



Fall Guide

Experience Life's Possibilities

2026



Programs & Services for People with Developmental Disabilities

Harvest Dance 2026
Pg 14

Artful Evening
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Disney Vacation
Pg 24

Our Vision

People with developmental disabilities are empowered to realize their greatest potential, thrive within the community, and achieve their hopes and dreams.

Our Mission

Enriching the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities by maximizing their opportunities for personal success, fun & friendship, employment, and community involvement.





Follow us on
Social Media
@CELfriends

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

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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

We are excited to offer a variety of new and returning programs, including Sunday Fun Day, Monday Night Sweet Treats, Living Your Best Life!, and Dating 101.



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 Fall guide, please reach out to us. We'd love to hear from you!
Info@ExperienceCEL.org

FALL PROGRAMS



SUNDAY FUN DAY

(AGES 18+)



Spend the day making memories, trying new things, and having fun with friends! Each week, we'll celebrate the seasons with exciting activities, fun holiday traditions from around the world, tasty seasonal treats, and creative arts and crafts. Come explore, learn, laugh, and CELebrate every season together!

Sunday Fun Day is now a full-day program and runs as a separate program from Sunday Explorers during the same hours.

When: 8/30-12/13 (14 weeks; no program 9/6 & 11/22)

Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm

Fee: \$940

Program Supervisor: Maribel Espinoza
(Maribel@ExperienceCEL.org)

SUNDAY EXPLORERS

(AGES 22+)



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 and at the same time as Sunday Fun Day.

When: 8/30-12/13 (14 weeks; no program 9/6 & 11/22)

Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm

Fee: \$1,030

Program Supervisor: Maribel Espinoza
(Maribel@ExperienceCEL.org)

MONDAY NIGHT BOWLING

(AGES 18+)



Lace up your bowling shoes and get ready to roll! Monday Night Bowling is all about fun, friendship, and hitting the lanes together. Whether you are aiming for a perfect strike or just want to enjoy a great night out with friends, everyone is welcome. We'll cheer each other on every week, and celebrate our final night with an awesome pizza party!

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

When: 8/31-12/14 (13 weeks; no program 9/7, 9/21, 11/23)

Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Fee: \$480

Program Supervisor: Andy Harris-Krulewich
(Andy@ExperienceCEL.org)

MONDAY NIGHT SWEET TREATS

(AGES 18+)



IT'S
BACK!

Are you a sweet tooth enthusiast? Join us and learn how to make a variety of different desserts. Each week, we will focus on the preparation of each treat. Recipes may include cookies, cakes, no-bake treats, or even 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: 8/31-12/14 (13 weeks; no program 9/7, 9/21, 11/23)

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Fee: \$450

Program Supervisor: Maribel Espinoza
(Maribel@ExperienceCEL.org)

**IT'S
BACK!**



ANIME CLUB!

(AGES 13+)

Join fellow anime fans to watch, discuss, and celebrate your favorite shows! Whether you're into classic series or the latest releases, Anime Club is the perfect place to connect, share recommendations, and geek out over everything from plot twists to cosplay. All levels of fandom welcome!

When: 9/14, 10/19, 11/16, 12/7

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Fee: \$150

Program Manager: Veronica Luna
Veronica@ExperienceCEL.org

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: 9/1-12/15 (15 weeks; no program 11/24)

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Fee: \$560

Program Supervisor: Maribel Espinoza
Maribel@ExperienceCEL.org



Illinois
ARTS
Council

CEL acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SAMPLER

(AGES 18+)



Spend the evening doing what you love at CEL! Explore different activities, discover new interests, and enjoy favorites like cooking, music, arts & crafts, and games in a welcoming and fun-filled environment. Every activity is designed to bring fun, creativity, and connection!

Activities rotate every other week.

When: 9/2-12/16 (15 weeks; no program 11/25)

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Fee: \$680

Program Supervisor: Maribel Espinoza
(Maribel@ExperienceCEL.org)



THURSDAY GUYS NIGHT

(AGES 18+)



Join your buddies for all kinds of awesome activities! Will it be sports talk, game night, going to a local bar or shooting hoops? The choice is yours! Finish off the session by joining the Ladies Night crew for a Holiday Mixer!

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

When: 7 weeks; 9/3, 9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 10/29, 11/12 MIXER: 12/3

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Fee: \$280

Program Supervisor: Martina Platero
(Martina@ExperienceCEL.org)

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 or go out with your friends for a sweet treat. Finish off the session by joining Guys Night for a Holiday Mixer!

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

When: 7 weeks; 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/19, MIXER: 12/3

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Fee: \$280

Program Supervisor: Martina Platero
(Martina@ExperienceCEL.org)

DATING 101

(AGES 18+)



Looking to build confidence and learn more about dating? Join Dating 101 for conversations about friendships, communication, boundaries, and dating tips in a welcoming and supportive space! All led by a social worker. We will build confidence through fun activities, role-playing, and real-life scenarios.

This program runs as a separate program and at the same time as Guys Night & Bingo.

When: 6 weeks; 9/3, 9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 10/29, 11/12

Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Fee: \$240

Program Supervisor: Andy Harris-Krulewich
(Andy@ExperienceCEL.org)



LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE!

(AGES 18+)



Build confidence and independence! We'll practice everyday skills like cooking, communication, problem-solving, and more in a fun and supportive environment. Classes taught by a social worker.

This program runs as a separate program and at the same time as Ladies Night & Bingo.

When: 6 weeks; 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/19

Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Fee: \$240

Program Supervisor: Andy Harris-Krulewich
(Andy@ExperienceCEL.org)

BINGO BABY!

(AGES 18+)



It's time for BINGO BABY! Join us for BINGO Night where you can earn prizes and hangout with friends!

This program runs as a separate program and at the same time as Ladies Night & Guys Night.

When: 9/3-12/3 (13 weeks; no program 11/26)

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Fee: \$500

Program Supervisor: Hope Wilkett
(Hope@ExperienceCEL.org)

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC

(AGES 18+)



Want to have some end-of-the-week fun with your friends? Join us for various activities like karaoke, art and making a snack. Each week will have a different theme like Disney, the 80's, The Beatles, and many more! Let's make some amazing memories and have a blast at CEL on Friday nights!

When: 9/4-12/18

(14 weeks; no program 10/30, 11/27)

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Fee: \$480

Program Supervisor: Martina Platero
(Martina@ExperienceCEL.org)

SATURDAY HANGOUT

(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!

When: 9/5-12/19 (15 weeks; no program 11/28)

Time: 10:00am - 3:00pm

Fee: \$990

Program Supervisor: Hope Wilkett
(Hope@ExperienceCEL.org)

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.

When: 9/5-12/19 (15 weeks; no program 11/28)

Time: 10:00am - 3:00pm

Fee: \$1,110

Program Supervisor: Hope Wilkett
(Hope@ExperienceCEL.org)

AFTERNOON SOCIAL CLUB

(AGES 23+)

**NEW
PROGRAM
FOR
ADULTS!**



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

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 8/31-12/14 (13 weeks; no program 9/7, 9/21, 11/23)	Tuesdays 9/1-12/15 (14 weeks; no program 11/10, 11/24)	Wednesdays 9/2-12/16 (15 weeks; no program 11/25)	Thursdays 9/3-12/17 (14 weeks; no program 11/26, 12/10)	Fridays 9/4-12/18 (14 weeks; no program 10/30, 11/27)
3:00pm - 5:30pm	3:00pm - 5:30pm	3:00pm - 5:30pm	3:00pm - 5:30pm	3:00pm - 5:30pm
\$520	\$560	\$600	\$560	\$560
Supervisor: Maribel	Supervisor: Hope	Supervisor: Hope	Supervisor: Hope	Supervisor: Martina



**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:**

10/16
(or until dance
reaches capacity)



Who: Ages 18+

When: Friday, 10/30

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Fee: \$40

HARVEST DANCE



Dance fills up quickly so register NOW to secure your spot!

Congratulations, CEL Artists!

Alex R.	Elizabeth D.	Jon R.	Sarah Q.
Becky B.	Emily U.	Lilla F.	Sari S.
Betsy S.	Evan H.	Liz Y.	Sofia B.
Brandon R.	Evan H.	Maureen C.	Steve B.
Casey M.	Greg B.	Mayra A.	Steven E.
Carl K.		Mikayla H.	Ty
Catherine M.		Mike G.	
Dora L.		Mitch K.	
David H.		Nicole K.	
Ed S.		Paul C.	
Ellen S.		Phillip M.	
		Rouya B.	



Open
to the
Public!

ARTFUL EVENING

AN EVENT TO SHOWCASE CEL ARTISTS.

TUESDAY, 11/10 5-7PM

Join us in CELEbrating the talents of our members as we display their creative expressions throughout CEL. Enjoy a beverage as you stroll through CEL's art filled gallery. Art pieces will be available for purchase. Stay tuned for more details!



(AGES 13-22)

PROGRAMS JUST FOR



Looking for something fun to do after school?

Come hang out at CEL! Whether you're into games, crafts, or making tasty snacks, there's something for everyone. Bring your friends, pick the days that work for you, and make each afternoon your own kind of fun.



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.

Events Supervisor:

Martina Platero (Martina@ExperienceCEL.org)

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

Mondays 8/31-12/14 (13 weeks; no program 9/7, 9/21, 11/23)	Tuesdays 9/1 -12/15 (14 weeks; no program 11/10, 11/24)	Wednesdays 9/2-12/16 (15 weeks; no program 11/25)	Thursdays 9/3-12/17 (14 weeks; no program 11/26, 12/10)	Fridays 9/4-12/18 (14 weeks; 10/30, 11/27)
3:30pm - 5:30pm	3:30pm - 5:30pm	3:30pm - 5:30pm	3:30pm - 5:30pm	3:30pm - 5:30pm
\$550	\$590	\$630	\$590	\$590
Supervisor: Maribel	Supervisor: Hope	Supervisor: Hope	Supervisor: Hope	Supervisor: Hope

TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS



TEEN & YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS, EXCURSIONS & EVENTS

SATURDAY COMMUNITY EXPLORERS

Join your friends for a fun-filled Saturday!
Each week, venture out to discover a
different exciting place in the community.
A weekly schedule will be sent outlining
the details for the day.

Program Supervisor:

Hope Wilkett (Hope@ExperienceCEL.org)

DATE/TIME

9/5-12/19 (15 weeks; no program 11/28)
10:00am - 3:00pm

FEE \$1,320

TEEN/YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

(AGES 13-22) **Supervisor:** Martina Platero (Martina@ExperienceCEL.org)



TEEN/YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

DATE/TIME

FEE

Fall Camp Tales: Gather round the campfire to hear some spooky stories, roast marshmallows, build a fort, play games, and make a craft!

Saturday, 9/12
5pm - 8pm

\$60

Fall Fun Day! No school? No problem! Head over to CEL and spend the day with your buddies as we get ready for Halloween! Head out to find a pumpkin to decorate and then join in some ghastly and ghoulish fun with friends! Afternoon snack provided but please bring your lunch.

Monday, 10/12
9am - 5pm

\$130

Halloween Haunts: Decorate pumpkins, make spooktacular crafts, and have a yummy mummy treat. Don't forget to wear your costume!

Saturday, 10/31
5pm - 8pm

\$60

Turkey Time! Join all your friends for Friendsgiving fun! Create fall crafts, play some games, and enjoy a delicious Friendsgiving dinner!

Saturday, 11/21
5pm - 8pm

\$60

Holiday Hoopla: Head over to CEL for a night of fun that's sure to include all kinds of Holiday cheer! From music to dancing to crafting and treats, we are ready for you!

Saturday, 12/19
5pm - 8pm

\$60

TEEN/YOUNG ADULT EXCURSIONS

(AGES 13-22)

Supervisor: Martina Platero (Martina@ExperienceCEL.org)



Richardson's Adventure Farm: Get ready for a day of fall fun at Richardson Adventure Farm! Explore the famous corn maze, enjoy exciting attractions, and make unforgettable memories with friends. Price includes admission and dinner. Be sure to bring extra money for snacks, treats, and additional activities!

Saturday, 10/24 **\$150**
4:00pm-9:00pm

Willow Hill Lights Show: Stay warm and cozy on the bus as you ride through 2.5 miles of a de-light-ful holiday light show filled with festive cheer! On the way back, stop at Dunkin' Donuts for a late-night snack to end the evening on a sweet note.

Saturday, 12/5 **\$90**
5:30pm-8:30pm

HAVE YOU JOINED OUR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FACEBOOK GROUP YET?



CEL families have a dedicated space to connect with each other, share resources, discover learning opportunities, and stay connected with CEL. Our private Family Engagement Facebook Group provides a place for families to engage, collaborate, share feedback, and stay updated on important news and opportunities.

Scan the QR code to join our private Family Engagement Facebook Group today!

SUNDAY EVENTS (AGES 18+)

All Events Take Place at CEL



Adult Sunday Events Supervisor: Martina Platero (Martina@ExperienceCEL.org)

EVENTS

Art in Motion: Unleash your creativity at Art in Motion! We'll be making rage and emotion art, getting messy, and turning big feelings into awesome masterpieces. Dinner is included — just bring your imagination and get ready for colorful chaos!

DATE/TIME

Sunday, 8/30
4pm - 7pm

FEE

\$60

Games, Art & Wine Night! (Ages 22+): Join us for a cozy Games, Art & Wine Night at CEL! Enjoy fun games, creative art activities, and the chance to try different wines while spending time with friends. Dinner is included — come ready to laugh, create, sip, and unwind!

Sunday, 9/27
4pm - 7pm

\$60

Pumpkin Fest at CEL: Join us for a festive Pumpkin Fest filled with fall fun! Enjoy pumpkin carving, decorating, and tasty pumpkin treats. Whether you're getting creative or just here for the snacks, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

Sunday, 10/11
4pm - 7pm

\$60

Murder Mystery Supper: Ahoy, matey! A pirate-themed crime has rocked the ship... but WHO is the murderer?! Join us for a night of clues, suspects, treasure, and mystery at our Pirate Murder Mystery Supper. Dinner is included — come ready to crack the case on the high seas!

Sunday, 10/25
5pm - 8pm

\$60

SUNDAY EVENTS (AGES 18+)

All Events Take Place at CEL

EVENTS

Neon Nite! Glow all out at Neon Nite! Dance under the black lights, make neon crafts, and create glowing paintings with friends. Snacks will be provided! Wear bright colors and get ready for a night of glowing fun!

DATE/TIME

Sunday, 11/8
4pm - 7pm

FEE

\$60

Friendsgiving: In the season of gratefulness, we have so much for which to be thankful. Join your friends for an afternoon of sharing, crafting, and a traditional holiday meal with all the fixins!

Sunday, 11/29
4pm - 7pm

\$70

Holiday Dinner Dance: Let's get festive and CELebrate the Holidays with a lovely sit-down meal followed by holiday games, music, and caroling! Wear your finest holiday apparel to show off your spirit!

Sunday, 12/13
4pm - 8pm

\$90



ADULT EXCURSIONS (AGES 18+)

Pick up/Drop off at CEL for all excursions.

Supervisors will reach out the Friday before the excursion with additional information.



EXCURSION

Escape Room: Can you crack the clues and escape in time?! Team up with friends to solve puzzles, uncover secrets, and beat the clock in this exciting Escape Room adventure!

DATE/TIME

Sunday, 9/13
2pm - 6pm

FEE

\$120

Whirlyball: Get ready for fast-paced fun at WhirlyBall! Spin, score, and laugh with friends during an action-packed afternoon of WhirlyBall, then cool off with yummy milkshakes from Portillo's!

Sunday, 9/20
2pm - 6pm

\$120

Kroll's Farm: Enjoy a fun fall day at Kroll's Fall Harvest Farm! Sip on delicious apple cider, snack on warm apple cider donuts, explore the corn maze, and take a cozy hayride with friends. Snacks provided by CEL but bring extra money for any souvenirs to fun fall crafts, gifts, and treasures from Kroll's Fall Gift Tent.

Sunday, 10/4
1pm - 5pm

\$110

Adult Sunday Events Supervisor: Martina Platero (Martina@ExperienceCEL.org)

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.



some walking



moderate walking



lots of walking



bring extra money

ADULT EXCURSIONS (AGES 18+)

Pick up/Drop off at CEL for all excursions.

EVENT

Night of 1,000 Jack-o'-Lanterns: Step into a glowing Halloween wonderland at Night of 1,000 Jack-o'-Lanterns! Explore incredible pumpkin displays, spooky sights, and festive fall fun with friends. Dinner is included — come ready for a magical autumn night!

DATE/TIME

Sunday, 10/18
5pm - 10pm

FEE

\$140
!!!

Stade's Farm & Market: Get ready for fall fun at Stade's Farm & Market! Enjoy farm activities, autumn adventures, and festive memories with friends. Dinner is included — come ready for a fun-filled day on the farm!

Sunday, 11/1
1pm - 7pm

\$140
!!!

Hard Rock Casino (Age 22+): Try your luck and enjoy a fun night out at Hard Rock Casino! Explore the exciting casino atmosphere, take in the music vibes, and spend time with friends. Dinner is included. Get ready for a rockin' night!

Sunday, 11/15
1pm - 7pm

\$140
\$

Lincoln Park Zoolights: Experience the magic of the holidays at ZooLights at Lincoln Park Zoo! Walk through dazzling light displays, festive decorations, and holiday fun with friends. Dinner is included - bundle up for a glowing winter adventure!

Sunday, 12/6
3pm - 10pm
\$160

\$!!!





**Down payment of
\$2,150 due on
7/31/2026.**

Disneyland Park VACATION



CEL will be flying high to experience the magic of Disneyland in California, where classic Disney charm meets nonstop adventure! From iconic attractions and thrilling rides to dazzling parades, beloved characters, and unforgettable treats, every moment feels straight out of a storybook. We'll spend time exploring the parks and the city of Los Angeles!

**Age: 22+
When: 9/29, 9am -
10/3, 8pm
Fee: \$4,300**

**Families must complete all required waivers prior to participation.
For more information, contact Veronica Luna at Veronica@ExperienceCEL.org**

2026 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 8/24/2026.

PROGRAM	DATE	TIME	FEE
Sports Chat: Talk about current sports news and share updates of your favorite teams!	Sundays, 8/30-12/13 (17 weeks - No virtual on 9/6 & 11/22)	10am - 10:45am	\$180
Bingo Baby! Get ready to win! Diagonal, letter or cover all in one of our very favorite activities!	Tuesdays, 9/1-12/15 (18 weeks - No virtual on 11/24)	5:15pm - 6:15pm	\$190
Interactive Games: A program packed with trivia, team challenges, fun games, and friendly competition.	Thursdays, 9/3-12/3 (18 weeks - No virtual on 11/26)	6pm - 6:45pm	\$170

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.

MEMBER VOICES



Victoria

Favorite CEL Memory:

“Being in Catalyst and cooking spaghetti and meatballs. I’m learning how to be more independent.”

Favorite CEL Activity:

I like to play bingo, make arts and crafts, and explore the community.



Jason

Favorite CEL Memory:

“Getting on the bus and heading to the Chicago History Museum.”

Favorite CEL Activity:

I like different seasonal activities like visiting the Von Bergen Farm and swimming in the summer, and visiting different museums.

CELEBRATE WHAT MAKES YOU MAGNIFICENT

“Give me a challenge, I’ll take it and spin it”



GRAMMY-nominated artist Lachi just released *Magnificent*, a dance/pop album that celebrates neurodivergence and difference through bops that entire families can jam out to. The album was produced with GRAMMY-winning producers and features over 70 collaborators (including 50+ artists and songwriters with disabilities).

The songs are already a hit with CEL members! Paired with companion curricula from CEL’s The Nora Project, the music helps explore identity, inclusion, and the power of embracing what makes each of us unique.



Listen to the album, download the curricula, and join the fun at ExperienceCEL.org/Lachi

CEL'S THE NORA PROJECT

Available for use in Schools Nationwide



CEL's The Nora Project provides Disability Studies-informed, Social Emotional Learning supportive curricula for students PreK through high school and delivers robust Professional Learning for educators. Contact us to discuss how we can bring our educational programming to your classroom, school, or district!

In the 2024-25 school year, CEL's The Nora Project reached more than 1,875 students through disability studies-informed PreK-12 curricula and engaged 1,776 educators through professional learning experiences. Highlights from our impact include:

2x

Teachers reported that the number of students who understood the word disability and understood that disability is a form of diversity more than doubled.



Students reported their overall empathy increased, and the increase in cognitive empathy (understanding how a person feels) was statistically significant.

70%

More than 70% of students reported that they knew how to apply inclusive actions when engaging with their classmates, and teachers observed an increase in students including others in activities.



Teachers reported CEL's The Nora Project shapes their personal and professional beliefs as they work to build community in the classroom.



Learn more about CEL's The Nora Project:

Scan the QR code for details, or visit ExperienceCEL.org/education.
Contact Bobby to start a conversation: Bobby@ExperienceCEL.org

REACH ADULT DAY PROGRAM

(AGES 18+)



The REACH 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 NEW 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+)

Empowering 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.**



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**

We are always seeking volunteers and interns who are eager to engage regularly and foster meaningful connections with our members.

- **Partner with Us**

We are always on the lookout for corporate and community partners to join us in enriching the lives of our members and advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- **Join Our Board of Directors or a Committee**

CEL's Board of Directors is an active, engaged, and dynamic group of leaders who champion our mission to enrich the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. CEL also has a Young Leadership Committee (YLC) and other committees that provide opportunities to get involved and support our mission.

- **Employ CEL Members**

Our Employment Opportunities Program matches you with qualified candidates who are ready and willing to work.

- **Become a CEL Member**

Whether you're looking to make new friends, try out a new hobby, find a job, learn some new skills, or just have fun, we have something for everyone at CEL.

- **Join the CEL Team**

If you genuinely care about CEL's Mission, then we invite you to apply for open positions. We offer a comprehensive benefits package and generous PTO.



*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 Cassara@ExperienceCEL.org or 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 based on financial need and fund availability.
 - Applies only to full fees (not dances or other discounts).
 - 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 December 2026.
- **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!



REGISTRATION FORM

**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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Membership fees only cover 39% of the actual cost of the programs you love and rely on, making those experiences only possible through the support of CEL's donors. The kindness and generosity of our supporters make it possible for CEL to provide committed and caring staff members, program tools and materials, safe transportation, and our beautiful and welcoming Universal Design building.

Donations also fund financial aid, because we never want our members and their families to bear the full cost, and finances should not be a barrier to a life full of wonderful experiences.

If you have the means, please consider supporting our programs and help keep our programs affordable for all.

**TO
LEARN MORE
OR DONATE:**



*Scan
Me*

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: Cassara May, Community Engagement Supervisor, at Cassara@ExperienceCEL.org or 847.582.0074, or 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 is preferred in full at the time of registration. Payment plans can be arranged with a credit card on file. 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
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Riverwoods, IL 60015-3835

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WE'RE HIRING! JOIN TEAM CEL!

It takes a full team of wonderful people to keep CEL a place where adults with developmental disabilities are welcomed and celebrated.

We're hiring seasonal staff! Scan the QR code below to learn more about current openings.



Scan Me

