OILP Newsletter- November 2024

Dear Colleagues,

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.

***Table of Contents***

[***Funding Opportunities***](#Funding_Opportunities)

[***Reporting and Guidance***](#Reporting_and_Guidance)

[***Conferences, Trainings and Technical Assistance***](#Conferences_Trainings_Tech_Assistance)

[***Opportunities for Engagement***](#Opportunities_for_Engagement)

[***Sharing Your Stories***](#Sharing_Your_Stories)

[***Resources***](#Resources_)

# 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****.*
* **Mobility, Access, and Transportation Insecurity (MATI) Round 2 Request for Proposals:** In spring 2024, CTS and our partners received an additional $1.246 million in funding from the FTA to run a second round of the MATI program focused on addressing transportation insecurity in smaller communities and rural areas of America. This funding will be allocated for the MATI Round 2 RFP, expected to be released in January 2025. CTS will be holding an [informational webinar](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cts.umn.edu%2Fsites%2Fcts.umn.edu%2Ffiles%2F2024-10%2FFlyer%2520for%2520MATI%2520Webinar1-%252011.19.24.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C2f61cd39cf514b9cee0208dcf9caa0da%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638659895877613826%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=C351tilqRcPdCvtqxf6oZGH7rTzzsyxL8xHd0pC%2By0k%3D&reserved=0) about the Round 2 process on ***November 19, 2024, from 1-2 p.m. Central Standard Time:*** [**Register here**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cts.umn.edu%2Fevents%2Fseminars%2F2024%2Fmati-rfp2&data=05%7C02%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C2f61cd39cf514b9cee0208dcf9caa0da%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638659895877588877%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6whIedtv4e817skVTTlX6nq%2FsI2hisgv0%2BNy8DuD7Ck%3D&reserved=0)
* ***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.

* ***New Funding Opportunities for Field Initiated Projects Program:*** ACL's [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research](https://acl.gov/about-acl/about-national-institute-disability-independent-living-and-rehabilitation-research) (NIDILRR) is announcing new funding opportunities for the [Field Initiated Projects (FIPs) program](https://acl.gov/programs/research-and-development/field-initiated-projects-fip-program).

The purpose of the FIPs program is to generate new knowledge through research or to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies to maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family/caregiver support, and economic and self-sufficiency of people with disabilities, especially people with the greatest support needs.

For more information, please visit [Field Initiated Projects Program](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/new-funding-opportunities-field-initiated-projects-program). Applications are due ***December 9, 2024.***

# Reporting and Guidance

* ***IL T/TA Announcement:*** We recently announced the Partnership of Inclusive Disaster Strategies (PIDS) was awarded a contract to deliver IL T/TA. A bid protest was filed, which is a challenge to the award of a contract. Under bid protest procedures, a stop work order was placed on the contract. As of October 30, the contract has been terminated. Since this is a litigation matter, we are limited in the information we can provide.

We are actively working with HHS Office of Acquisition Management Service (OAMS) to resolicit a new contract for IL T/TA. In the interim, we will continue to ensure you have access to the IL T/TA services you need, which is as follows:

ILRU will leave up their resources on the ILRU [website](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ilru.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C8db25ea993a74d2da8a408dcfcececab%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638663341713881555%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NmlZ3Z4wJofAozLiwHG7fcEySXNbmF3ADTYM%2B5MhBO0%3D&reserved=0). The RAPID courses, however, are not currently available on the ILRU page, but we are working on a plan to access them. Some, however, with prior logins have been able to access the RAPID courses. We also have resources at ACL.

We have a team of IL experts that were former CIL and SILC directors you can access for help. Most were referred to us from ILRU with many years of experience in IL and will be helpful to you when needed. The expert team includes Candie Burnham, Bob Hand, Liz Pazdral, and Joe Bravo. Our Program Officers (POs), as well as Erica McFadden and Ed Ahern, are also available to provide T/TA, and our fiscal office will continue to provide T/TA around any fiscal questions.

* ***Technical Assistance Resources:*** Please see below for technical assistance resources on specific topics.

**Housing**- serving people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, developing partnerships with aging, health (Substance Abuse and MH Service providers, Money Follows the person (MFP) programs, hospitals, health insurance entities), and housing entities (AAA’s, Continuums of Care (funded by HUD), Public Housing Agencies (PHA’s), non-profit housing providers, and more. ), accessible housing/home modifications/AT, and developing affordable housing—[Housing and Services Resource Center](https://acl.gov/HousingAndServices) to request technical assistance please email HSRC@ACL.hhs.gov

**Social Connections**—developing/implementing strategies to address social isolation and/or loneliness, connecting with others working on this topic—[Commit To Connect](https://committoconnect.org/) Coordinating Center, Innovation Hub, Commit to Connect Nationwide Network of Champions. To request technical assistance please email: info@committoconnect.org

**Accessible Transportation**—making all aspects of transportation accessible…websites, apps, vehicles, program enrollment locations, first mile/last mile (traveling from home to public transportation and from public transportation to destination. This includes sidewalks, bus stops, train stations, paths along roads, intersections and more.)---[Accessible Transportation Resource Center](https://acl.gov/TransportationCenter) (ATRC), National Accessible Transportation Accelerator Network (NATAN), to request technical assistance please email ATRC@acl.hhs.gov

**Assistive Technology**—connecting with state and territory Assistive Technology programs that help people of any age with disabilities (temporary, short, or long term) learn about, use and try assistive technology to enable them to fully engage in community, employment, education and live independently in their homes. The [Assistive Technology Technical Assistance and Training Center (AT3)](https://at3center.net/) provides information to connect to every state and territory AT program and provides TA to develop and strengthen partnerships among all sectors and AT programs at the state and community level.

* ***New Fiscal Resource Page:*** We are excited to announce that the Office of Fiscal Operations has a new resource page on ACL’s website for IL Programs. Please visit the page at [Fiscal Resources for IL Programs](https://acl.gov/programs/centers-independent-living/fiscal-information-il-programs) for guidance and resources.
* ***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. 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.
* ***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 Rate Webpage](https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asa/psc/indirect-cost-negotiations/contact-us/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.

# Conferences, Trainings and Technical Assistance

* **Please Save the Date for the November 21 OILP Connection Call at 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time.** On this call, ACL leadership and the OILP team will share information on training and technical assistance for IL, office updates, and as always, we will leave time for any Q&As, comments, and concerns you have from the field. In addition, we would love to hear from you regarding any successes and updates you want to share. The OILP Connection Call provides an opportunity to get updates from the Office of Independent Living Services (OILP), hear presentations from our ACL colleagues; learn more about new programs or funding opportunities and get reminders around dates of importance. Board members, directors, staff – are all encouraged to attend. The OILP Connection Zoom link is [here](https://hhsgov.zoomgov.com/j/1602812480).
* ***Apply for Free NCAPPS Person-Centered Planning Technical Assistance:*** ACL and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services have funded the [National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems](https://ncapps.acl.gov/) (NCAPPS). NCAPPS provides free technical assistance to states experiencing significant challenges implementing person-centered planning in compliance with the [Home and Community-Based Services Final Rule](https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/home-community-based-services/guidance/home-community-based-services-final-regulation/index.html) requirements. Free NCAPPS technical assistance is currently available through the end of August 2025. To learn more and apply, please visit [NCAPPS Technical Assistance Application](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fncapps.acl.gov%2Fdocs%2FTechnical_assist%2FNCAPPS%25202.0%2520Individualized%2520Technical%2520Assistance%2520Application%2520Form.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK). ***Apply by December 31, 2024***
* ***FTA Announces New CCAM National Technical Assistance Center:*** FTA and the [Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinks-2.govdelivery.com%2FCL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fwww.transit.dot.gov%252Fcoordinating-council-access-and-mobility%2F1%2F01010192b4f67c56-12c677a1-627e-46aa-924f-038682964704-000000%2FdFMyKp4EoGEItmIOhWwdbpY8NvkIU9MLgUINgIX6CvA%3D375&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C568b1fe9209640eb102308dcf2b2efe5%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638652097554672981%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QbJpJidVVI%2BSIKuQ0A%2F79%2BDipcZoJdK8jOvzexf1v6Q%3D&reserved=0) (CCAM) announced the selection of the [Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinks-2.govdelivery.com%2FCL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fctaa.org%252F%2F1%2F01010192b4f67c56-12c677a1-627e-46aa-924f-038682964704-000000%2F0D7I_aq1cxN3ycip0e6X3pCRqjVrQbhhDnPsvUpWoPM%3D375&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C568b1fe9209640eb102308dcf2b2efe5%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638652097554687004%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DcKbSEI1Lul%2FkvG6QAexQb736LrtCHMwdJsqHBdc9KU%3D&reserved=0) to administer the [CCAM National Technical Assistance Center](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinks-2.govdelivery.com%2FCL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fwww.transit.dot.gov%252Fregulations-and-programs%252Faccess%252Fccam%252Fabout%252Fcoordinating-council-access-and-mobility-ccam-national%2F1%2F01010192b4f67c56-12c677a1-627e-46aa-924f-038682964704-000000%2Fwo85OlXaXe5WnGpvwxhDnp2pVE7-0517eaFPlXI7p50%3D375&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C568b1fe9209640eb102308dcf2b2efe5%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638652097554701421%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sz0nXAGpdY4Gv1m84x0YU4aw0Wt0D1YL7HYG%2FpHPmPc%3D&reserved=0). As one of six FTA-funded centers that help federal grant recipients and other stakeholders develop innovative transportation solutions, CTAA will support [CCAM Federal members](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinks-2.govdelivery.com%2FCL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fwww.transit.dot.gov%252Fccam%252Fabout%252Fagencies%2F1%2F01010192b4f67c56-12c677a1-627e-46aa-924f-038682964704-000000%2Fy6T2wHci7-02zyq6Csz5bUDDKnFAjjLRyfI1pLmwZBs%3D375&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C568b1fe9209640eb102308dcf2b2efe5%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638652097554716798%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GPT%2FqZohNLAOPFAW8dkLaNQOvOvERMY6018Y2gRaHjM%3D&reserved=0) and their partners in improving transportation access for people with disabilities, older adults, and individuals of low income. The Center will be live in early 2025.
* ***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***](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) ***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 committed to the mantra “Nothing About Us, Without Us.” The advocacy committee works to address APRIL’s advocacy priorities.

* [***Emergency Prep 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)***: 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.

# Opportunities for Engagement

* ***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. Questions? Contact Commit to Connect at info@committoconnect.org.

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.

* ***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

* ***Employment Resources:*** We are pleased to share the following resources with you below.

[The Impact of Ableism on Disability Employment Podcast, with NCIL Executive Director Theo Braddy](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Faoddisabilityemploymenttacenter.com%2Fthe-impact-of-ableism-on-disability-employment%2F&data=05%7C02%7Clarissa.crossen%40acl.hhs.gov%7C82ad4f5e6e9e47ad732808dcfdcfd5be%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638664316294821958%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jE3Ah9OCElGFiY1%2FEMUm0M%2BgycIJ%2FUvQj2LP2ZJFTHo%3D&reserved=0)

[Results and Innovation in Systems Excellence (RISE) Community One-Pager for the community, The Past, Present, and Future of CILs Facilitating Pre-Employment Transition Services](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Faoddisabilityemploymenttacenter.com%2Fthe-past-present-and-future-of-centers-for-independent-living-cils-facilitating-pre-employment-transition-services-pre-ets-results-and-innovation-in-systems-excellence-rise-e-learning-community%2F&data=05%7C02%7Clarissa.crossen%40acl.hhs.gov%7C82ad4f5e6e9e47ad732808dcfdcfd5be%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638664316294854003%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6pCZG1Zvt8%2FgQYwE5W4JWaKRF7PeBiM%2FD%2FKgWr2GHLU%3D&reserved=0)

[RISE Community One-Pager for the community, Peer Support for CILs Building Employment Services](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Faoddisabilityemploymenttacenter.com%2Fpeer-support-for-cils-building-employment-services-results-and-innovation-in-systems-excellence-rise-e-learning-community-summary%2F&data=05%7C02%7Clarissa.crossen%40acl.hhs.gov%7C82ad4f5e6e9e47ad732808dcfdcfd5be%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638664316294879591%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yrp9weyrXepGnysFZBfQHi447SWpvulDDnxosUl2vsk%3D&reserved=0)

* ***HHS Empower Program:*** The [HHS emPOWER Program](https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/) provides federal data, mapping, and artificial intelligence tools, as well as training and resources, to help communities nationwide protect the health of at-risk Medicare beneficiaries, including 4.5 million individuals who live independently and rely on electricity-dependent durable medical and assistive equipment and devices, and/or certain essential health care services. Public health authorities and their partners in all 50 states, 5 territories, and the District of Columbia use HHS emPOWER Program data and tools to strengthen emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation and take action to protect at-risk populations prior to, during, and after incidents, emergencies, and disasters.
* ***National Family Caregivers Month:*** In recognition of National Family Caregivers Month, please visit [National Family Caregivers Month](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/national-family-caregivers-month) for 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 [Think Equitable](https://thinkequitable.com/) and [What We Do](https://thinkequitable.com/what-we-do/). Questions may be e-mailed to Peter Nye.
* ***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).
* ***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.