

# ISABEL'S STORY

*"VIC saved my family"*



Working with people with disabilities, their families and the community, we create independence so that all may thrive.



# VETERAN IN CHARGE

A VETERAN-DIRECTED CARE (VDC) PROGRAM

At just 17 years old, Isabel Hicks joined the Army with the goal of making it a career. Despite breaking her back in basic training, she was able to graduate. But things got harder after that and in 2009, after just two years in the Army, Isabel retired.

In the years that followed, Isabel developed a serious heart condition. She was told that she had to quit working and driving, and that her husband had to provide her with 24-hour care. "Everything stopped," she says. "It was a very hard time. We literally had nothing."

But thanks to VIC, things have turned around.

"It's not just because of the money we receive," Isabel says. "Any time I've needed help, they've been there. They helped us get the benefits, resources, and support we needed so that we could thrive. VIC saved my family."

To watch a video of Isabel's story, visit <https://bit.ly/vic-isabel>

729 S. Tejon Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

**719-471-8181**  
**[theindependencecenter.org/veterans](https://theindependencecenter.org/veterans)**



People with disabilities  
building community  
**THE INDEPENDENCE CENTER**



# VETERAN DIRECTED CARE

## AT THE INDEPENDENCE CENTER

The Veteran in Charge (VIC) program is a partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs (Veterans Health Administration) and The Independence Center (The IC).

The VIC program allows eligible veterans of any age the opportunity to receive personal care services in their homes. Your family or friends can be paid to provide that care if you choose.



The IC's Veteran Coaches work with eligible veterans to manage their monthly budget to purchase goods and services such as:

- In-home personal care
- Homemaker services
- Caregiver support
- Transportation reimbursement
- Assistive devices
- Meal delivery
- Adult day care
- Personal emergency response system

### THE VETERAN IN CHARGE PROGRAM:

- Does not require a service connected disability.
- Has no financial eligibility requirement.
- Does not interfere with pension benefits.
- Requires no disability rating.

**Have you ever served  
in the military?  
You may be eligible!**



## NEXT STEPS:

Apply for VA health care (if not already in the system).

Contact your VA social worker or primary care team for a referral / consult for Veteran-Directed Care.

### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Call The Independence Center's VIC program, 719-471-8181.

(Please contact your local VA Clinic or the VIC Program and ask if Veteran-Directed Care is offered in your area.)