such as Winter Whisks, Club Café, Friday Bingo, and rotating social wellness classes!

We love to hear your ideas and always count on them to create programs that you will love and enjoy. If you have suggestions about programs or have questions about the activities offered in this Winter & Spring guide, please reach out to us. We'd love to hear from you!
Info@ExperienceCEL.org



SUNDAY FUN DAY

(AGES 18+)



Spend the afternoon making memories, trying new things, and having fun with friends!

Each week, we'll enjoy exciting activities, explore holiday and seasonal traditions from around the world, make tasty treats, and get creative with arts and crafts. Join us as we learn, laugh, and celebrate together!

When: *1/3-5/16* *(18 weeks; no program 3/21 &3/28)*
Time: *1:00pm – 4:00pm*
Fee: *$1,210*



MONDAY NIGHT BOWLING

(AGES 18+)



Come join the Monday Night fun with an evening of bowling with friends. Enjoy a pizza party to end the session on our final bowling night!

Please note that this program is running as a separate program and at the same time as Winter Whisks. Members may meet at Lakeside Lanes at 6:30pm or meet at CEL at 5:45 for transportation to and from Lakeside Lanes.

When: *1/4-5/17* *(17 weeks; no program 1/18, 3/22, & 5/3)*
Time: *6:30pm - 8:00pm*
Fee: *$580*

WINTER WHISKS

NEW PROGRAM

(AGES 18+)



Do you love trying new foods? Join us and learn how to make a variety of cozy winter comfort food and refreshing spring snacks. Each week, we will focus on the preparation of each treat. Recipes may include no-bake treats, soups, cakes, or savory bites. We will sample the final product and see what ends up being the favorite!

This program runs as a separate program and at the same time as bowling.

When: *1/4-5/17*
(17 weeks; no program 1/18, 3/22, & 5/3)
Time: *6:30pm - 8:30pm*
Fee: *$580*

TUESDAY NIGHT ART

(AGES 18+)



Learn about different artists and create art inspired by their work. Each week will showcase a different artist or technique and an inventive way to use materials. Members may work at their own pace in a fun and supportive environment, emphasizing creativity and self-expression.

When: *1/5-5/18*
(19 weeks; no program 3/23)
Time: *6:30pm - 8:30pm*
Fee: *$610*

Illinois ARTS Council

CEL acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.





WEDNESDAY NIGHT SAMPLER

(AGES 18+)

Explore a variety of activities or choose your favorites for an evening filled with the things YOU love! With classes rotating every other week, Wednesday nights are all about having fun, trying new things, and making memories with friends!

Jan-Feb: Winter Crafts, Living Your Best Life
Mar-May: Memory Makers, Drawing Spring Landscapes

When: *1/6-5/19*
Time: *6:30pm - 8:30pm*
(18 weeks; no program on 3/14 & 4/21)
Fee: *$600*



CLUB CAFÉ

NEW PROGRAM

(AGES 18+)

Join fellow foodies in the hunt for the best café on the North Shore! Every month, you'll explore a new café or coffee shop, enjoy delicious treats and drinks, play games, catch up with friends, and discover your favorite café. Food and drinks are included in the program fee.

This program runs as a separate program and at the same time as Wednesday Night Sampler.

When: *5 weeks; 1/20, 2/17, 3/17, 4/14, 5/12*
Time: *6:30pm - 8:30pm*
Fee: *$220*



THURSDAY LADIES NIGHT

(AGES 18+)



Gonna step out cuz it's Ladies Night! Talk about what's new in fashion, music, or hairstyle trends – share stories and enjoy making some yummy treats. Finish off the session by joining Guys Night for a Spring Mixer!

When: *10 weeks; 1/7, 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18, 4/8, 4/22, 5/6, Mixer: 5/20*
Time: *6:30pm - 8:30pm*
Fee: *$360*

THURSDAY GUYS NIGHT

(AGES 18+)



Join your buddies for all kinds of awesome activities! Will it be sports talk, game night, or the fan favorite-BINGO? The choice is yours! Finish off the session by joining the Ladies Night crew for a Spring Mixer!

When: *10 weeks; 1/14, 1/28, 2/11, 2/25, 3/11, 4/1, 4/15, 4/25, 5/13, Mixer: 5/20*
Time: *6:30pm - 8:30pm*
Fee: *$360*

THURSDAY CEL SOCIAL WELLNESS!

(AGES 18+)



Build confidence, strengthen social skills, and explore what it means to live your best life through three rotating classes-Dating, Advanced Social Skills, and Living Your Best Life-offered in six-week sessions. Members will practice communication skills, learn about healthy relationships, and explore everyday choices that support independence and well-being. Facilitated by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), each class offers a supportive, person-centered environment where members can learn, connect, and grow.

This program runs as a separate program and at the same time as Ladies/Guys Night. Beverages and snacks will be provided!

When:

- ***Dating:*** *1/7-2/11* *(6-Week Course)*
- ***Advanced Social Skills:***
  2/18-4/1 *(6-week course; no program 3/25)*
- ***Living Your Best Life:*** *4/8-5/13* *(6-Week Course)*
  Sign up for 1 session or all 3!

Time: *6:30pm - 8:30pm*
Fee: *$180 each class or $460 for all 3!*

FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO

(AGES 18+)



It's time for BINGO BABY! Everyone loves to play Bingo, where you can win prizes, play new bingo games, and hang out with your friends!

When: *1/8-5/21*
(18 weeks; no program 2/12, & 3/26)
Time: *6:30pm - 8:30pm*
Fee: *$620*



Friday, February 12th
Ages 18+
7:00pm - 9:00pm
$40

Sweetheart Dance





REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 2/5/27 (or until dance reaches capacity)

Dances fill up quickly, so register NOW to secure your spot!

ADULT PROGRAMS

SATURDAY FRIENDSHIP CLUB

(AGES 18+)







Let's make the most of what CEL has to offer! Get creative and explore art, make a snack, take part in a craft project, enjoy the fully equipped gym, or hang out with your friends and catch up! Please bring a lunch.

This program runs as a separate program as Saturday Out and About.

When: *1/9-5/22* *(19 weeks; no program 3/27)*
Time: *10:00am - 3:00pm*
Fee: *$1,120*

SATURDAY OUT AND ABOUT

(AGES 23+)



Explore local community activities with your CEL friends and enjoy a new lunch experience each week. You help plan the adventures! A weekly schedule will be sent outlining the details for the day.

This program runs as a separate program from Saturday Friendship Club.

When: *1/9-5/22*
(19 weeks; no program 3/27)
Time: *10:00am - 3:30pm*
Fee: *$1,400*



AFTERNOON SOCIAL CLUB (ADULTS)

(AGES 23+)



Whether you're already at CEL or joining us later, wrap up your day with games, crafts, and more.



While Catalyst and REACH members have the option to extend their day by participating in Afternoon Social Club, this is a separate program offered through CEL's Social & Recreational Department. All members interested in participating must register separately for Afternoon Social Club.

Mondays 1/4-5/17 (17 weeks; no program 1/18, 3/22)	**Tuesdays** 1/5-5/18 (19 weeks; no program 3/23)	**Wednesdays** 1/6-5/19 (19 weeks; no program 3/24)	**Thursdays** 1/7-5/20 (19 weeks; no program 3/25)	**Fridays** 1/8-5/21 (18 weeks; no program 2/12, 3/26)
3:00pm - 5:30pm	3:00pm - 5:30pm	3:00pm - 5:30pm	3:00pm - 5:30pm	3:00pm - 5:30pm
$590	**$660**	**$660**	**$660**	**$620**

MEMBER VOICES



Becky

Favorite CEL Activity:
"One of my favorite CEL activities is going to the movies because we watch a lot of Disney movies, and I love those!"



Sebastian

Favorite CEL Activity:
"My favorite thing to do at CEL is hang out with friends and staff. I like to give everyone high-fives every day. I also like to play games at CEL."



GET INVOLVED

OUR COMMUNITY HELPS CEL MEMBERS THRIVE!

How do you want to make a difference in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities?

There are so many ways to connect with our community:

- **Volunteer with CEL**
- **Partner with Us**
- **Join Our Board of Directors or a Committee**
- **Employ CEL Members**
- **Become a CEL Member**
- **Join the CEL Team**

Scan to learn more

PROGRAMS JUST FOR



AFTERNOON HANGOUT

Join your friends for an afternoon of fun! After school, head over to CEL for games, crafts, and more. Afternoons are a blast at CEL, and a snack will be provided each afternoon.

Bridge Option: Available for members coming directly from REACH or Catalyst Day Program. As a reminder, while REACH and Catalyst Day Program members have the option to extend their day by participating in Afternoon Hangouts or other Social & Recreation programs, these are separate programs offered through CEL's Social & Recreation Department. Members interested in participating must register separately.

SELECT THE DAYS YOU WANT TO COME HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS:

Mondays, 1/4-5/17 *(17 weeks; no program 1/18, 3/22, & 5/3)*	**Tuesdays,** 1/5-5/18 *(19 weeks; no program 3/23)*	**Wednesdays,** 1/6-5/19 *(19 weeks; no program 3/24)*	**Thursdays,** 1/7-5/20 *(19 weeks; no program 3/25)*	**Fridays,** 1/8-5/21 *(18 weeks; no program 2/12, & 3/26)*
3:30pm - 5:30 pm	3:30pm - 5:30pm	3:30pm - 5:30pm	3:30pm - 5:30pm	3:30pm - 5:30pm
$630	**$710**	**$710**	**$710**	**$670**

SATURDAY COMMUNITY EXPLORERS

Spend your Saturdays having fun with friends while exploring a new and exciting place in the community each week!

A weekly schedule will be sent outlining the details for the day.



DATE/TIME

1/19-5/22 (19 weeks; no program 3/27)
10:00am - 3:00pm

FEE

$1,660

TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS

(AGES 13-22)





TEEN/YOUNG ADULT EVENTS	DATE/TIME	FEE
Indoor Camping: Don't let winter weather stop you from having fun! Build a fort, make outdoors-inspired crafts, and roast marshmallows for a cozy cabin vibe with your friends!	**Saturday, 1/16** 5pm - 8pm	**$60**
Friendship & Fun: CELebrate Valentine's Day with your friends! Join us for heart-themed crafts, music & karaoke, cookie-decorating, a photo booth, and more.	**Saturday, 2/20** 5pm - 8pm	**$60**
Music & Movies: Enjoy a fun media night of music and movies with your friends! We will vote on our movie of choice, watch it, and finish the night off with a dance party!	**Saturday, 3/20** 5pm - 8pm	**$60**
Pizza Party: Challenge friends in party games and pizza trivia, while we make some DIY pizzas! We'll vote for "Best Slice" and crown the night's Pizza Pie Champion!	**Saturday, 4/17** 5pm - 8pm	**$70**
Countdown to Camp! Get ready for Summer Camp 2027 with a night of fun with camp friends! Share your ideas and get a sneak peek of what's in store!	**Saturday, 5/15** 5pm - 8pm	**$60**





SUMMER CAMP!



Camp booklet with more details will be available in mid-January

June 7- August 6
10 weeks

Scan For More Info

TEEN/YOUNG ADULT EXCURSIONS

(AGES 13-22)



EVENTS

Painted Penguin: Enjoy a colorful night of painting fun with your friends! Pick out your favorite ceramic figure and get to painting! Finish the night off with a yummy dinner at Portillos.

DATE/TIME	FEE
Saturday, 2/27 3:30pm - 8:00pm	**$130**

Laser Tag & Arcade: Join us for an exciting day at Action Territory where you will play a heated game of laser tag with your friends followed by some fun-filled time at the arcade! Lunch will be provided.

Saturday, 4/10 11:00am - 4:00pm	**$150**

NOW RECRUITING SUMMER STAFF!

It takes a full team of wonderful people to continue providing a place where people with developmental disabilities are welcomed and celebrated. Learn more about joining CEL as a seasonal staff member!



Volunteer, Intern, or Work for CEL

Scan Me

SUNDAY EVENTS (AGES 18+)

All Events Take Place at CEL

EVENTS	DATE/TIME	FEE
New Years Bash: Wanna make some noise? Ring in 2027 with friends and welcome a year of fun ahead at CEL! Make your own party favors and resolution tree, sip some 'bubbly,' and share stories from the past year and hopes for 2027.	**Sunday, 1/3** 5pm - 8pm	**$60**
Murder Mystery Party! (Ages 22+): Put on your detective hat and step into character at CEL's whodunit night! A mystery-themed dinner will be served as you mingle, gather clues, and work as a team to crack the case. Character cards with your role and backstory will be sent two weeks prior (costumes highly encouraged!).	**Sunday, 1/17** 5pm - 8pm	**$60**
Mardi Gras CELebration: "Laissez les bons temps rouler" – let the good times roll as we transform the CEL lounge into a jazzy New Orleans party. Explore the traditions, food, and music of this world-wide celebration!	**Sunday, 2/7** 5pm - 8pm	**$60**
Super Bowl Viewing Party: Join fellow football fans for a watch party as we tune in to the live broadcast of the Super Bowl, taking place at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, CA! Enjoy traditional football favorites, such as classic Super Bowl foods, fun games throughout the night, and, of course, the iconic commercials.	**Sunday, 2/14** 5pm - TBD (approx. 9:00pm)	**$60**



St. Patrick's Day CELebration: Calling all leprechauns! Are you ready for some mischief and fun as we celebrate all things Irish? Search for golden coins, play rainbow bingo, and enjoy soda bread and Irish cream. Erin go bragh!

Sunday, 3/14
5pm - 8pm

$50

SUNDAY EVENTS (AGES 18+)

All Events Take Place at CEL





EVENTS	DATE/TIME	FEE
Paint & Sip (Ages 21+): Unwind with friends at CEL as you create a step-by-step canvas painting. A glass of wine (or a mocktail alternative) and a light dinner will be served. Take home your masterpiece at the end! Those drinking alcohol will need to sign a waiver.	**Sunday, 4/18** 5pm - 8pm	**$65**
Cinco de Mayo: Celebrate Mexican traditions, culture, and food! Watch and try out lively dance steps, sample delicious foods and beverages and enjoy a friendly game of Loteria!	**Sunday, 5/2** 5pm - 8pm	**$50**
Welcome Summer Cookout: What better way to kick off the summer than with a cookout? Come party with your friends, play outdoor games, make some summery crafts, and of course enjoy some delicious hot dogs and burgers!	**Sunday, 5/16** 5pm - 8pm	**$50**

ADULT EXCURSIONS (AGES 18+)

Pick up/Drop off at CEL for all excursions.

EXCURSION	DATE/TIME	FEE
Laser Tag & Donuts: Ready, set, tag! Join us for an action-packed day to a local laser tag arena, then celebrate with a sweet donut treat. No experience needed. Donuts and beverages included.	**Sunday, 1/10** 1pm - 4pm	**$90**
Escape Room! Crack codes, find clues, and beat the clock as a team! We'll choose a beginner-friendly, low-scare room. Staff will teach puzzle tips and support communication throughout. No experience required, just curiosity!	**Sunday, 1/24** 1pm - 4:30pm	**$130**
Dinner & a Movie! It's showtime! Enjoy dinner with your friends at your choice of restaurant followed by a night at the movie theatre! Will it be a hot new release, or an iconic classic? *Pickup time is approximate and may vary depending on movie showtime.*	**Sunday, 1/31** 4:30pm - 10pm	**$150**
Game Show Battle Room: Buzzers, bragging rights, and big laughs! Step onto the "set" for rapid-fire trivia, survey showdowns, charades-style clues, and wild challenge rounds. We'll squad up, rotate players so everyone shines, and crown champions by the end! Dinner included!	**Sunday, 2/21** 3pm - 8pm	**$140** **$**

Great Wolf Lodge: Grab your swimsuits, flippers, and more as we dive into an evening of splash-tastic fun! Enjoy the many tube slides, water fort tree house, or cruise on down the lazy river. There's something for everyone! Dinner will be provided. Swim waiver must be signed prior to excursion.
Sunday, 2/28 4pm - 9pm **$180**

PLEASE NOTE:
Many venues have gone 'cashless' and accept only debit or credit cards for payment. CEL will do its best to obtain this info prior to an excursion and communicate that information to members.



ADULT EXCURSIONS (AGES 18+)

Pick up/Drop off at CEL for all excursions.

EXCURSION	DATE/TIME	FEE
Round1 (Age 22+): Ready for nonstop fun? We're heading to Round One for the perfect mix of bowling and arcade time! We'll split into groups and rotate through activities. Bring extra money for snacks or additional arcade games.	**Sunday, 3/7** 12pm - 4:30pm	**$130** $
Illinois Railway Museum: Join us for a ride through history at the country's biggest rail museum! Learn about historic railway equipment, go inside authentic historic vehicles, and of course, take a ride on a train! IRM is an outdoor museum so when planning your visit please dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. Snack included!	**Sunday, 4/11** 1pm - 6:30pm	**$110** 👣👣👣
Spring Bloom @ Morton Arboretum: The rain and sun have begun to work their magic, come see what's in bloom! Explore the gardens, trees, and flowers at Morton Arboretum and be greeted by the abundance of colors and fresh scents of Spring! Snacks included!	**Sunday, 4/25** 1pm - 6pm	**$100** 👣👣👣

Volo Museum: From iconic Hollywood vehicles to military history, this place has it all! Immerse yourself in a huge variety of interactive attractions and spend the day learning and exploring new things!
Snack included!

Sunday, 5/9
1pm - 6pm

$130
$ 👣👣👣



👣 some walking
👣👣 moderate walking
👣👣👣 lots of walking
$ bring extra money



Weekend Getaway - Wisconsin Dells!

Adult Overnight Trip

Get ready for a fun filled get away to Wisconsin Dells. Join us as we explore this exciting destination filled with water slides, arcades, delicious food, and shopping. This trip is a great opportunity to hangout with friends and enjoy a little adventure. Pack your bags and get ready for a memorable trip! *Families must complete all required waivers prior to participation.*

Who: *Ages 22+*

When:
Wednesday 1/27 9am to Saturday 1/30, 6pm

Fee: *$1,610*

2027 VIRTUAL PROGRAMS!



BRINGING THE CEL EXPERIENCE TO YOU!

We can't wait to laugh and learn with you as we discuss your favorite topics and get our game on!

REGISTRATION IS CHANGING!

Codes will be sent by 12/18/2026.

PROGRAM	DATE	TIME	FEE
Sports Chat: Talk about current sports news and share updates about your favorite teams!	**Sundays, 1/3-5/16** (18 weeks - No virtual on 3/21 & 3/28)	10am - 10:45am	$230
Bingo Baby! Get ready to win! Diagonal, letter or cover all in one of our very favorite activities!	**Tuesdays, 1/5-5/18** (19 weeks - No virtual on 3/23)	5:15pm - 6:15pm	$240
Interactive Games: A program packed with trivia, team challenges, fun games, and friendly competition.	**Thursdays, 1/7-5/20** (19 weeks - No virtual on 3/25)	6pm - 6:45pm	$240

ZOOM GUIDELINES

We will review the following guidelines with everyone during the first week of virtual programs. Our priority is to keep our programs safe for all participants. We may also use closed captioning and the mute feature.

- **Arrive ON TIME.**
- **Find a QUIET SPACE** to minimize background noise.
- **Be sure you have a strong internet connection.**
- **CEL rules still apply!** If you wouldn't say it at CEL, don't say it in the zoom programs.
- **Video must be on.**
- **Mute yourself as needed.** The host will mute you if background noise is interfering.
- **Share your ideas** and be open to learning something new!
- **Don't take photos.** To ensure everyone's privacy, please don't take pictures during zoom programs.

IMPORTANT PAYMENT UPDATE FOR SOCIAL & RECREATION PROGRAMS

INTRODUCING FLUIDPAY: CEL'S NEW PAYMENT PLATFORM

CEL has transitioned to a new invoicing system called FluidPay! With this new system, **CEL no longer keeps credit cards on file or automatically charges families for program fees for Social & Recreation Programming.** Instead, the primary contact responsible for payment will receive an invoice by email and text once Member Services confirms the member's registration.

How does it work?

1. **Register for programs:**
   Complete registration for your selected programs.
2. **Receive your invoice:**
   Once your registration is confirmed, your invoice will be sent to the primary contact responsible for payment via email and text.
3. **Choose how to pay:**
   Pay your invoice securely online through FluidPay or submit payment by check to CEL.

Prefer to pay a little at a time? You can!

Payment in full at the time of registration is preferred, but you do not have to pay your entire invoice all at once. You may make installment payments toward your balance before the payment deadline. Please note that your balance must be paid in full before the next program session begins in order to register for the upcoming session.

Please note: Families are responsible for submitting payments; CEL will no longer automatically charge a card on file. Be sure to check your email and text messages for your invoice and payment reminders.

Thank you for your patience as we transition to this new system!
We appreciate your support and understanding as we continue improving CEL's registration and payment processes.

REACH ADULT DAY PROGRAM
(AGES 18+)



The REACH Adult Day Program provides community-based opportunities and activities for continued learning and growth for adults who have finished high school.

Monday through Friday, REACH members have the option to choose from a variety of activities based on personal interest and individualized goals. CEL members participate in planning monthly activities, which are geared towards enhancing their mind, body, and sense of self.

REACH PERSONAL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE DESIGNED TO FOLLOW OUR CORE PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS:

LEARN MORE ABOUT REACH:

DETAILS ON THE PROGRAM AND HOW TO JOIN THE WAIT LIST.

Scan Me

- **Recreation & Relationships**
- **Education & Culture**
- **Arts & Music**
- **Community & Contribution**
- **Health & Wellness**

CATALYST ADULT DAY PROGRAM
(AGES 18+)



This The Catalyst Adult Day Program focuses on increasing confidence, life skills competency, and efficiency through instruction and practice of new skills, development of previously learned skills, and modifying daily environments that may impact independence. Catalyst members will learn and practice skills to facilitate skill translation to everyday life.

Catalyst participants will be best suited to the program if they have a willingness to learn and engage in both individual and group activities, and can commit to a minimum of 6 months of Catalyst sessions. Minimal bathroom support, open communication and ongoing practice with their guardian/ parent/family at home, an awareness of physical safety while performing tasks, and openness to assessments are additional criteria for a member to experience success in this program in its initial phase.

Learn more about Catalyst:
Scan the QR code for full program details, Q&A, and eligibility criteria.

Building independence, one skill at a time.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM
(AGES 18+)

The Employment Opportunities Program empowers individuals to reach their full potential by providing comprehensive support throughout their entire employment journey. From pre-employment services like career exploration and job search assistance to ongoing post-placement support, we are committed to helping you succeed at every stage of your career.

In partnership with the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), we proudly offer free job placement services through Supported Employment Programs and Milestone contracts. We also provide services through a private pay option, ensuring flexible access to support tailored to your needs.

Collaborate with CEL staff to explore employment, volunteer, and career opportunities that align with your unique skills, interests, and goals. Our Employment Specialists guide you through the entire job search process - including resume building, interview preparation, skill development, and long-term job retention strategies.



Employment services are offered in packages
(Fees vary; please visit our website for full details.)

- Career Exploration
- Career Development and Work Readiness Planning
- Transition to Employment
- Job Retention Support

Earn a competitive wage, grow your social network, and build a sense of accomplishment while developing skills that will help you achieve your employment goals!

Scan to learn more

Contact Outreach@ExperienceCEL.org today to learn more about the employment process.

CEL'S THE NORA PROJECT

Building Inclusive Communities

CEL's The Nora Project helps schools strengthen disability understanding, build belonging, and create more inclusive communities through educator professional learning and student curricula starting as early as Pre-K.



STUDENT CURRICULA

Available for Pre-K through High School

Our disability-studies informed social emotional learning curricula teach empathy, inclusion, and disability as a natural part of human diversity. Flexible units support classroom lessons, advisory, and schoolwide inclusion efforts.



PARENT, CAREGIVER & COMMUNITY LEARNING

Suitable for any adult seeking to support inclusive spaces

We offer learning experiences that give parents, caregivers, and community members practical strategies for helping children understand disability, build inclusive friendships, and include others in everyday life.



EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

For educators and administrators Pre-K through High School

Our live virtual sessions and self-paced modules equip educators with practical strategies for strengthening inclusive classroom practices, disability understanding, and meaningful student participation. Options support staff development, paraeducator training, and schoolwide inclusion goals.

CEL'S THE NORA PROJECT

Building Inclusive Communities



FREE CURRICULUM & MUSIC: Share with an Educator!

Celebrate What Makes You Magnificent

GRAMMY-nominated artist Lachi's Magnificent is a new joyful dance-pop album celebrating disability, difference, and belonging through music the whole family can enjoy.

Created by CEL's The Nora Project, the FREE companion curriculum brings these themes to life through music, movement, storytelling, and reflection. Its 11 song-based lessons are designed for grades K–5 and can be used in classrooms, camps, and community programs.

Listen to the album and download the curriculum at ExperienceCEL.org/Lachi.

Parent & Caregiver Learning Spotlight

Raising Kids Who Include



This 60-minute live virtual session offers parents, caregivers, and other adults who support children practical strategies for helping kids develop the beliefs and skills needed to meaningfully include and be included.

Bring a session to your school, parent group, or community organization. Contact Bobby to explore options for your group.

Explore programming for your school or community.
Contact Bobby@ExperienceCEL.org or scan the QR code
ExperienceCEL.org/Education

Scan to learn more

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Membership & Registration

- Registration Requests can be completed by visiting: ExperienceCEL.org/register
- Members must have been registered in the last program year or have a current Member Information Form (within two years) to prevent a lapse of membership.
- Current Members can complete a registration request by visiting ExperienceCEL.org/Register. New members must complete the New Member Orientation before participating.
- New or Lapsed members must set an appointment with the Community Engagement team before attending programs. See below for contact information.
- For registration questions, contact Maria@ExperienceCEL.org.

Program Fees & Financial Assistance

- **Payment:** Full payment is required at the time of registration unless payment plans are specified. Accepted payment methods include:
  - Cash, check, money order
  - VISA, Mastercard, Discover, American Express - Credit card payments require completing the designated section on the registration form.
- **Outstanding Balances:** Any past-due fees must be paid before registering for new programs.
- **Financial Assistance:** Limited awards are available based on financial need and fund availability.
  - Financial assistance applies to one weekly program per session only. It does not apply to dances, one-time events, or excursions.
  - Does not guarantee future assistance.
  - To apply, check the financial assistance box on the registration form and submit all required documentation.
  - Contact Becky@ExperienceCEL.org for details.

Cancellation Policy

- **Weekly Programs**: Cancellations before the start date may incur a $50 service fee.
- **Special Events & Excursions:**
  - Cancellations must be made at least two weeks in advance for a refund or credit.
  - If an excursion includes purchased tickets, the ticket cost will only be refunded if another member takes the spot.
  - If CEL or the venue cancels an excursion, alternatives may be offered.
- **Medical Cancellations:**
  - Prolonged illness, hospitalization, or extended medical issues may qualify for prorated credit consideration. Requests must be submitted in writing with supporting medical documentation. CEL will review each request on a case-by-case basis.
  - Members unable to participate due to a medical condition must provide a doctor's note for case-by-case evaluation.
- **Moving:** Members who move out of the area are eligible for a refund after address confirmation.
- **Refunds/Credits:** Funds will be returned in the form of future credits, and any request for refunds will be reviewed case-by-case.

Program Participation & Attendance

- **Excursion Participation:** Members must attend an on-site program before joining community-based excursions.
- **Wellness Policy:** Members should not attend programs if experiencing:
  - Sore/Strep throat, flu, or fever
  - Coughing, runny nose, or cold symptoms
  - Contagious rashes, lice, or eye infections
  - General illness that prevents full participation
- Members may return once symptoms have passed or with a doctor's recommendation.
- To ensure continuity of care, CEL requests notification of any injuries, new medical conditions, or surgical procedures. A 'return to normal activities' note may be required. Contact info@ExperienceCEL.org for more details.
- **Early Arrival:** Members should arrive **no earlier than 10 minutes** before a program unless prearranged. Repeated early arrivals may result in restricted building access or incur a fee.
- **Transportation:** Limited transportation may be available. Contact the Community Engagement team for options.
  - **Late Pick-ups:** Families, caregivers, or agency staff must be on time.
  - Members whose ride is late three (3) times per session may have their membership suspended.
  - Late fees will apply, and families/agencies will be billed accordingly.

General Policies & Additional Information

- **Program Fee Adjustments:** CEL reviews program fees periodically. Any necessary changes will be communicated in advance. Current fees are in effect through May 2027.
- **Lost or Stolen Property:** CEL is not responsible for personal belongings brought to programs.
- **Registration Requests:**
  - Complete Registration Requests online: ExperienceCEL.org/register
  - Drop Off: CEL business hours Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Inclement Weather & Cancellations:**
  - CEL may cancel programs or switch to a virtual format due to extreme weather, including, but not limited to:
    - Heat index over 100°F
    - Tornado warnings
    - Icy roads, snowstorms, or extreme wind chill
  - If a cancellation occurs, members will be notified before the program start time.

Program Guide Errors: *Our staff have made every effort to prepare this program guide as accurately as possible; however, errors can occur. Circumstances may require that adjustments be made to programs, fees, schedules, etc. The Center for Enriched Living reserves the right to make any such adjustments. We apologize for any inconvenience these errors or adjustments may cause. CEL has no control over venues cancelling or rescheduling events. Should this occur, CEL will attempt to offer a comparable activity.*

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!



Scan Me!







Want to register another way?
Please contact our Community Engagement Team for help: Outreach@ExperienceCEL.org or visit ExperienceCEL.org/Register

Financial Aid & Monthly Payment Options are Available.
See page 32 for more information.

REGISTRATION FORM



GET READY TO MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE!

This March, we're coming together to raise funds that create more opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Look What We Did Last Year!

$400,000+ RAISED

During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM), our World of Difference crowdfunding campaign returns!

It's a chance for our community to rally together, raise funds, and support opportunities that help CEL members build friendships, explore interests, grow their independence, and belong in their communities.

We couldn't have done it without our Difference Makers, families, friends, supporters, and matching sponsors. Thank you for being part of what makes this possible!

Interested in Becoming a Difference Maker? Stay Tuned! Here's What's Ahead.

FEBRUARY | Pick Your Team!

Choose your team and get ready to rally your community.

MARCH | Campaign Goes Live!

Join the World of Difference crowdfunding campaign and help support opportunities for CEL members.

BINGO CELEBRATION

Let's CELebrate!

We'll wrap up the campaign by coming together for a fun-filled celebration of our community and all we've accomplished together.

FAQs

CEL sounds like a wonderful experience – how do I get started?

New members must contact a Community Engagement Coordinator to schedule a New Member Orientation and begin the membership process. Membership information should be completed in full and necessary documents provided to complete registration; The Community Engagement Coordinator will be the point of contact during this process. Please note that participation in an onsite program at CEL must occur prior to new members attending community excursions. Speak with a member of the Community Engagement team to set up an appointment: Maria Stamatis, Community Engagement Coordinator, at Maria@ExperienceCEL.org or 847.582.0076.

Can additional supports be provided?

We recognize that some members may require additional assistance to have a meaningful, safe, and successful experience. The program team will assess needs during the new member process to ensure necessary supports are in place, especially for community-based activities. Our primary responsibility is the safety and security of all members, staff, volunteers, and community partners.

When are program fees due?

Payment in full is preferred at the time of registration. Parents and guardians responsible for their member's program fees may choose to make installment payments toward their invoice. In order to keep your account current, any balances are due in full prior to an event, excursion or recurring program. Please note that programs not meeting minimum enrollment may be subject to cancellation.

Are there any discounted rates or coupons for programs?

CEL is proud to offer financial assistance for eligible members. To request the required forms, please contact a member of our Community Engagement team at Outreach@ExperienceCEL.org for more information.

What is your credit and refund policy?

- A cancellation that occurs prior to the start of a weekly program will incur a service fee of $50 that will offset the refund. No refunds will be given after the first day of the weekly program.
- For special events and excursions, cancellations must be made 2 weeks prior to be eligible for a credit or refund. If tickets have been purchased for an excursion, the cost of tickets will not be reimbursed unless the spot is taken by another member. If an excursion is canceled by the venue or CEL, the program team will offer alternatives depending on the type of excursion and reason for cancellation. CEL has little control over venues that may cancel events.
- If a medical condition prevents a member from participating in a program, a doctor's note is required and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for credit or refund.
- Members who move out of the area will be eligible for a refund once the address change is confirmed

What if I require a dietary consideration for a program or event?

We strive to accommodate the needs of our members and will do our best to meet requests. In some cases, particularly meals that are planned for a group event or those in the community, it may be difficult to ensure special menu choices. When snacks are offered during programs, members must bring their own gluten-free or dairy-free items as an alternative.

More Questions?

Call us at 847.948.7001 or email Info@ExperienceCEL.org

Experience Life's Possibilities
Programs & Services for People
with Developmental Disabilities

Center for Enriched Living
280 Saunders Road
Riverwoods, IL 60015-3835

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CAROL STREAM, IL
PERMIT #1167

Follow us on: @CELfriends @CELfriends @CELfriends @CELfriends



Fun awaits you on weekend events and excursions. Check out more information on page 20.