***OILP Newsletter- February 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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# ***Reporting and Guidance***

* ***Q90 Portal Open and Programmatic Reporting Deadlines:*** The Q90 portal is now open at [https://portal.q90.com/external/login.php](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fportal.q90.com%2Fexternal%2Flogin.php&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333464084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=M6thOxrIWb4qCM%2F%2FAmaumctcmrAwvXahdo%2FZHUVIOjg%3D&reserved=0). As a reminder, the FY22 CIL Programmatic Performance Report (PPR) was due in the portal by 12/31/23. The 723 states PPRs were due by 1/31/24.

For our grantees that requested a no cost extension (NCE) for their CDC funding, a PPR was due on 12/31/2023 for the reporting period of 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2023. The CDC PPR Excel sheet was submitted to their Program Officer.

The FY23 ILS PPR is due in the portal by 1/31/24. For our DSE’s that received PHWF funding, the PHWF PPR is included with the ILS PPR and is due by 1/31/24.

Should you have any questions, please contact your Program Officer and thank you to everyone who has already submitted their CIL and ILS PPRs.

* ***Federal Financial Reporting Deadlines:*** Please see below for Federal Financial Reporting deadlines. If you have questions, please contact the ACL fiscal officer located on your notice of award.

**Part B (States)**

Federal Financial Reports (FFRs/SF-425s) are due for the period ending September 30, 2023. The following awards have SF-425s due:

* Part B State Grant (Program Code ILSG)
  + FY 2021 - Final SF-425 (only applicable if a no-cost extension was received) – Due January 31, 2024
  + FY 2022 - Final or Annual SF-425 (only Annual if a no-cost extension was received) – Annual SF-425s due December 31, 2023 and Final SF-425s due January 31, 2024.

**Part C (CILs)**

Federal Financial Reports (FFRs/SF-425s) are due for the periods ending September 29 and 30, 2023. The following awards have SF-425s due:

* Part C Grants (Program Code ILCL)
  + FY2021 - Final SF-425 (only applicable if a no-cost extension was received) - Due January 31, 2024
* CDC Awards – Vaccine Access Grants (Program Code ILC5)
  + FY 2021 - Final SF-425 (only applicable if a no-cost extension was received) - Due January 31, 2024
* ***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 [this link](https://acl.gov/programs/aging-and-disability-networks/centers-independent-living) under Frequently Asked Questions.
* ***OILP Monthly Newsletters Posted on Website:*** The OILP newsletters from May 2023—present are now available on our website [here](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) under the heading of Office of Independent Living Programs Monthly Newsletters.
* ***SPIL Instrument and Instructions Posted on Website:*** The updated SPIL instrument and instructions are now available on our website [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Facl.gov%2Fprograms%2Faging-and-disability-networks%2Fstatewide-independent-living-councils&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333620211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IcBn3khGfAFXxl4GDqyEO1XKzrqL2mEHrDx9B200hBU%3D&reserved=0) under the heading of Submitting State Plans for Independent Living.
* ***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 [https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asa/psc/indirect-cost-negotiations/index.html](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hhs.gov%2Fabout%2Fagencies%2Fasa%2Fpsc%2Findirect-cost-negotiations%2Findex.html&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333620211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jY%2B184GveCAmSrwvSq47452FSKFVnSk5SFnVa7ukGPo%3D&reserved=0).
* ***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 [here](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) under Guidance for ACL Programs, subheading of Public Health Workforce Grants.

# ***Staffing Updates***

* ***Welcoming Hindley Williams to OILP:*** Please join me in welcoming Hindley Williams ([Hindley.Williams@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:Hindley.Williams@acl.hhs.gov)) to OILP! She started with us on January 2nd. We are excited to have her with us as a Program Analyst for the Office of Independent Living Programs. She will be providing technical assistance to ACL grantees to support them in meeting grant requirements, and overseeing the awards over her assigned regions of 4 & 7 effective ***February 26, 2024***. She has spent the last five years working for a Center for Independent Living in Maryland, where she was the Program Director for Independent Living Services. In this role, she supervised the implementation of all Independent Living Services, oversaw five projects and budgets, and ensured grant compliance and met and exceeded grant expectations. She held a year-long fellowship with the National Council on Independent Living in 2018, which began her career in Independent Living. Hindley holds a Bachelor’s degree in English from Villanova University. She is excited to bring her passion for Independent Living, her technical knowledge, and her prior experience to ACL.



# ***Conferences, Trainings and Technical Assistance***

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* ***DETAC Webinar on Supporting Self-Employment for Entrepreneurs With Disabilities:*** Please join the [Disability Employment Technical Assistance Center](https://aoddisabilityemploymenttacenter.com/) (DETAC) for their next National Community of Practice (CoP) webinar on ***February 13, 2024, from 3:00 P.M. -4:30 P.M. Eastern Time.***

This event will highlight the importance of family support for people with disabilities who own businesses. The webinar will begin with a brief recap of DETAC's work to advance self-employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Then, Sue Babin from the Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC) will facilitate a panel session featuring three family members of entrepreneurs with disabilities. The panelists will offer their perspectives on how to best support loved ones with disabilities who have goals of owning a business.

For more information or to register, please visit [here](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/detac-webinar-supporting-self-employment-entrepreneurs-disabilities).

* ***Webinar on No Wrong Door Systems Leading the Way in Latest LTSS Scorecard:*** Please join ACL, AARP, and state leaders for a webinar on ***February 14, 2024 from 2:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M. Eastern Time*** to learn more about the 2023 State Scorecard Report on long-term services and supports (LTSS) for older adults, people with physical disabilities, and family caregivers and how states are improving their No Wrong Door systems metrics.

You will hear from Alison Barkoff, who leads ACL, Susan Reinhard from the AARP Public Policy Institute, and state leaders, who will discuss their experiences with No Wrong Door in their state.

For more information or to register for the webinar, please visit [here](https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/webinar-no-wrong-door-systems-leading-way-latest-ltss-scorecard). This webinar is free and open to the public, although registration is required. Webinars are recorded and posted with supporting materials on the [NWD Technical Assistance website](https://www.ta-community.com/).

* ***NCIL Listening Session: Housing:*** The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Housing Subcommittee wants to hear from you to help inform where to focus our federal advocacy for 2024! You are welcome to join NCIL on ***February 15, 2024 from 2:00 P.M.- 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time*** for a listening session to discuss:
* What barriers do you or your consumers face when it comes to finding housing?
* What programs are working? What programs are not working?
  + Is Housing being addressed in your State Plan for Independent Living?
  + What is your CIL’s relationship with your Public Housing Authority?

Target Audience: Staff members of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs), consumers of CILs and persons with disabilities who have encountered barriers to affordable and accessible housing.

Please note, the purpose of this event is to hear concerns and challenges related to housing needs in your communities to identify systemic advocacy issues. We will not be able to address or provide advice on individual housing cases at this event.

Please register online at (<https://bit.ly/48S6l85>) or reach out to [jessica@ncil.org](mailto:jessica@ncil.org) for more information.

* ***OSERS To Host Second Session for the 2023-2024 Symposium Series: "Beyond the IDEA and WIOA Requirements: Knowing What to Expect When It Matters!":*** Each year, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) at the Department of Education conducts a symposia series to provide high-quality, timely, and evidence-based strategies focused on improving performance in a specific topic.

The 2023-2024 OSERS Symposia Series will provide an opportunity for the field to join OSERS in the challenge to raise expectations, engage families earlier, and fully empower all individuals who support transition services to improve post-school outcomes for children and youth with disabilities and their families on ***February 28, 2024 from 1:00 P.M.-2:30 P.M. Eastern Time***.

This symposium will focus on the important considerations children, youth, and young adults with disabilities and their families need to be aware of, and prepared for, to maximize their potential as they enter and move through the K-12 school system.

To register, please visit [here](https://air-org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_1b92wYSGQ-6KRl4OgzpjfQ#/registration)*.*

* ***SILC Congress 2024:*** SILC Congress 2024 will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas on ***March 11-13, 2024***. To register, please visit [https://form.jotform.com/232506406195050](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fform.jotform.com%2F232506406195050&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333620211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CpoBGfPhNEsb1odmZY%2Bl8wNyh38F6udGA78lNy%2B9%2FHg%3D&reserved=0)*.*
* ***Understanding the Role of the Independent Living (IL) Network Before, During and After a Disaster:*** Pleasejoin us on ***March 27, 2024 from 3:00 P.M.-4:30 P.M. Eastern Time***  for a lively discussion with OILP staff, SILC/CIL directors and our colleagues from the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies (Partnership) as we discuss this resource tool and dive into a discussion about CIL and SILC involvement before, during and after disaster, including development of SPIL goals around disaster and emergency management.

Climate change has created more severe and unpredictable weather events, which have unfortunately increased both emergencies and disasters. To respond effectively to these events, we want to be sure our Independent Living (IL) networks know what actions to take before, during, and after a disaster.

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, *“*[*Understanding the Role of the Independent Living (IL) Network Before, During and After a Disaster*](https://acl.gov/programs/centers-independent-living/cil-frequently-asked-questions-faqs)*,”* answers questions that ACL has received most often from Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs) over the years. Further, it will be helpful to CILs, SILCs, and your state networks as you begin to develop the next three-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Stay tuned for more details from ILRU.

* ***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 [this link](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).
* ***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.  
[Click this link for more information.](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.  
[Click Here for more information.](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.april-rural.org%2Findex.php%2Fyouth%2Fyouth-coordinators-connect&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638348840333776462%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=108ejkBX%2F3q3zgjgpP4DYGZSQuc%2BRueVjmKQAHFvNb8%3D&reserved=0)

* ***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.  
[Click Here for more information.](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.

[Click Here for more information.](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***

* ***Input Needed by 2/12: DOJ proposed rule on accessible medical diagnostic equipment under Title II of the ADA:*** The Department of Justice is seeking comments on a proposed rule that seeks to improve access to medical diagnostic equipment (MDE) for people with disabilities. Examples of MDE include examination tables, dental chairs, and mammography and x-ray equipment. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking clarifies how public entities such as hospitals and health care clinics operated by state or local governments can meet their obligations under the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The proposed technical standards for MDE are based on standards developed by the Access Board and used in HHS’ [recent proposed rule](https://acl.gov/504rule) implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The HHS Sec. 504 proposed rule applies to entities that receive federal funding or assistance while the DOJ Title II proposed rule applies to public entities (i.e., state and local governments).

***You can***[***submit comment online***](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/01/12/2024-00553/nondiscrimination-on-the-basis-of-disability-accessibility-of-medical-diagnostic-equipment-of-state)***, by mail, or in person by February 12, 2024.***

For more on this proposed rule, see DOJ’s [fact sheet](https://www.ada.gov/notices/2024/01/10/mde-nprm/) and [press release](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-advances-proposed-rule-improve-access-medical-care-people-disabilities). Visit[ACL’s Disability Rules page](https://acl.gov/disabilityrules) to learn about and track the many upcoming, proposed, and final rules from across the federal government that seek to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

* ***Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Grants:*** [FTA announced the availability of $4.7 million](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRyYW5zaXQuZG90Lmdvdi9ub3RpY2VzLWZ1bmRpbmcvZmlzY2FsLXllYXItMjAyNC1pbm5vdmF0aXZlLWNvb3JkaW5hdGVkLWFjY2Vzcy1hbmQtbW9iaWxpdHktbm90aWNlLWZ1bmRpbmciLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMTE1Ljg1Njk3NjkxIn0.dUkj5jLErs8q3o9cnH4PDJRlZxcj2-I0oqnA4G0H-X0%2Fs%2F1816422356%2Fbr%2F230874093676-l&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C33c86f90351c4fc00ab008dbf1c45586%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638369597769306366%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sgxfnleXomUpMOys8WXiVbHIoDqS7ziByi8rde62OyI%3D&reserved=0) in Fiscal Year 2023 competitive grant funding for projects that improve access to vital services for older adults and people with disabilities, and in low-income communities. FTA’s [Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM) Grants](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRyYW5zaXQuZG90Lmdvdi9mdW5kaW5nL2dyYW50cy9ncmFudC1wcm9ncmFtcy9hY2Nlc3MtYW5kLW1vYmlsaXR5LXBhcnRuZXJzaGlwLWdyYW50cyIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzExMTUuODU2OTc2OTEifQ.hmMl9CYzmFcG3eNMEdrBoMzhrhGw016eyr3W4w2L8Fk%2Fs%2F1816422356%2Fbr%2F230874093676-l&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C33c86f90351c4fc00ab008dbf1c45586%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638369597769306366%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LSb4BK21Ig7p6EOx7z7M5PHGaY6gDDqyUxdMa%2Ff6zH8%3D&reserved=0), supports public transportation projects that improve state and regional coordination and will help advance the goals of the President’s Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

Applications for funding will be evaluated based on criteria outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity in the [Federal Register](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmZlZGVyYWxyZWdpc3Rlci5nb3YvZG9jdW1lbnRzLzIwMjMvMTEvMTUvMjAyMy0yNTE4MS9maXNjYWwteWVhci0yMDI0LWNvbXBldGl0aXZlLWZ1bmRpbmctb3Bwb3J0dW5pdHktaW5ub3ZhdGl2ZS1jb29yZGluYXRlZC1hY2Nlc3MtYW5kLW1vYmlsaXR5LWljYW0iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMTE1Ljg1Njk3NjkxIn0.UJ2tBgERBz9JEqlq97x_SVHNhY_fbDLNQBonXY69M5Q%2Fs%2F1816422356%2Fbr%2F230874093676-l&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C33c86f90351c4fc00ab008dbf1c45586%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638369597769306366%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=R%2B9HKI3c1jmf2tKMv7ZyVQvyzeRmiQKRF3ou0w7xFLE%3D&reserved=0) including how the project will enhance access and mobility to vital community services for older adults, people with disabilities, and people of low income. An additional $4.8 million is authorized for Fiscal Year 2024 and FTA may award additional funding that is made available to the program prior to the announcement of project selections. Applications are due by ***11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 13, 2024.***

* ***Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee Request for Public Comments on Co-Occurring Conditions in Autism:*** The Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC), a federal advisory committee that coordinates federal efforts and provides advice to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on issues related to autism spectrum disorder (ASD), is seeking public comments to assist the committee in identifying priorities related to physical health, mental health, and other related conditions that commonly co-occur with autism. The IACC is requesting public comments on the impact of these co-occurring conditions, as well as research, services, and policy needs that may be helpful to consider in addressing issues related to these conditions.

All [comments must be submitted online](https://iacc.hhs.gov/meetings/public-comments/requests-for-information/2023/co-occurring-conditions.shtml) through the web form by ***February 14, 2024.*** Only one comment per email address will be accepted. Specific questions about this request for public comment should be directed to Ana Cappuccio at 301-402-4837 or [iaccpublicinquiries@mail.nih.gov](mailto:iaccpublicinquiries@mail.nih.gov).

* ***USDOT Extends Comment Period for Public Input on Improving Accessibility of Transit Facilities for People with Disabilities:*** To continue to promote equity in public transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation is seeking public input on ways to improve the accessibility of public transportation facilities for people with disabilities. The Department recently [extended](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmZlZGVyYWxyZWdpc3Rlci5nb3YvZG9jdW1lbnRzLzIwMjMvMTIvMjYvMjAyMy0yODMzMi90cmFuc3BvcnRhdGlvbi1zZXJ2aWNlcy1mb3ItaW5kaXZpZHVhbHMtd2l0aC1kaXNhYmlsaXRpZXMtYWRhLXN0YW5kYXJkcy1mb3ItdHJhbnNwb3J0YXRpb24_dXRtX2NhbXBhaWduPXN1YnNjcmlwdGlvbittYWlsaW5nK2xpc3QmdXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWZlZGVyYWxyZWdpc3Rlci5nb3YiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjQwMTAzLjg3OTMzMjMxIn0.IpDKYINPx60Ej_MarTkyK6TJDmN_KI7rSJr5FS8vU8w%2Fs%2F2940276605%2Fbr%2F234116387670-l&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C4e0f7228b54246547cb608dc0c8eba25%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638399054356490741%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xv51dbXR%2Fw%2BuhQepH3qAW%2BSl8MTgqaDXDS%2BJ5guWg0I%3D&reserved=0) through ***February 20, 2024*** the period for people to submit comments to its [Request for Information (RFI)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnJlZ3VsYXRpb25zLmdvdi9kb2N1bWVudC9ET1QtT1NULTIwMjMtMDE2Ni0wMDAxIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDI0MDEwMy44NzkzMzIzMSJ9.M3kKESiXGu-3b446V2Bjk1jYZskwrLqOtkBNX1RVZmQ%2Fs%2F2940276605%2Fbr%2F234116387670-l&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C4e0f7228b54246547cb608dc0c8eba25%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638399054356490741%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=x2ZAdZZZEE6r%2F6%2BeJfvIf2FMU6mc3nfKcaqD0QlOSTM%3D&reserved=0).
* ***Ongoing Recruitment of CILs and SILCs for COVID Test Distribution:*** CILs and SILCs are encouraged to participate in the Administration for Community Living and the HHS Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) which provides COVID 19 tests to be distributed freely in your communities. For more information, please contact [Ed Ahern](mailto:edward.ahern@acl.hhs.gov).
* ***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***

* ***FTA Announces Nearly $5 Million Funding Opportunity to Improve Transit Access for Older Adults, People with Disabilities, and Low-Income Individuals:*** FTA recently announced the [availability](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRyYW5zaXQuZG90Lmdvdi9ub3RpY2VzLWZ1bmRpbmcvZmlzY2FsLXllYXItMjAyNC1pbm5vdmF0aXZlLWNvb3JkaW5hdGVkLWFjY2Vzcy1hbmQtbW9iaWxpdHktbm90aWNlLWZ1bmRpbmciLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMTE1Ljg1Njk3NjkxIn0.dUkj5jLErs8q3o9cnH4PDJRlZxcj2-I0oqnA4G0H-X0%2Fs%2F466051435%2Fbr%2F230874083048-l&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cc6ae835d132147dc79e808dbf0154909%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638367746428091800%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XJoW5V7RdZt4SLCKkJomuKa65B3AU%2BzPlRv6u7k1HPw%3D&reserved=0) of $4.7 million in Fiscal Year 2023 competitive grant funding for projects that improve access to vital services for older adults and people with disabilities, and in low-income communities. FTA’s [Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM) Grants](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRyYW5zaXQuZG90Lmdvdi9mdW5kaW5nL2dyYW50cy9ncmFudC1wcm9ncmFtcy9hY2Nlc3MtYW5kLW1vYmlsaXR5LXBhcnRuZXJzaGlwLWdyYW50cyIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzExMTUuODU2OTc2OTEifQ.hmMl9CYzmFcG3eNMEdrBoMzhrhGw016eyr3W4w2L8Fk%2Fs%2F466051435%2Fbr%2F230874083048-l&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cc6ae835d132147dc79e808dbf0154909%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638367746428098306%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=l5m7mVkr0lMPD5D3z3w7P%2FLaopPMpcnAmWt7M5h%2B52E%3D&reserved=0), supports public transportation projects that improve state and regional coordination and will help advance the goals of the President’s Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

Applications for funding will be evaluated based on criteria outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity in the [Federal Register](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmZlZGVyYWxyZWdpc3Rlci5nb3YvZG9jdW1lbnRzLzIwMjMvMTEvMTUvMjAyMy0yNTE4MS9maXNjYWwteWVhci0yMDI0LWNvbXBldGl0aXZlLWZ1bmRpbmctb3Bwb3J0dW5pdHktaW5ub3ZhdGl2ZS1jb29yZGluYXRlZC1hY2Nlc3MtYW5kLW1vYmlsaXR5LWljYW0iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMTE1Ljg1Njk3NjkxIn0.UJ2tBgERBz9JEqlq97x_SVHNhY_fbDLNQBonXY69M5Q%2Fs%2F466051435%2Fbr%2F230874083048-l&data=05%7C01%7CJennifer.Martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7Cc6ae835d132147dc79e808dbf0154909%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638367746428104121%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4bIEAUjJxNbr%2BGiqkApc4x536k3hobPd1FWuBCockOs%3D&reserved=0) including how the project will enhance access and mobility to vital community services for older adults, people with disabilities, and people of low income. An additional $4.8 million is authorized for Fiscal Year 2024 and FTA may award additional funding that is made available to the program prior to the announcement of project selections.

Applications are due on ***February 13, 2024 by 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time***.

* ***National Paralysis Resource Center Quality of Life Grant Opportunities:*** The [National Paralysis Resource Center](https://www.christopherreeve.org/todays-care/living-with-paralysis/) (NPRC) (operated by the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation) is announcing two grant funding opportunities through its 2024 first-cycle [Direct Effect](https://www.christopherreeve.org/todays-care/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/direct-effect-quality-of-life-grants/) and [Expanded Impact](https://www.christopherreeve.org/todays-care/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/expanded-effects/) Quality of Life (QOL) grants initiatives is due on ***March 8, 2024***.

The NPRC recommends visiting their website for an overview of the [QOL grant program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.connect.hhs.gov%2F%3Fqs%3D7bb845693acdd8a05bf5425afbddf4380894a3c56a2342e4cfce7ab928ac36e34e8b0a1dca6560c2cbda44def7b38a7074e3e0a17da9dbae&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C109ee220231f4fd76a8508dc228ef815%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638423244650960941%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VWCL3KU1xcpDuSQjuQKPshqxemr0IPpvbf6jForTLzI%3D&reserved=0) and the [QOL grant application process](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.connect.hhs.gov%2F%3Fqs%3D7bb845693acdd8a0bd65570ba6533be4776fa2642a261e8bab6b218a1fcb7ca6352a47321909f2fef433ca249b53652ee60ad259b8097eac&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C109ee220231f4fd76a8508dc228ef815%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638423244650971004%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RU4jorB3BzsqSA%2BE8mCXiWyqyTfXJXr7zM4dh%2FR%2BvOE%3D&reserved=0). Please also read the eligibility criteria, funding restrictions, and application and program guidelines for the [Direct Effect grants](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.connect.hhs.gov%2F%3Fqs%3Dcff2abc971159e8ac6434666b24e3d1a3ef7504bf8453c2ffd9c051e3e55ef6cfe7d23486323f272eda5a0108f2db107b58e76033e68620c&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C109ee220231f4fd76a8508dc228ef815%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638423244650981543%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xNqFNveRSZd%2Bo9JDSEm25iC%2ByLPAmtxnuePzaRJZmo4%3D&reserved=0) and the [Expanded Impact grants](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.connect.hhs.gov%2F%3Fqs%3Dcff2abc971159e8aac0dacfbf3da48641e69b8553a114fc9c0d0e3d71100ae46ef075321ee6d2dff02269bbe4f51455ef91f5e2c4e9f1528&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C109ee220231f4fd76a8508dc228ef815%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638423244650991787%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=n%2B2NT13%2BSXNP52uvTerEQW0aD7EnKobvW2WQ8KO47Ts%3D&reserved=0).  
  
QOL grant applications are now available to fill out and must be completed through the [online grants portal](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.connect.hhs.gov%2F%3Fqs%3Dcff2abc971159e8a569b00e3fe00fad9dfe4f29c05c49491348090eec983a066c3bbbe839990349c246c455a2d8f70216ca7ab493550724d&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.martin%40acl.hhs.gov%7C109ee220231f4fd76a8508dc228ef815%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C638423244650999182%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Hf9zht5%2BaIp808Ozb5zCZcNu61jEXYw3vMS6Wt34z5A%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 [this link](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 visit our [website](https://acl.gov/programs/aging-and-disability-networks/centers-independent-living) to view the contact list for the Office of Independent Living Programs. We appreciate your support!

# ***Resources***

* ***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.
* ***Best of 2023: Top Veteran Resources of the Year:*** Please visit this [link](https://news.va.gov/127475/best-of-2023-top-veteran-resources-of-the-year/?utm_source=feature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=03JAN2024)for resources.
* ***HHS Provides Additional Tools to Strengthen Access to Quality Home and Community-Based Services:*** For more information, please visit [here](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 [here](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 [this link](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.