Lakshmi Mahadevan: Most CIL’s are funded by grants; and therefore, the eligibility criteria are so driven. However, the strengths of the CIL lies in the fact that it is designed to serve individuals with significant disabilities.

Pat Morse: BVCIL eligibility stems from what is required under the grant process for any Center for Independent Living. There are two aspects of that. We consider it to be an intake. There’s no charge for any of the services that we provide here to an individual. But in terms of the actual intake, what we’re required to have is number one, the person has to have a goal that they choose to want to work on, and the second thing has to be eligibility. And the federal government or the state government that that means that we only provide service to a person with a significant disability. It can be any disability whatsoever if it impedes independence, but it’s required to be the consumer saying what that disability is. We do not have to have proof like a lot of other state agencies need to have. It is just simply them saying and signing that my disability is, whether it’s cognitive, a learning disability, physical impairment, etc.