# **OILP Newsletter- May 2024**

Welcome to the OILP Monthly Newsletter! We are pleased to share recent updates from ACL, TA Resources, and other IL resources below.

To improve user friendliness, we have included a Table of Contents with links to each section.

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# **Staffing Updates**

* ***Welcoming Ayishetu Mamudu to OILP:*** Please join me in welcoming Ayishetu Mamudu ([Ayishetu.Mamudu@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:Ayishetu.Mamudu@acl.hhs.gov)) to ACL. Ayisha is a program officer that will be assigned Regions III and VIII at a future date for the Office of Independent Living Programs under the Administration on Disabilities. While new to federal service, she is not new to disability rights – she has more than 15 years of professional experience in the field.

Originally from Ghana, she started her career as a teacher at the State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, which led her establish the organization African Continental Deaf Women Empowerment (ACDWE). As its director, Ayisha worked with deaf women, girls, and their families, advocating for, and motivating them to attend school. She also successfully worked with Ghana’s Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs on behalf of Deaf women on a myriad of domestic violence-related cases. She came to the US in 2011, where she earned a degree in government from Gallaudet University. While at the university, she worked with the organization Global Deaf Muslim as the program coordinator. She also worked at the Center for Disability Rights (CDR) in Rochester, New York, where she advocated for equal access and reasonable accommodations for older adults and people with disabilities and provided law enforcement training on how to have positive interactions with the deaf community.

Here is a fun fact about her she wanted to share: she met Bill and Hillary Clinton in 1998 in Ghana as a young student.

Ayisha loves cooking and enjoys quiet time with her family. She is thrilled to join ACL and is eagerly looking forward to contributing her skills and experiences to the team. We are fortunate to have her.



# **Reporting and Guidance**

* ***CIL PPRs:*** Staff at the Office of Independent Living Programs have been reviewing CIL PPRs and have returned several for minor revisions. If you have not received a notification about your CIL PPR, please login into the PPR portal for a status update at <https://portal.q90.com/external/login.php>.

*If revisions have been requested, please resubmit as soon as possible and contact your* [*Program Officer*](https://acl.gov/programs/community-living-programs/office-independent-living-programs-contact-list) *with any questions.*

* ***CIL Combined Annual Report Released for Program Years 2020 and 2021:*** The [CIL Annual Report](https://acl.gov/programs/aging-and-disability-networks/centers-independent-living) is available on ACL’s website under the subheading of Annual Reports.
* ***IL Network Contact Updates:*** As a reminder, if there are any contact information changes for CIL Executive Directors, SILC Executive Directors, SILC Chairs or DSE’s, please let your Program Officer know. To verify the current name and contact information for your Program Officer, please view the [OILP staff list](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Facl.gov%2Fprograms%2Fcommunity-living-programs%2Foffice-independent-living-programs-contact-list&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333464084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LQcxic97v80MGqaN1bel6SS1MDOr6pmyqDC4jlXlqEM%3D&reserved=0) on ACL’s website. For guidance on changes in Executive Directors, please visit [Changes in CIL Executive Directors](https://acl.gov/programs/aging-and-disability-networks/centers-independent-living) under Frequently Asked Questions.
* ***OILP Monthly Newsletters:*** Beginning in April 2024, the newsletters and other communications will be distributed from [OILP@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:OILP@acl.hhs.gov). Please add this e-mail address to your Safe Senders list.

The OILP newsletters from May 2023—present are available on our website under the heading of [Office of Independent Living Programs Monthly Newsletters](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Facl.gov%2Fprograms%2Faging-and-disability-networks%2Fcenters-independent-living&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333620211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2F5sO89wOj7j6j%2BYkZyMr86ok8JhvjxQbV%2BxDT68NXlI%3D&reserved=0).

* ***FY2025-FY2027 SPIL and SPIL Portal Is Now Open:*** This is a friendly reminder that the FY2025-FY2027 SPIL is due on ***June 30, 2024***. The current SPIL instructions and instrument are available on ACL’s website under the subheading of [SPIL Instructions, Instruments & Amendments](https://acl.gov/programs/aging-and-disability-networks/centers-independent-living).

The SPIL is now LIVE for your SILC on the Q90 Portal and is available at <https://portal.q90.com/external/login.php>.

A few key tips:

If you did not attend the SPIL portal tour, it is recommended to watch the recording first before entering your SPIL. The recording is available at [SPIL Portal Tour](https://youtu.be/rfjPoJvJmdw).

When you begin entering your SPIL, please navigate to Section 3 and Section 9 and look at the list of Centers in your state or territory.

If any information is incorrect or if you have questions regarding the SPIL portal, please reach out to [Q90 Support](mailto:support@q90.com).

Should you have any questions regarding SPIL content, please reach out to your [Program Officer](https://acl.gov/programs/community-living-programs/office-independent-living-programs-contact-list).

* ***Making Disability Rights History: HHS Announces Powerful Anti-Discrimination Protections:*** For more information on the final Section 504 rule of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, please read [Making Disability Rights History](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/acl-blog/making-disability-rights-history-hhs-announces-powerful-anti) by Alison Barkoff, Performing the duties of ACL Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging.
* ***Final Rule to Establish First-Ever Regulations for Adult Protective Services:*** Pleasejoin ACL for an overview of the updated regulations on ***Tuesday, May 14 at 3 PM. Eastern Time.*** ([Advance registration](https://hhsgov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_sGVJHd0xRemku4PcO_utrA#/registration) is required)
* ***DOJ Final Rule ADA Title II Digital Accessibility:*** The Federal Register published the Department’s [final rule](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmFkYS5nb3YvYXNzZXRzL3BkZnMvd2ViLXJ1bGUucGRmIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDI0MDQyNS45Mzg1MjgxMSJ9.nmkZ4DXvXkJrI8d4rvNUl4AlhXNhR2LdLglQMvzglkQ%2Fs%2F3063358158%2Fbr%2F241336615423-l&data=05%7C02%7Crobert.groenendaal%40acl.hhs.gov%7C58cf090745f84eb56b9408dc652f9c4c%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638496502373139500%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YqoR6HCwqohH8Q1KZtoUMfOFmwC4chq1drzngLgxAWA%3D&reserved=0) under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which applies to State and local governments, to improve web and mobile application (app) access for people with disabilities. The rule clarifies how State and local governments can meet their existing ADA obligations as many of their activities move to the digital space. This rule, [signed by the Attorney General](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lmp1c3RpY2UuZ292L29wYS9wci9qdXN0aWNlLWRlcGFydG1lbnQtcHVibGlzaC1maW5hbC1ydWxlLXN0cmVuZ3RoZW4td2ViLWFuZC1tb2JpbGUtYXBwLWFjY2Vzcy1wZW9wbGUiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjQwNDI1LjkzODUyODExIn0.MGWn9TYxpC40qXmrFMFlBH2P9QRarDwcwsZRFUUTISo%2Fs%2F3063358158%2Fbr%2F241336615423-l&data=05%7C02%7Crobert.groenendaal%40acl.hhs.gov%7C58cf090745f84eb56b9408dc652f9c4c%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638496502373150112%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Ye5UN%2BV%2ByPa%2FpI9H8PPch8PsN70jZQCna1oc3GR8VtI%3D&reserved=0) earlier this month, adopts a technical standard for web and mobile accessibility to ensure that people with disabilities can better access important public services like health care, voting, and education.

With this publication, the dates by which State and local governments must comply with the rule’s requirements are now finalized. State and local governments with a population of 50,000 or more will have to be in compliance with the rule’s requirements beginning on April 24, 2026. State and local governments with a population of less than 50,000, as well as special district governments, will have to be in compliance beginning on April 26, 2027. This means that State and local governments’ web content and mobile apps will have to generally meet the technical standard in the rule by these dates and on an ongoing basis after these dates.

In the meantime, State and local governments still have existing Title II obligations. This means that even before the compliance dates, State and local governments must provide people with disabilities equal access to their services, programs, and activities offered via the web and mobile apps.

For a high-level summary of the final rule, read the [fact sheet](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmFkYS5nb3Yvbm90aWNlcy8yMDI0LzAzLzA4L3dlYi1ydWxlLyIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyNDA0MjUuOTM4NTI4MTEifQ.X45xr_I4lm8mgAKMjohb2X4cepSTlBu7ZrmNRIPBB0A%2Fs%2F3063358158%2Fbr%2F241336615423-l&data=05%7C02%7Crobert.groenendaal%40acl.hhs.gov%7C58cf090745f84eb56b9408dc652f9c4c%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638496502373158024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7559S23hiG9CqxQe7KAoeIhY3IiU7S4gPxC0f2aR0PE%3D&reserved=0). Individuals can also find the official version of the full rule in the [Federal Register](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmZlZGVyYWxyZWdpc3Rlci5nb3YvZG9jdW1lbnRzLzIwMjQvMDQvMjQvMjAyNC0wNzc1OC9ub25kaXNjcmltaW5hdGlvbi1vbi10aGUtYmFzaXMtb2YtZGlzYWJpbGl0eS1hY2Nlc3NpYmlsaXR5LW9mLXdlYi1pbmZvcm1hdGlvbi1hbmQtc2VydmljZXMtb2Ytc3RhdGUiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjQwNDI1LjkzODUyODExIn0.WAgZf_-Ltr1vtZyCfUJx3QWR7ay36HG7cXALBTWdbhc%2Fs%2F3063358158%2Fbr%2F241336615423-l&data=05%7C02%7Crobert.groenendaal%40acl.hhs.gov%7C58cf090745f84eb56b9408dc652f9c4c%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638496502373164301%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BcaXTQfzFv8xsh7vpPrk96WNGqnE2M7IS%2BKGjoPKlyI%3D&reserved=0). The Department also plans to issue a Small Entity Compliance Guide to assist small State and local governments in complying with the rule.

To find out more about the ADA, visit [ada.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmFkYS5nb3YvIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDI0MDQyNS45Mzg1MjgxMSJ9.dsIvZOHPs6rnnaFKNDZvQaSPOm_Zt8PH-44NPKLV82g%2Fs%2F3063358158%2Fbr%2F241336615423-l&data=05%7C02%7Crobert.groenendaal%40acl.hhs.gov%7C58cf090745f84eb56b9408dc652f9c4c%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638496502373170626%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=f9cqRrT3tVF26CRoj3fdj6KIc7V1HfqAIOidBT%2FwOGI%3D&reserved=0) or call the Justice Department’s toll-free ADA information line at 1-800-514-0301 (voice) or 1-833-610-1264 (TTY).

* ***Audit Confirmation Requests:***  Many Centers for Independent Living have reached out to request verifications for their independent fiscal audits. Please be advised that audit confirmation requests should be sent to [pmsoigaudit@psc.hhs.gov](mailto:pmsoigaudit@psc.hhs.gov).
* ***Indirect Cost Rates:*** For questions regarding indirect cost rates, contact information can be found at the [Indirect Cost Rates webpage](file:///C:\Users\jennifer.martin\OneDrive%20-%20HHS%20Office%20of%20the%20Secretary\Desktop\Weekly%20E-mails%20and%20Work%20Samples\•%09https:\www.hhs.gov\about\agencies\asa\psc\indirect-cost-negotiations\index.html).
* ***Allowable Expenses:*** OILP has recently received questions from our grantees regarding allowable costs. For additional guidance, please consult [45 CFR 75.403](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecfr.gov%2Fcurrent%2Ftitle-45%2Fsubtitle-A%2Fsubchapter-A%2Fpart-75%2Fsubpart-E%2Fsubject-group-ECFRffa2eaa9f93be60%2Fsection-75.403&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333620211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=U8M87su7nF6LbhwNkDxLeZam4kaS5p8%2FdxMtmwtrGB4%3D&reserved=0) and contact the fiscal officer listed in your notice of award.

* ***Public Health Workforce Funding:*** As we are now in 2024, please keep in mind that all Public Health Workforce (PHWF) grant funds must be spent by ***September 30, 2024***. If you are having difficulty spending these funds or require guidance, please reach out to your [Program Officer](https://acl.gov/programs/community-living-programs/office-independent-living-programs-contact-list).

As a reminder, the Public Health Workforce funding was released for both CIL and ILS Programs in March 2022.  The guidance is available under Guidance for ACL Programs, subheading of [Public Health Workforce Grants](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Facl.gov%2Fcovid19%2Faging-and-disability-networks&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333620211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BOgiPpfPJR6ugssBQL%2BO6foyOwg%2BP1R12GAWWmJ6%2F3o%3D&reserved=0).  

# **Conferences, Trainings and Technical Assistance**

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* ***Join Us on May 14th and May 15th for the National Summit to Increase Social Connections:*** This free virtual summit will bring together national, state, and local leaders — including United States Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy — working across sectors to address social isolation and loneliness. The summit will spotlight creative technology solutions and innovative programs that you can adapt to the needs of people in your community, along with tools and resources that can help you leverage technology to foster social connection.

***Tuesday, May 14, 2024 | 1:00-4:00 PM Eastern Time******Wednesday, May 15, 2024 | 1:00-3:30 PM Eastern Time***  
[**Register for the summit**](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jNqB6IZOQM-bPDf-mm-kdg#/registration)

* ***DETAC Webinar on How HBCUs Serve Students with Intellectual Disabilities in Higher Education Programs:*** Pleasejoin the Disability Employment Technical Assistance Center (DETAC) for their upcoming National Community of Practice webinar. Presenters from Think College, Alabama A&M University, and Arkansas State University will provide a roadmap for developing, maintaining, and expanding post-secondary education (PSE) programs for students with intellectual disabilities at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

***Tuesday, May 14, 2024 | 3:00-4:00 PM Eastern Time***[***Register for the webinar***](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8qF66T2cRGGPOi8YNHUBVQ#/registration)

* ***Section 722 States Becoming Section 723 States FAQ Document Released:*** This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is available at [Independent Living Programs FAQs](https://acl.gov/programs/centers-independent-living/cil-frequently-asked-questions-faqs).
* ***SPIL Training and Technical Assistance Series:*** Please join IL-NET's newly launched monthly virtual meeting that offers comprehensive training and technical assistance for the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). These sessions are aimed at providing you with in-depth training on SPIL requirements, while also offering a platform to discuss how to leverage your plan to build cross-coordination and elevate the IL network in your state. By participating, you will have the opportunity to learn from experts and peers alike and gain valuable insights on how to make the most of your SPIL. Don't miss out on this opportunity and join us on the first Thursday of every month. To register or for more information, please visit [SPIL Training and Technical Assistance Series](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ilru.org%2Ftraining%2Fspil-training-and-technical-assistance-series&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333776462%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3Chds5I1ir%2BrdrN3aeEG7PTzHbswMMOk%2FTcCmbsPOTk%3D&reserved=0).
* ***SILC 101: A Deep Dive for New SILC Members and Staff:*** This ILRU rapid course is designed to increase understanding of common issues for all different types of Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs). The audience for this training is council-elected chairpersons, their fellow Governor-appointed council members, and staff hired by the SILC, such as executive directors, coordinators, and chairpersons.

[***Visit ILRU's website to view the training today***](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fxv7q9udab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001ZD7NsdOz6FwbwLj5JKqYtS3Z8fSZgan8dX5UqWQObz_E3cH5vgFcE_2vgKbyIo8qXc_i17Lfjn9ZOZos71TZyAaBA5E8NjRft2lA9zRn7tfCBESgkQmeQNjaGvVooOhVzXGr4c5V_VojxS6pNQiMY8LnVROFQonHVeOEyqFbYZu-x7VZy13BVin7-9AEzherkv4y9xf8GnwoaJUz1sLin94EktCttLja%26c%3D7kmlnZdoV5bxC_d2dz5BrX2Sb9RW8nOT1sBQ1fYDtYNKqOU1OuViEQ%3D%3D%26ch%3D5YDPVI5JXf2ZzFRL6fBjcKlI3b8jSdAPbfvt7zMxN6QmRWNgsSjXcg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C5432fb5522fc43535c6608dc54e20129%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638478576871476988%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2a43rOyd%2FeoIlv2IS827s%2BGOq9EGlLX2TtVXUJcmiro%3D&reserved=0)***!***

* ***ILRU IL-NET National Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) Center: Management 101: A Guide for New CIL Executive Directors:*** Are you a New Center for Independent Living (CIL) Executive Director, or planning to become an Executive Director in the future?

This course will focus your attention on important aspects of the job that you need to know about early on and that might get lost in the daily conflicting demands for attention.

Concrete action steps are provided in easy-to-use checklists, bullet points, dos and don’ts, and general knowledge to support newly hired Executive Directors of Centers for Independent Living.

[Visit ILRU's website to view this training](https://www.ilru.org/training/management-101-guide-for-new-cil-executive-directors-1-course)

* + ***2024 Rural Conversation Series: 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 1:00 p.m. Eastern***

The Rural Conversation Community series is provided by ILRU's IL-NET National Training and Technical Assistance Center for Independent Living and facilitated by APRIL, the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living. There are no presenters or designated speakers in these conversations; they are an informal time and space to gather with your peers and share about current events and ask your peers questions. Captioning and ASL are provided. Bring your questions for your peers and updates on your CIL’s creative solutions and activities to share.

[2024 Rural Conversation Series](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.april-rural.org%2Findex.php%2Frural-conversations&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333776462%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Nd1z5OQwV1x5fk76R%2Fdq68k1XcqzSgqQ14LvkeO%2F%2BO0%3D&reserved=0)

* ***Youth Coordinator Connect Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the Month at 2:00 p.m. Eastern***

Join us to begin building a community of peer support and sharing for Youth Program Coordinators. Come share your experiences and tips and tricks and problem solve barriers to growing and implementing youth programs in your Center for Independent Living. Meet and learn from your colleagues throughout the country who are working towards the common goal of improving services for youth with disabilities.

Each month we will discuss a topic as it relates to youth programs and services.  These topics are chosen as a group.  We will also brainstorm solutions for barriers that may come up in your programs. To register, please visit [Youth Coordinators Connection Call](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZItd-GtrDkpHdNejRIeh4Yyk8iAfpETKbak#/registration).

* ***Advocacy Committee Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the Month at 4:00 p.m. Eastern***

APRIL is a national membership organization dedicated to advancing the rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities in rural America.

APRIL is committed to an aggressive and culturally appropriate advocacy strategy tied to its Vision statement: “APRIL is the unified voice of independent living in rural America.” In furtherance of that Vision, APRIL has engaged hundreds of members and dedicated many hours aimed at developing a mission-focused system-change agenda to further the civil rights of all people with disabilities regardless of age, disability, income, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, or nationality.

Equally important to us, is ensuring that young people with disabilities are integrated into all facets of program development and delivery. We are truly committed to the mantra “Nothing About Us, Without Us.”  The advocacy committee works to address APRIL’s advocacy priorities

[Advocacy Committee](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.april-rural.org%2Findex.php%2Fadvocacy&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333776462%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=AsoIBJtmc2bpHHIziYpuTke22LHH86IX3pQkmHXcE9w%3D&reserved=0)

* ***Emergency Prep Committee: 2nd Monday of the Month at 3:00 p.m. Eastern***

APRIL began this committee to support CILs and SILCs in their efforts on emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.

We are in a constant climate crisis. Disasters and emergencies are increasing in intensity and frequency. Persons with disabilities are 26% of the US population. Disabled people are disproportionately impacted by disasters and emergencies. We are 2-to-4 times more likely to die or be injured during a disaster.

We are all first responders when disasters strike in our localities. Let’s get together to share good practices and strategies, information and resources, and peer support before, during, and after disasters and emergencies.

[Emergency Preparedness Committee](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.april-rural.org%2Findex.php%2Fadvocacy%2Fdisaster-and-emergency-preparedness&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333776462%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hgnow2GGHiDpv7wSlo9PYRDDZb0cCOnbbCggV9GJgjk%3D&reserved=0)

# **Opportunities for Engagement**

* ***Survey of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) users:*** CommunicationFIRST and the OHSU UCEDD Community Partners Council want to hear from you as a first step in their national plan for AAC peer support models. The project is grounded in the lived experiences of children and adults who need or use AAC and their networks. If you are an AAC user, please consider completing this short 5-minute, 5-question survey to help us learn what AAC users have experienced with peer supports so far ➡️ [AAC User Survey](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfU57vbzxsM56i8yQ7F5O7V7OhFoiUtTlhjqa-Xppntbt1E2Q/viewform).
* ***Input Opportunity: Ensuring Wheelchair Users Can Fly with Dignity:*** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is seeking public comments on a new [proposed rule](https://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer/flying-with-dignity-NPRM-PDF) designed to ensure airline passengers who use wheelchairs can travel safely and with dignity. [**Comments can be submitted online, by mail or fax, or hand-delivered**](https://www.regulations.gov/document/DOT-OST-2022-0144-0225)***through May 13, 2024***.
* ***FDA Proposes New Ban of Electrical Stimulation Devices for Self-Injurious or Aggressive Behavior:*** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration released a proposed rule to ban electrical stimulation devices intended to reduce or stop self-injurious or aggressive behavior. The proposed rule and instructions for commenting can be found in the [notice of proposed rulemaking published in the Federal Register](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/03/26/2024-06037/banned-devices-proposal-to-ban-electrical-stimulation-devices-for-self-injurious-or-aggressive). Comments due by ***May 28, 2024***.
* ***Disaster & Emergency Query:*** ACL is seeking feedback from any CILs/SILCs that have engaged in any contracts with their state/county emergency management agencies and provision of services before, during or after disaster. We’re looking for CILs/SILCs that have developed innovative models which could be replicated by other CILs or SILCs. For more information or to share your story, please e-mail [Ed Ahern](mailto:edward.ahern@acl.hhs.gov).
* ***Seeking Partnerships around Disasters in Mid-West States:*** We are looking for CILs in mid-west states who are engaging in collaborative partnerships (aging, emergency management, housing, public health and health) around disaster and other emergency management issues. ACL and FEMA will be working together throughout 2024 to raise awareness to issues important to people with disabilities and older adults during disaster.

As we plan these activities, we’re looking to ensure our grantee work is spotlighted. Our first event topic will be ‘preparing for mid-west disasters’ (tornados, flood, heat, e.g.). For more information or to share your story, please e-mail [Ed Ahern](mailto:edward.ahern@acl.hhs.gov).

# **Funding Opportunities**

* + ***2024 Rural Community Innovations: Transportation Planning Grant:*** The purpose of the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC)’s planning grant is to offer funding (up to $35,000) for rural communities, including tribes, to develop a transportation plan that addresses accessibility and equity. Planning activities will identify transportation barriers, consider current and future community needs, actively engage older adults and people with disabilities in the process, and create or strengthen multi-sector collaborative partnerships. Selected grantees are expected to develop a written plan of action to guide implementation of strategies supported by the community to increase the availability of accessible transportation services.

***Applications are due on June 7, 2024.*** Additional information is available on the NADTC website at [**2024 Rural Community Innovations: Transportation Planning Grant**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nadtc.org%2F2024-rural-community-innovations-transportation-planning-grant%2F&data=05%7C02%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C345914d627b74bf0432708dc6491b07f%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638495824095386883%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iDzu1KvtBVQqsRWhgW%2FJWvEoFDmDJCCc5m0vh%2BwHlmY%3D&reserved=0)

* + ***Lifespan Respite Care Program Announces New Funding Opportunities in 2024:*** ACL has released two new funding opportunities to eligible entities under the [Lifespan Respite Care Program](https://acl.gov/programs/support-caregivers/lifespan-respite-care-program):
* State Program Enhancement Grants ([HHS-2024-ACL-AoA-LRLI-0019](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/349444))
* Grants to New States and States Re-Establishing Their Core Respite Infrastructures ([HHS-2024-ACL-AoA-LRLR-0020](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/349445)

For more information, please visit [Lifespan Respite Care Program Funding Opportunities](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/lifespan-respite-care-program-announces-new-funding-opportunities). Proposals due ***Tuesday, June 11, 2024***.

* ***Funding Opportunities for Disability Employment Research Projects:*** For more information, please visit [Disability Employment Research Projects](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/funding-opportunities-disability-employment-research-projects). Proposals are due ***June 17, 2024***.
* ***Applications Open for Projects To Improve Strategies to Transition Youth and/or Adults with Disabilities to Competitive, Integrated Employment (CIE):*** For more information or to apply, please visit [Transition Youth and Adults to CIE](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/applications-open-projects-improve-strategies-transition-youth-andor). Applications are due ***July 8, 2024.***
* ***Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants:*** EPA’s new [Environmental and Climate Justice](https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-environmental-and-climate-justice-program) Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity for approximately $2 billion dollars in [Inflation Reduction Act](https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act) funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges.

EPA is accepting applications on a rolling basis for $2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funding available to support community-driven projects that build capacity for communities to tackle environmental and climate justice challenges, strengthen their climate resilience, and advance clean energy.

[Read the announcement for the NOFO](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-2-billion-fund-environmental-and-climate-justice)

To apply for this opportunity, [view the RFA on Grants.gov](https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/351071).  Applications packages must be submitted on or before ***November 21, 2024,*** ***at 11:59 PM Eastern Time.***

For more information, please visit [Community Change Grants](https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program#Eligible) or contact [CCGP@epa.gov](mailto:CCGP@epa.gov).

# **Sharing Your Stories**

* ***OILP is Seeking Success Stories:*** The Office of Independent Living Programs wants to highlight examples of the amazing work of our CIL and ILS colleagues! Therefore, we are asking you, our colleagues, to help us share your stories by copying your Program Officer on any press releases that are distributed. Please view the [staff contact list for the Office of Independent Living Programs](https://acl.gov/programs/community-living-programs/office-independent-living-programs-contact-list). We appreciate your support!

# **Resources**

* ***Older Americans Month 2024:*** In recognition of Older Americans Month in May 2024, ACL has a variety of [available resources](https://acl.gov/oam/2024/older-americans-month-2024)for public use including social media graphics, logos and more!
* ***HUD Resource: Housing-Related Services for People Experiencing Homelessness:*** For more information, please visit [Housing-Related Services](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/hud-resource-housing-related-services-people-experiencing).
* ***A World of Opportunities: Bridging I/DD and Mental Health Systems through The Link Center:*** For more information, please visit [The Link Center](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/world-opportunities-bridging-idd-and-mental-health-systems-through).
* ***Federal Transit Administration Half-Fare Program Available for Senior Citizens:*** The Federal Transit Administration offers a half fare program that applies to adults aged 65 or older or those who have a Medicare card who live in an urban area (population of 50,000+) with public transit. For more information, please visit [NADTC's blog on half-fare requirements](https://www.nadtc.org/news/blog/understanding-half-farereduced-fare-requirements/).
* ***National Center for Diversity, Equity, and Intersectionality:*** The National Center for Disability, Equity, and Intersectionality is a coalition of professionals, individuals with disabilities, and family members of individuals with disabilities; this coalition aims to identify and reduce life-limiting inequities in healthcare, community living, and justice for people with disabilities. More information and resources are available for CILs, SILCs and DSEs at <https://thinkequitable.com/> and<https://thinkequitable.com/what-we-do/>. Questions may be e-mailed to [Peter Nye](mailto:peter.nye@acl.hhs.gov).
* ***U.S. Department of Transportation FAQ:*** The U.S. Department of Transportation provides answers to [**Frequently Asked Questions on Incorporating Accessibility in Transportation Projects**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRyYW5zcG9ydGF0aW9uLmdvdi9ncmFudHMvZG90LW5hdmlnYXRvci9mcmVxdWVudGx5LWFza2VkLXF1ZXN0aW9ucy1pbmNvcnBvcmF0aW5nLWFjY2Vzc2liaWxpdHktdHJhbnNwb3J0YXRpb24tcHJvamVjdHMiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjQwMTA4Ljg4MTc1MTMxIn0._V9DCA0rKwY-jWi1QbXC1BZ-tPZrJYVtXCGD693jokU%2Fs%2F2575557892%2Fbr%2F234464221726-l&data=05%7C02%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cfb89953ca60b489b896508dc1926b82d%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638412901295206985%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7RkS9OD3C79dnRaiVIVYuwLf56T6tvj7buSPmLfB1Fs%3D&reserved=0) to help grant applicants understand accessibility-related requirements and best practices throughout the transportation project planning process. The FAQ provides insight on how DOT initiatives such as [ADA Transition Maps](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vbWFwcy5kb3QuZ292L3BvcnRhbC9hcHBzL3N0b3J5bWFwcy9zdG9yaWVzL2MwY2JkNGY5ZjcwMjRmMjdhMDJhNzI2Y2NkMWRhMTEyIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDI0MDEwOC44ODE3NTEzMSJ9.XmwPYtRSrU2mXHmcA3Kw-2ZVlMrcjHbJAO4L3OpvvGM%2Fs%2F2575557892%2Fbr%2F234464221726-l&data=05%7C02%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cfb89953ca60b489b896508dc1926b82d%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638412901295214716%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NUVBAcpVjiAi4I34RVDIqH%2FbKoPYKf5JSVKi%2FL2V75g%3D&reserved=0), the Department’s [Disability Policy Priorities](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRyYW5zcG9ydGF0aW9uLmdvdi9taXNzaW9uL2FjY2Vzc2liaWxpdHkvcHJpb3JpdGllcyIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyNDAxMDguODgxNzUxMzEifQ.7q9ibJma1yWVqMMt6paXQ2_rofHq1OM51AGTVwl-F2Q%2Fs%2F2575557892%2Fbr%2F234464221726-l&data=05%7C02%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cfb89953ca60b489b896508dc1926b82d%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638412901295221407%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=toQ%2B1AmA35OlK2Og7G6emRBZahyNAZ%2FzNKcSblZkSl4%3D&reserved=0), and the [Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRyYW5zcG9ydGF0aW9uLmdvdi9wcmlvcml0aWVzL2VxdWl0eS9wcm9taXNpbmctcHJhY3RpY2VzLW1lYW5pbmdmdWwtcHVibGljLWludm9sdmVtZW50LXRyYW5zcG9ydGF0aW9uLWRlY2lzaW9uLW1ha2luZyIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyNDAxMDguODgxNzUxMzEifQ.aRSkhGpBOzNAYqrO5anUUdk2MevOmNv6e3-h8TsTEJE%2Fs%2F2575557892%2Fbr%2F234464221726-l&data=05%7C02%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cfb89953ca60b489b896508dc1926b82d%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638412901295227886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TRr6CNePM1PrIhcWibN8%2BLmeu%2Bh19Gk4vHJNUUfNpHA%3D&reserved=0) guide can be used to advance accessibility in the many projects funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and beyond. By making information on accessibility more available, DOT aims to ensure that new investments in transportation are designed for all.
* ***HHS Provides Additional Tools to Strengthen Access to Quality Home and Community-Based Services:*** For more information, please visit [HHS Provides Tools for Accessing HCBS Services](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/hhs-provides-additional-tools-strengthen-access-quality-hcbs).
* ***Voting Accessibility Resources from ACL:*** To view ACL’s updated voting resource page, please visit [ACL's voting resource page](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Facl.gov%2Fnews-and-events%2Fannouncements%2Fvoting-resources-older-americans-and-people-disabilities&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840334245246%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=88lBjr0LMHnPtbgoDfvulZv4s9C98wknsmXzAM2FpC4%3D&reserved=0).
* ***Disability Vaccine Access Opportunities Center Resource Hub Launched:*** Resources and toolkits are available to serve people with disabilities before, during and after public health emergencies at the [DVAO hub](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdvao.able-sc.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840334245246%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1Miwm6EHce9%2Fat%2F8m6lqtQCSiiiOPJkfjvSBu1ydf4M%3D&reserved=0).
* ***ACL Expands DIAL to include self-service features:*** ACL’s Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL) launched in September a new tool to help people with disabilities find local services and resources to support community living. Through DIAL’s enhanced [website](https://dial.acl.gov/home) and its searchable database, users can now find the information they need, at any time of day, every day of the year. We encourage you to provide any contact information updates for your CIL through the DIAL website.

* ***Disability, Diversity, and Intersectionality in CILs:*** For research, training, and technical assistance resources, please visit ILRU’s website at [https://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-diversity](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ilru.org%2Fprojects%2Fcil-diversity&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840334401513%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cUzl6%2B2E5JeS22uepHPfGEpfz2W%2FjG4L52XEiRhE3b8%3D&reserved=0).

Please share this newsletter with your staff so they can use these great resources. As always, please feel free to contact our office if you have questions.