OILP Newsletter- October 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Happy National Disability Employment Awareness Month and Welcome to the OILP Monthly Newsletter! Below are recent updates from ACL, TA Resources, and other IL resources.

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

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# Funding Opportunities

* ***FY2024 Tribal Transit Program:* The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has made available more than $9 million in competitive grants for its** [**FY 2024 Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Tribal Transit) Program**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinks-2.govdelivery.com%2FCL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fwww.transit.dot.gov%252Fnotices-funding%252Ffy-2024-notice-funding-opportunity-public-transportation-indian-reservations%2F1%2F0101019223fd4b54-39eb8921-cbb2-42b7-9854-65922bbb023c-000000%2FMU_uRDapK7c-72U2kxToqJ0F78ig-F9Hv4TYUWXgJCM%3D371&data=05%7C02%7Cvictoria.wright%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cad7c7940a9e84ea1cab008dcdc93d2ba%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638627774682684891%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vAXFuaOnE84hvX0jPPxd4BCBMZTmWXergAdKXpB2%2FEQ%3D&reserved=0)**.** The program is open to Federally recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, groups, or communities as identified by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Eligible activities include planning, capital, and operating assistance for tribal transit services in rural areas. ***Applications must be submitted by November 13, 2024, via grants.gov****.*
* ***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).

# Reporting and Guidance

* ***OILP Monitoring:*** As a reminder regarding the current OILP monitoring process for grantees, the office continues to follow the COMP process when conducting reviews. More about that process can be found [here](https://acl.gov/programs/il-comp). On the IL COMP webpage is a [CIL evaluation tool](https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2019-12/2%20CIL%20Eval%20Tool.pdf) and a [fiscal review tool](https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2019-12/Fiscal%20review%20tool_0.xlsx) that OILP uses when conducting monitoring visits. We encourage grantees to use these tools to strengthen their operations, and always let your Program Officer know if you have any questions.
* ***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).

* ***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).
* ***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).
* ***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\•%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.

# Staffing Updates

***ACL Blog: A Goodbye from Alison Barkoff:*** Please view the blog at [Goodbye from Alison Barkoff](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/goodbye-alison-barkoff).

# Conferences, Trainings and Technical Assistance

* + [**ATRC Virtual Office Hours: Fare Payment Tech with N-CATT**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FtZMof-uspjssE9BSb3hfO4tdOSeYFYpttScq%23%2Fregistration&data=05%7C02%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cba8394e44d9342c6686608dcdd71abef%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638628727481159240%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jpAzLIVySEpR83BkZH2qLAh9GsGiDpT3F5UDvNvMmU0%3D&reserved=0)  
    How does fare payment technology influence transportation accessibility? Join ATRC and the National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT) for virtual Office Hours on ***October 21, 2024, from 1:00PM-2:00PM Eastern Time***. The session will explore electronic fare payment options for transit systems. [Register for the Office Hours on fare payment here.](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FtZMof-uspjssE9BSb3hfO4tdOSeYFYpttScq%23%2Fregistration&data=05%7C02%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cba8394e44d9342c6686608dcdd71abef%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638628727481172338%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0DIByiYGoK9EpRSwWWCwEjVPCjGRZLDJ0d0AI74LfKw%3D&reserved=0)
* ***The Role of Legal Assistance in Enhancing Housing Stability: To access the Webinar slides from the September 12th webinar, go to:*** [Webinar Slides](https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/Housing%20%26%20Services/Webinars/HSRC%20Legal%20Assistance%20Webinar%20Slides_508.pdf)

***For the List of resource links, go to:*** [Webinar Resources](https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/Housing%20%26%20Services/Webinars/Legal%20Assistance%20Webinar%20Links_508.pdf)

* ***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 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

* ***National Disaster Recovery Framework Public Comment Period:*** For more information, please visit [National Disaster Recovery Framework](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/national-disaster-recovery-framework-public-comment-period). ***Comments are due Wednesday, October 23, 2024***.
* ***Commit to Connect Initiative:*** ACL’s [Commit to Connect](https://committoconnect.org/) initiative recently added 27 new program examples to the [Social Engagement Innovations Hub](https://committoconnect.org/innovations-hub/). With these additions, organizations now have access to more than 100 model social connection programs, services, and interventions from across the country.

The Innovations Hub is a searchable clearinghouse designed to encourage adoption, replication, and awareness of best practices and data-driven interventions, programs, and services addressing social isolation and loneliness. Each program summary on the Innovations Hub contains details to help support replication, including an overview of the example, the role of partners, outcomes achieved, lessons learned, resources needed, and contact information.

The newly added programs, services, and interventions on the Innovations Hub include:

* **Sportable Wellness Initiatives (WINS)**, developed by Sportable in Richmond, Virginia. Sportable WINS offers virtual and in-person adaptative wellness programming for people with disabilities to enhance social connection and overall health.
* **Changing the Rhythm of Aging**, an event organized by the Baltimore County Department on Aging in Towson, Maryland. The annual event features a drum circle, tai chi, healthy meals, and time for socialization.
* **GENuine Connections**, developed by DOROT in New York, New York. The intergenerational online space provides opportunities for older adults and teens to participate in weekly workshops, share life experiences, and build community.

[Visit the Innovations Hub now](https://committoconnect.org/innovations-hub/)!

Questions? Contact Commit to Connect at [info@committoconnect.org](mailto:info@committoconnect.org).

* ***Available Now: Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests, Including More Accessible Option:*** Please see [Free At Home COVID-19 Tests](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/available-now-free-home-covid-19-tests-including-more-accessible) for more information and to order tests.

# 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

* ***FEMA Advisory- Resources for Hurricane Helene:*** Please see [FEMA Advisory](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/fema-advisory-biden-harris-administration-continues-whole-government) for resources.
* ***Centers for Independent Living and Their Role in Emergency Management:*** Please view this article by the [Emergency Management Network](https://emnetwork.substack.com/p/centers-for-independent-living-and).
* ***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).
* ***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:*** 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.

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.