

Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago
115 W. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60654
Phone: 312-640-2100
Serving the City of Chicago

Program Development

- A. Become an influential voice promoting person centered healthcare for people with disabilities consistent with the independent living philosophy.
- B. Use an array of strategies to become a leader in promoting integrated, competitive employment for people with disabilities.
- C. Enhance our outreach, peer based support and advocacy for people with psychiatric disabilities.
- D. Increase our capacity to engage in international work with disabled person's organizations promoting equality and the independent living philosophy.
- E. Achieve greater impact in our advocacy efforts.
- F. Identify and pursue maximum impact litigation in areas other than fair housing.
- G. Maximize our impact in the fair housing arena.
- H. Strengthen our core services with a cross disability perspective.

Fund Development

- A. Generate additional revenue for mission through increased use of fees for service and/or the creation of an affiliate for profit enterprise.
- B. Initiate a major fundraising campaign targeted at individuals and corporate donors to support and grow a TBD program or operations.

Marketing and Public Relations

- A. Raise our profile and increase public awareness of its mission.

Organizational Enhancement

- A. Implement innovate programs and strategies, consistent with best practices in the field, to attract and retain talented, highly motivated employees.
- B. Maintain and improve the infrastructure and administrative systems that support its mission.

Advocates for Access (AFA)
4450 N. Prospect Road. Suite C8
Peoria Heights, Illinois 61616
Phone: 309-682-3500
Serving Fulton, Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford Counties

Advocates for Access serves Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford and Fulton counties. These counties include both urban and rural populations. Additional funds from the formula-funding concept will allow us the opportunity to: expand the centers outreach, enhance the youth program, expand the ramp program, and reach more individuals in our rural areas.

Outreach Expansion

To impact and educate the entire community, Advocates for Access would like to expand outreach to the general community. This would be accomplished by offering disability awareness activities geared to fit any audience at any time-slot, offer informational presentations concerning Centers for Independent Living, market and conduct accessibility audits, in particular to developers that are rehabbing buildings in the downtown Peoria area, and work with local medical professionals on the services to individuals with disabilities.

Enhance the Youth Program

We currently have a Youth Services Coordinator whose time is taken advocating in the schools. To work more effectively with the youth we would like to incorporate additional Independent Living Skills classes, develop curriculum that could be offered to students within the schools within all four counties, and strengthen the self-advocacy amongst our youth.

Expand the Ramp Program

Advocates for Access currently writes grants to receive funding to build ramps. The grant funds may only be used for the material for the ramps. Administration and staff utilize time to coordinate this program, and over a 100 volunteers on the day of the ramp build to offer accessibility to individuals within our community. Currently 30 individuals have received ramps. We would like to increase our funding for the program so that we may take more individuals off of our waiting list. We would like to see this program funded in full.

Rural Outreach

In order to fully reach the individuals in our rural areas, more staff would be utilized to be present in those communities. Outreaches occur, but depending on the need in the community and staffing more individuals could receive the necessary services.

Achieving Independence and Mobility Center for Independent Living (AIM)
3130 Finley Road Suite 500
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515
Phone: 630-469-2300
Serving DuPage, Kane and Kendall Counties

Established in 1991 as DuPage Center for Independent Living, our name changed in 2012 to Achieving Independence and Mobility Center for Independent Living (AIM-CIL) to encompass our expanded service area to include Kane and Kendall Counties. Our mission is to empower persons with disabilities to effectively control and direct their lives. The Achieving Independence and Mobility Center for Independent Living provides leadership through training, community development and advocacy to enable persons with disabilities to fully participate in family, social and community life.

Funding:

- Recruit more community leaders to help us raise dollars
- Increase fund raising to support services and staffing
- Double our corporate sponsors
- Double individual donations
- Investigate “for fee” services (i.e. discharge planners)
- Ongoing – continue to seek new funding opportunities through grants and other sources

Employment:

- Maintain our current staff base of support and staff, our most valuable
- Provide staff with optimum communication including cell phones and any other necessary technology needs
- Maintain staff training through workshops, monthly all-staff’s and more

Employment Related to Advocacy Education, Outreach and Employment Readiness:

- Hire a multi-lingual/multi-cultural staff to implement effective independent living services and advocacy for Latino with disabilities in the 3 county catchment areas.
- Hire a Community Outreach, Education and Advocacy Coordinator to work to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities by advocating for disability related legislation, increasing the community awareness and accessibility into all sectors of society.

Expanded Youth Services Program to include Employment Readiness:

This program currently offers educational advocacy and IEP support for youths and their parents, preparation for transition to adulthood. By expanding the program we will address other Special Education issues with an emphasis on transition planning and legislation. In addition, we will offer classes on leadership, communication, resume creation, interviewing, fundamental computer skills in the workplace. Currently there are

1671 persons with developmental disabilities seeking services in the above mentioned areas (these numbers were prior to the 2016 FY budget impasse).

Expand Offices:

As a result of the ongoing budget impasse, AIM-CIL was forced to close its satellite office in Aurora in March of 2016. It is our hopes that once funding is re-established and steady, that we will once again be able to open an office to maintain the ongoing service needs of our service area.

Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living (JACIL)
15 Permac Road
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650
Phone: 217-245-8371
Serving Mason, Morgan, Cass, Scott Counties

JACIL serves a rural four-county area of west central Illinois, with the smallest population of any of the Illinois CIL service areas. Morgan, Scott and Cass counties are often grouped together for human service, education and economic development services. Scott County is the smallest with a population of only 6,000. Morgan County is the economic hub of the three counties, offering shopping, financial institutions, employment (including several State employers) and health care opportunities, and has the largest African-American population. Cass County has been making the adjustments necessary to accommodate a growing Latino community. In recent years a French-speaking demographic has begun move into this area. The fourth county, Mason, is also very rural and lies to the north of the other counties; residents do not typically seek their medical, employment and shopping services in Jacksonville, and consequently this county poses particular challenges for outreach and service provision. Many of the Mason County human service providers don't serve Cass, Morgan or Scott residents, and therefore are not naturally networked with the rest of our service area.

Outreach to Under-served Populations, including:

- Latino residents, particularly clusters in Cass county, and French-speaking residents who are new to our area
- African-American residents
- rural residents in all four counties

Outreach to the Non-disabled Community:

Because the true community includes individuals without disabilities, our outreach includes several activities designed for the general community:

- disability awareness activities geared to fit any audience or time-slot, and any disability marketing and conducting access audits of housing and public accommodations of all types at the request of landlords, business operators or persons with disabilities; focus in the near future is on healthcare providers in conjunction with other CILs and the SILC, and on domestic violence services in conjunction with Envision Illinois.
- provision of ASL classes for the community (currently suspended due to Illinois budget impasse)

JACIL priorities for the next three years:

- restructure our staffing and compensation plan so that employee salaries and wages become more in line with others in the area
- separate the financial office functions from the executive director so director's time is better spent for management and development of agency

- reinstate, develop or enhance reintegration or nursing home diversion-type services which allow people avoid or leave nursing home placement for appropriate services in their own homes
- establish satellite offices in Mason (first priority) and Cass counties
- collaborate with hospice providers and the deaf community to develop and provide training to hospice providers and volunteers which allow deaf individuals to access hospice services with the accommodations they need
- develop, implement and/or sustain several curricula or training series for consumers, including important topics such as budgeting/financial management, employment, community leadership, skills for real life (i.e. making the transition from youth to the adult world)
- become an ITAC amplified phone demonstration and distribution site

Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living (IICIL)
501 11th Street
Rock Island, Illinois 61201
Phone: 309-793-0090

The Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living (IICIL) serves two distinct geographic areas in West Central Illinois. One, populous and urban in Rock Island County that is situated along the Mississippi River and borders Eastern Iowa known as the Quad Cities Metropolitan Area. The Illinois population is approximately 200,000 people with a majority Caucasian (80%) Hispanic/Latino (12%); African-American (10%); and the remaining include Asian and Native American and foreign born residents. The minority populations are isolated in their own communities, and lack the information and access to services available to the larger community. The second is comprised of rural farming communities located in Henry and Mercer counties, with the majority of towns and villages averaging less than 2,000 people. There is no public transportation and limited access to services and programs for residents. Increased funding would allow IICIL to expand and enhance our services to unrepresented and under-represented populations in Rock Island, Henry and Mercer counties who are ethnic minorities such as African-Americans and Hispanics, and of various disability and rural populations.

GOALS/OUTCOMES: PROGRAMS B COMMUNITY IMPACT

Promote equal access and full participation in society for persons with disabilities who are from unrepresented and under-represented populations including ethnic minorities and rural communities by providing the (5) core services; advocacy, independent living skills training, peer support, information and referral, transition and other services and programs of the Illinois/Iowa Center for Independent Living.

Objective: Insure that persons with disabilities who are minorities and live in rural communities are receiving outreach and independent living services in the 3 counties that we serve (Rock Island, Henry and Mercer) by September 30, 2016.

Activity 1: Continue to address equal access to services for people of color based on local demographics, including outreach, cultural diversity, ASL and foreign language interpreters.

Activity 2: Expand rural outreach by continuing to participate on service councils in all counties.

Activity 3: Participate and be active in local multi-cultural community events.

Activity 4: Increase the availability and marketing of our brochures, handouts, and materials in other languages.

STRATEGIES FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Minority Outreach: Increase the number of Independent Living Advocates and Community Education Advocates that are African-American and Spanish speaking. These employees would be expected to have regularly scheduled office hours at key locations within the African- American and Hispanic communities. We would also have information available in, Spanish and other languages and utilize existing ethnic networks to improve IICIL access to those consumers.

Rural Outreach: Increase the number of Independent Living Advocates and Community Education Advocates that serve rural communities for provision of the (5) core services and have a high visibility by participating in local organizations and events.

Improve Computer and Communication Technology: Funds will be used to upgrade the current computer system and increase communication access for people with disabilities especially via the internet. We will establish a (3) year cycle where a percentage of computers and technology will be upgraded regularly. We currently have a fully accessible computer lab for consumers, with (4) computer stations and (1) mobile laptop, available solely for training and to eliminate the digital divide for people with disabilities and we will continue to seek funds to maintain and upgrade technology for that purpose. We also have a brailier that translates various documents to Braille for various businesses and organizations.

Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living (IVCIL)
18 Gunia Drive
LaSalle, Illinois 61301
Phone: 815-224-3126
Serving Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam and Stark Counties

If the Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living (IVCIL) were to receive an increase in funding, the following initiatives would be implemented:

Hiring a second part-time staff support person for program assistance with all programs. This person would provide clerical support for staff and would serve as a driver, personal assistant, and reader in order to better accommodate all staff with various disabilities.

If funding was available the IVCIL would reestablish our visual impairment/blind services program. Currently, although IVCIL offers services to individuals of any disability, we do not have any funding for this program to specifically address the needs of individuals who have visual impairments/blindness. The IVCIL has had numerous requests for expertise in the area of providing independent living skills training and other specialized services to persons with visual impairments/blindness. Additional funding would allow IVCIL to create a staff position to outreach to meet the individualized needs of this underserved population.

A satellite office remains a priority. Currently, although IVCIL provides services to five rural counties, IVCIL has one office that is located in LaSalle. Additional funding would allow IVCIL to expand outreach by establishing a satellite office in the southwestern region of our catchment area. Due to the rural nature of the communities we serve, a satellite office would allow us to better outreach to individuals with disabilities in Marshall, Putnam, and Stark counties.

IVCIL for many year's now has not had a Deaf Services Advocate to serve individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. If funding was increased this would allow us to be in a position to hire someone into this position at least part-time. Allowing us to provide our 4 core services to individuals. Also having a full time person in this position we could better meet the needs we have for sign language interpreters and do more outreach to secure more certified interpreters for our interpreter registry.

If funding increases came I would like to continue to update our office technologies such as computers, printers, monitors or other necessary technology for all staff to function and complete job duties timely and efficiently.

IMPACT, Inc.

2735 East Broadway

Alton, Illinois 62002

Phone: 618-462-1411

Serving Bond, Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin and Madison Counties

Minority Outreach:

IMPACT plans to continue its outreach to Minority Populations within its service area. IMPACT will outreach to organizations including churches that serve individuals who are African American, Latino and of Asian descent. IMPACT CIL plans to implement its Linguistic and Cultural Competency Plan including the goals that 1) All consumers will interact with the agency in their primary language and 2) IMPACT CIL will strengthen resources to provide services to individuals who do not use English as their primary language.

Provide a Satellite Office for IMPACT's Rural Counties:

(should funding become available)

IMPACT has one office located in Alton Illinois to serve a six county area, which is largely rural. Due to our large geographical area, it is difficult for current staff to provide services to everyone residing within our service area. As a result, people with disabilities residing in our rural counties are unserved or underserved. IMPACT would like to open a satellite office in one of our rural counties and hire several staff who would be responsible for providing Independent Living Services to individuals with disabilities residing within our rural counties.

Leadership Development:

IMPACT CIL would like to continue our commitment to develop new leaders and advocates in the Disability Rights Movement. This would be accomplished by resuming our Legislative Internship Program to teach individuals how to advocate with their Legislators.

Housing Advocacy:

IMPACT will continue to work with its Housing Advocacy Group to increase accessible and affordable housing for individuals with disabilities residing in our six county service area.

Expanded Outreach to People with unserved/underserved disabilities:

Throughout IMPACT's thirty years of service to the community, people with Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities have been unserved and underserved by most organizations. We propose to expand our services to more effectively outreach to members of both of these groups, to increase their participation in our programs, and to provide them with increased options and opportunities. We would like to hire staff who

are people with Intellectual and Mental Health Disabilities, to provide independent living services including peer support.

Lake County Center for Independent Living (LCCIL)
377 N. Seymour Avenue
Mundelein, Illinois 60060
Phone: 847-949-4440
Serving Lake and McHenry Counties

Lake County Center for Independent Living (LCCIL) has served Lake County since 1990. LCCIL receives Part C funding to serve Lake County. In 2012, LCCIL was asked to add McHenry County to its service area. We receive state funding to provide services in this county.

The decrease to our Part C dollars for Lake County and the unfunded state contracts resulting from the FY 16 Illinois Budget crisis has left both our ability to outreach to and serve consumers in both counties dramatically limited. Additional public and private funds are required. Should funding be restored or increased, the following needs could be met.

Outreach/Staffing Needs:

For the first time in LCCIL history, individuals of Hispanic descent who have disabilities comprise a greater percentage of our consumer base than any other racial minority. We employ a bi-lingual Program Assistant to serve this population across all programs. Given the increase in demand, LCCIL needs a Bi-lingual/bi-cultural Independent Living Advocate to meet independent living needs, educate community-based organizations that work with Latinos about their disability-related needs, and advocate with public agencies to provide accommodations and services.

The Deaf community is under-served in our service area(s). LCCIL serves Deaf consumers and hires interpreters as needed, but a Deaf Services Advocate who has personal experience with this disability is needed. Lack of funding to employ a Deaf Services Advocate limits ability to meet consumer needs and advocate for issues specific to this population.

The demand for Youth programming has increased dramatically. Currently, four part-time advocates, one Youth Leadership Advocate and one Parent Advocate in each county serve our youth and parent advocacy demands. These programs maintain a wait list for services. Funding to increase these positions to full-time and/or hire additional part-time staff is needed.

The Director of Advocacy position was eliminated in the past due to insufficient funding. Consequently, all individual and systems advocacy initiatives are spread across all staff. While there are benefits to all staff involvement, LCCIL's ability to maintain the level of systems change in Lake County reduced significantly. Further, the limited funding in McHenry County does not allow for the appropriate level of systems advocacy efforts to meet community need. LCCIL needs a full-time Community Organizer to lead all

advocacy initiatives and recruit and develop leaders in the community who are people with disabilities.

The full-time Director of Development position was eliminated in the past due to lack of funding. LCCIL seeks to hire a development position to adequately implement an effective strategy to raise grant and unrestricted funds to meet the needs outlined in these priorities as well as other under-funded programs in the Center. LCCIL eliminated the full-time Office Manager position due to lack of funding. LCCIL needs to hire an Office Manager to handle day to day office needs, Human Resources activities, and in-house Information Technology needs.

Living Independence for Everyone Center for Independent Living (LIFE)
2201 Eastland Drive, Suite 1
Bloomington, IL 61704-7923
Phone: 309-663-5433
Serving DeWitt, Ford, Livingston and McLean Counties

LIFE Center for Independent Living
320 West Madison Street
Pontiac, Illinois 61764
Phone: 815-844-1132

LIFE Center for Independent Living (LIFE CIL) serves DeWitt, Ford, Livingston, and McLean Counties, a service area includes 3,112 square miles and a population of 224,936 (2014 Census estimate). About 60% of the population lives in Bloomington/Normal in McLean County, while the rest live in small and widely dispersed towns. Our prioritized needs are:

Youth with disabilities and their families:

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) has established a mandated but unfunded fifth core service that includes transition services for youth with disabilities, a population that has been historically underserved by LIFE CIL due to lack of resources. They need to be exposed to adult mentors with disabilities and to learn about living independently at a young age, before the habits of a dependent lifestyle become ingrained. As the next generation of leaders and advocates in the disability movement, they need to learn about disability culture and history and how to advocate for civil rights. Their parents need skill development and peer mentors to know what their children's educational rights are and how to advocate for them. LIFE CIL needs two full-time Youth Advocates to address this critical need.

Community awareness and resource development

Given that state and federal resources cannot adequately fund the Center, and that state resources are widely believed to be even less adequate in the future, it is essential for LIFE CIL to implement a formal resource development program, which falls within the charge of Compliance Indicator 6 to conduct resource development activities to obtain funding from sources other than Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act. LIFE CIL has long struggled with resource development due to budgetary restraints: we do not have staff time, public relations skills, or advertising dollars needed to effectively raise awareness, build friends and supporters, and raise funds in two very different marketing environments: a major community where fierce competition for donors is dominated by larger agencies that have dedicated fund raising staff, and in a very rural, geographically dispersed 3,000 square mile service area. We need one full-time staff member and staff support costs to implement this critical need.

Persons with disabilities residing in DeWitt and Ford Counties:

LIFE Center opened a branch office in Livingston County in 2003, with good results. We have served many more Livingston County residents, developed relationships with local officials, and worked more closely with local social service providers. Residents of DeWitt and Ford Counties are underserved, and their communities are rife with inaccessible buildings, sidewalks and parking, and lack of program access. Officials and residents of small towns are not receptive to outsiders “telling them they have to comply” with accessibility laws and regulations. Rural residents will not become aware of the Center or of disability issues, or be willing to accept services from us, if we do not have a local presence. We need to open branch offices in these counties. Each office would need two staff members and reasonable operating costs for office space and program operations in order to meet this need.

LINC, Inc.
#1 Emerald Terrace, Suite 200
Swansea, Illinois 62226
Phone: 618-235-9988
Serving St. Clair, Monroe and Randolph Counties

LINC provides serves to three counties in southwestern Illinois, St. Clair, Monroe and Randolph. St. Clair County is the 8th most populated county in Illinois with a population of 264,052 covering 674 square miles. St. Clair is a patchwork of rural, urban and inner city and as a whole has a poverty rate of 19% and disability rates of 9%. Some inner city areas such as E St Louis however have poverty rates as high as 44% and disability rates of 14%. Housing stock in St. Clair County is old especially for those living in poverty. In the more populated areas transportation is accessible however the rural areas lack transportation options.

In contrast both Monroe and Randolph Counties are very rural with populations of 33,879 and 32,852 respectively. In Monroe County the poverty rate is 5% and the disability rate is 6.2%. Likewise for Randolph County the poverty rate is 13.8% and the disability rate is 10.3%. Public and alternative transportation are sparse and social services are few when compared to St. Clair County. Housing stock in Monroe and Randolph is in better shape for people living in poverty than in St Clair County, however it too remains old and often times non accessible.

24,028 people in St. Clair, Monroe and Randolph Counties have disabilities, many of whom live in poverty with inadequate housing, transportation and substandard access to healthcare.

Health care in Southern Illinois is challenging as many doctors have left the area and hospitals that were once trauma centers have lost those designations due to a loss of emergency specialists in the area. Some specialties such as Psychiatrists are so sparse that people with psychiatric disorders wait months to be seen or have their immediate needs met. This often leads to doctors other than Psychiatrists serving the mental health needs of the poor.

Advocacy/Outreach: Reduction in poverty through employment, access to healthcare and accessible transportation continues to be high on LINC's list of advocacy issues, as does affordable accessible housing. As the Illinois budget wars rage on the safety net for many consumers continues to disintegrate as service providers are driven to cut services or go out of business altogether. In FY16 LINC is focusing advocacy efforts on increasing access to: mental health and other medical services; seamless cross-

jurisdiction ADA Para-transit eligibility and transportation services; universal design and affordable accessible housing; jobs and other employment related opportunities through WIOA; increasing understanding of disability related issues throughout our communities and increasing our ability to serve more consumers with less funding by the initiation of more skill based groups, collaboration with other agencies and new vehicles of service delivery such as Skype, Go To Meeting and teleconferences.

Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living (NICIL)
412 Locust Street
Sterling, Illinois 61018
Phone: 815-625-7860
Serving Carroll, JoDaviess, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside Counties

Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living (NICIL) provides services to a five (5) county rural area which includes; Whiteside, Lee, Carroll, JoDaviess and Ogle. The total number of non-institutionalized people with disabilities ages 5 and up for all of our counties combined is 138,405 (2014*). The total number of consumers served in FY 15 for all of our counties combined is 331. As you can see we have a large number of unserved populations in our service area. Our geographical terrain is wide spread over the five (5) counties we serve.

Transportation:

Public transportation in our five (5) counties is On Demand Rural transport with no fixed routes. The On Demand system in three (3) of our counties is the only public transportation available.

Consumer Demographics:

The NICIL area is populated predominately White, followed by Latino/Hispanic, and Black/African America, American Indian, and Asian ethnic makeup.

Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living (NICIL) provides services to a five (5) county in all rural area. NICIL has the potential consumer base in our counties for over 7,300. Please note this is only adults over the age of 18 years (because of the transportation issue).

Our potential to reach more consumers is there however due to the lack of funding which in turn equals the underserved population in our five (5) county area. NICIL is currently only service 4.5% of the potential consumers in our area due to funding.

Services Provided:

NICIL team members provided services in three (3) programs: Independent Living Program, Personal Assistance Program, and Community Reintegration program.

With transportation, mobility, and wait times (for transportation) consumers would miss appointments, cancel, or simply withdraw from services. We worked to overcome these issues as often as possible by providing services in home, via Skype or other video conferencing devices and via telephone.

The NICIL team members spend time on NICIL outreach efforts, advocacy efforts, and NICIL marketing efforts such as our newsletters, public presentations, and Disability Awareness activities.

Staffing:

Until the budget impasse of FY 16 NICIL has seven (7) direct service staff: 2 part-time and 5 full time including a Program Manager. There were two (2) administrative positions full time for a total of 9 team members.

Future Outlook:

Answering the needs of our consumer's is NICIL's number one priority. NICIL team members participate in many community activities including building relationships with community resources and agencies. Our most rural counties: Jo Daviess and Carroll counties also are areas that suffer from high unemployment, low education rates, high poverty, and On Demand Transportation that is limited in service hours. Coupling all of these barriers with limited service providers in medical, dental, social services, and mental health residence are not only at risk but are in desperate need for permanent resources. NICIL believes that we can not only become a successful resource for information and referral but having an office located in these areas will make a difference in the quality of life of our consumers and potential consumers.

Looking forward to renewed funding NICIL believes that with state funding, Part C funding, and new fee for service programs we can and will serve our underserved five (5) county area. However, without Part C funding, the area will remain underserved.

Annual budget for all programs when fully funded: \$ 475,245

Priorities List for NICIL for FY 17-20

- Stable Fee for Service Programming
- Development of Interpreters Program
- Advancement of Deaf Service Program
- Entrepreneurial Program
- Increase consumer numbers by 50%
- Increase NICIL staff by 100%
- Finalize NICIL Leadership training program
- Satellite offices in: Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, and Ogle counties that are open at least 1 full day per week moving to 4 full days by end of FY20
- Job Club and Job Coaching program
- Certified ADA Advisors on NICIL staff (at least 3)
- Development of a fee for service program for Accessibility Assessments
- Development of a full Youth program including employment training
- New main office
- Parent Support group
- Annual fundraising effort with outcome of \$35,000 or more profit

Prioritized Outreach Efforts for FY17-20 (annually aside)

- 4 outreach efforts for parents of transitional youth
- Annual municipality training and outreach
- Annual parent/teacher conference for transitioning youth

Opportunities For Access “A Center for Independent Living” (OFA CIL)

4206 Williamson Place, Suite 3

Mt. Vernon Illinois 62864

Phone: 618-244-9212

Serving Clay, Clinton, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Hamilton, Jasper, Jefferson, Marion, Wabash, Washington, Wayne and White counties.

Opportunities For Access (OFA CIL), a Center for Independent Living serves thirteen counties in southern Illinois. These thirteen counties consist of isolated and rural areas. The total population of these rural areas is 269,187. The areas served, has three cities of over 12,000. The rest of the population exists in small towns or villages of less than 6,000, with many at or below 500. This very rural area covers 6,427 square miles. The percentage of people with disabilities that live in these counties is well above the statewide average of people with disabilities.

There is limited public transportation in the bigger cities or towns, but basically none in the rural areas of these counties. There is very limited access to any services or programs for individuals with disabilities in rural areas of these counties. Our goal is to branch out into the more rural areas of these counties, create more awareness, bring more core IL services to these rural areas, along with advocacy and disability awareness for those communities.

OFA CIL would use additional funds from formula funding concept to expand and enhance our services to the rural populations in our counties in the following ways:

Explore additional Satellite Offices in other counties: Because of the lack of transportation, review locations for satellite offices in the counties/areas without a office, as this will provide staff and consumer’s better access to the communities located in those counties. Possible counties of an additional Satellite offices are Clinton, Fayette, Marion, Wabash and Washington

Add Additional Staff

- Independent Living Specialists: Additional Independent Living Specialists would be added to staff in the main and the satellite offices.
- I & R Specialist: OFA CIL would add an I&R Specialist in each office to handle our resource library, do research on items needed and handle all the I & R’s coming into the center.
- Site Managers: To help oversee and manage staff in each of OFA CIL office and to insure quality services.
- Access Specialist: Add access specialist in each OFA CIL offices to work with cities and towns, businesses, churches, etc. and located in our rural area to provide access information and advocate with the consumer for changes that need to be made. Housing and transportation is a big change that needs to be made and this person would work hard on this issues. In addition, this person

would work on state and national issues at the local level.

- Human Resource Specialist: This position would handle the human resource matters for all employee, including required paper work and schedule on-going training needs, etc.
- Development Specialist: This position would work to expand OFA CIL's funding base with grants, fund-raising activities to increase services to the communities. In addition researching funds available to consumer items needed.
- Public Relations Specialist: OFA CIL is currently a member of all of the Chambers located within our service area. A Public Relations person would attend these events and meetings as well as other community events spreading the word about CILs and providing education to the general public about person with disabilities and their needs, especially housing and transportation needs.
- IT Specialist: This position would maintain OFA CIL computer network connecting all the offices. Also this position would manage OFA CIL website, face book, twitter, etc. The website would be improved to provide informational links of interest to persons with disabilities. OFA CIL would also resume publishing a newsletter quarterly on-line for the consumers, service providers and community at large.
- Accounting Clerk: This position would assist with accounts payable/account receivable based on the increased volume as growth in the center grows.
- Attorney: This position would develop a more formal legal services to fill in gaps in the systems (Social Security Cases, Medicaid Cases, Due Process for Youth, Housing decimation issue, and other consumer case issues when necessary)

Equipment Loan Program: OFA CIL would expand our already small equipment loan program to include more equipment and availability in each office.

Upgrade Computer Equipment: Because of the rural area that OFA CIL serves and the transportation issues at hand, OFA's staff go out into the field and make home visits on a regular basis. There is a need for laptop computers and portable printers to allow the ILS to type the case notes, goals, releases and other forms that are needed while out in the field, so signatures can be obtained at that time and not at a later date, etc. Exploring issuing staff cell phones for better communication during home visits. Expanded funding would allow for this expenditure.

Increase Staff Conference Attendance: Funding would be used to allow staff to travel and attend important national level conferences on disability issues.

Expand OFA CIL's Catchment Area: To include the counties of Crawford, Lawrence and Richland in OFA CIL service area, so that independent living and other services could be provided to people with disabilities who resides in those counties. A fully staffed satellite office would be open in one of those three counties to serve the consumers. The total population of these three counties 52,883.

Options Center for Independent Living
22 Heritage Drive, Suite 107
Bourbonnais, Illinois 60914
Phone: 815-935-0100
Serving Iroquois and Kankakee Counties

Options Center for Independent Living
130 Laird Lane, Suite 103
Watseka, Illinois 60970

Options Center for Independent Living serves Kankakee and Iroquois counties. Our primary office serves Kankakee County consisting of both urban and rural areas, with a culturally diverse population. Our satellite office located in Watseka serves Iroquois county, a rural area with a population identifying primarily as Caucasian.

Options CIL mission is to partner with persons with disabilities who want to live independently and participate fully in society; and to achieve this mission we promote local, state and national advocacy; educate persons with disabilities about their rights and responsibilities; provide support services and raise community awareness about disability issues in Kankakee and Iroquois county; and promotion of the independent living philosophy.

Priorities for both offices include providing (5) core services required by Administration of Community Living; Information and Referral, advocacy, independent living skills training, peer support and transition services to youth with disabilities into post-secondary life, transition of people with disabilities out of institutional settings and prevention/deflection of institutionalization.

To achieve these outcomes identified as priorities, Options CIL will strive to accomplish the following:

- 1) Identify and secure alternative funding sources for programs and services to people with disabilities in both counties served.
- 2) Maintain or increase annual fund raising to support programs and services in both counties.
- 3) Increase individual and corporate Options CIL memberships and donations to enhance funding for programs and services in both counties.
- 4) Identify and secure funding for employment of transition specialist at our Watseka satellite office serving Iroquois county.
- 5) Identify and secure funding for formal youth transition programs in both counties.
- 6) Identify and participate in relevant training opportunities provided by Administration of Community Living to ensure program compliance and outcomes.

- 7) Increase collaboration efforts with various stakeholders, including SILC to enhance service coordination.
- 8) Maintain and/or increase technical assistance provided to local businesses, organizations, and health care providers to facilitate equal access of people with disabilities.

Outreach to underserved populations (defined by disability, minority, rural and institutionalized) people with disabilities will be accomplished by:

- 1) Active recruiting and employment of people identified as underserved.
- 2) Actively recruiting members to our Advisory Boards and Board of Directors identified as underserved.
- 3) Actively participating in Hispanic partnership meetings and NAACP meetings.
- 4) Increasing community awareness of Options CIL services to underserved populations.
- 5) Actively participating in various community stakeholder meetings related to full and equal access of people with disabilities in underserved areas.
- 6) Actively providing all program and service materials in both English and Spanish.

PERSONS ASSUMING CONTROL OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT (PACE)

1317 E. Florida

Urbana, Illinois 61801

Phone: 217-344-5433

Serving Champaign, Vermilion, Piatt, Douglas and Edgar counties

PACE, Inc. serves Champaign Vermilion Piatt, Douglas and Edgar counties. The office is located in Champaign County and that is where we serve 77% of the consumers.

PACE would like to develop a satellite office eventually either in Vermilion or Edgar County. Our Visual Impairment North of 55 program holds a support group in each of our counties that have become very popular. Personal Assistant orientation is also offered in Vermilion County periodically. Other services are as needed in the outer counties. We are anxious to develop funds to do more outreach in these counties.

Another goal we have involves Limited English Proficiency. We have a Linguistic and Cultural Competency plan to expand our services to Limited English Proficiency (LEP) consumers this includes deaf consumers using sign. We also have a policy that determines we are ready to hire interpreters as needed. We are currently updating staff training to enhance how these consumer will access our services and take training to become a personal assistants. In addition to American Sign Language (ASL), the first languages found in our coverage area are:

Spanish	4,102
Chinese	3,781
Vietnamese	1,774
Korean	928
French	336

We are also in the process of making a training to outreach to persons with low levels of literacy. 20% to 30% of Illinois population are at the lowest level of literacy. In our coverage area that would be 67,598 to 101,397 people. That could mean as many as 20,279 people who have disabilities and are not literate in our coverage area.

Staff training regarding low literacy will focus on traits that often accompany it such as poverty, no connection to the internet, barriers to being part of decision making, no written comments such as witness slips or comment cards unless someone is taking the comments down. Often excuses when asked to sign in like, "you won't be able to read my writing.", or "I left my glasses at home." Staff will develop a sensitivity to these comments and offer solutions that include the person. Printed invitations are prohibitive to including people who have low literacy. Neighborhood meetings by word of mouth and at people's home with personal invitations to their friends are a way to outreach those who are not users of the printed word. Outreaching to congregations

such as churches or immigration human services is one way to inform people of PACE services and readiness to provide interpreters.

PACE has advisory committees for each program including a very active deaf advisory and a diversity committee which offer ways to improve our services to cultures represented on those committees. We work with the local immigrant organizations to develop members to assist us.

Progress Center for Independent Living (PCIL)

7521 Madison Street

Forest Park, Illinois 60130

Phone: 708-209-1500

Serving suburban Cook County

Service Area: Progress Center for Independent Living (Progress CIL) serves the 138 municipalities of suburban Cook County, with a general population of about two and a half million, or approximately one fourth of the state's population. About a half million people with disabilities reside in our service area and about 23% of that half million are Latinos (that means over 100,000).

Satellite Needs: Currently, Progress CIL has offices in Forest Park, a near western suburb of Chicago, and has a satellite office in the south suburbs to better address the needs of the underserved, significantly minority, populations there. Progress CIL's long range plans include satellite offices in the north and far west suburbs as well. Progress CIL is not a "Part C" center, and urges RSA to make state-funded centers that comply with Part C requirements eligible for federal independent living funding.

Projected Impact: Increased funding would enable Progress CIL to establish satellite locations in all major segments of the Cook County suburbs, with at least two staff persons in each location, to conduct outreach, education and provide essential independent living services. As a result, we would be expected a 50% increase to the overall number of people served.

Administrative Personnel Needs: Increased funding would also enable Progress CIL to undertake personnel-related initiatives to better ensure retention of qualified staff, and could enable the center to create new positions focused on resource development, public relations, fiscal management and legal advocacy. Increasing funding would allow PCIL to fill vacant positions resulting from the lack of a State budget. Progress Center laid off six employees and our budget has been significantly reduced.

Progress CIL Strategic Plan

Program Development

A. Employment

PCIL will strengthen its employment program enhancing its internship process and building relationships with community partners and potential employers.

B. Youth Transition

PCIL will build on its experience in community reintegration and employment to focus on youth transition developing partnerships with specific school districts, organizations and government entities to encourage self-advocacy and personal responsibility.

C. Home and Community Services

PCIL will build its capacity to assist members and other consumers in their ability to live in the communities of their own choosing with an emphasis on affordable, accessible, integrated housing and independent life skills training.

D. Demographic Change

PCIL will articulate the values of the independent living philosophy to the ever-changing demographics of persons with disabilities while working in collaboration with other human service organizations.

II. Organizational Development

E. Membership Development

PCIL will build its membership base and strengthen its ability to inform and assist consumers and advocate with them in support of the values of the independent living movement.

F. Funding

PCIL will diversify its funding base and clearly identify board and staff responsibilities for specific efforts.

G. Staff Development

PCIL will devote time and resources to increase the professional expertise of our staff.

H. Board Development

PCIL will build the capacity of the board to work in fundraising to support the mission of the Center.

Regional Access & Mobilization Project (RAMP)

202 Market Street

Rockford, Illinois 61107

Phone: 815-968-7467

Serving Boone, DeKalb, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties

RAMP will continue to use our strategic plan as the guiding force for our further development. Every office and department has a detailed plan that guides our activities and is specific to the needs of the communities we serve. During the coming year, we will continue to evaluate our present services and launch our new programs. We will also continue to explore for any gaps in services or areas where RAMP could be of more assistance to the communities we serve. RAMP's Strategic Goals in progress are:

- 1) Independent Living focused curriculum is a pipeline to employment and provided to every student with a disability in our service area so they are successful, employed adults.
- 2) Any individual with a disability who wants to work is employed.
- 3) RAMP responds proactively to all service changes to ensure optimal opportunities for individuals with disabilities (ex, 1115 Waiver, ADRC's, BIP, 5th Core Service, etc).
- 4) Each service RAMP provides is planned, tracked and evaluated for optimum consumer success through the use of Outcomes.
- 5) Individuals with disabilities are a driving force in the success of each community RAMP serves: Educate, Elevate, Infiltrate

The action plan for these goals is updated regularly.

All consumers will be provided the services that they request, in a language they understand, and in the way that they chose, if finances are available and no other options are available (Trained interpreter, family/friend)

RAMP will outreach to those who could be LEP consumers, so they know about the services provided and how to get those services.

RAMP's Short Term Goals

- By July 1, 2015 RAMP will have determined who the LEP point person/s will be.
- By December 1, 2015 RAMP will have procedures for collecting data to assess the language needs of the consumers they are serving.
- By January 1, 2016 RAMP will have a list of resources to meet the cultural and linguistic needs of those they serve. RAMP will ensure that all staff are aware of these resources and to utilize them.

- By February 1, 2016 RAMP will have developed practices to ensure that consumers receive both verbal and written notices, in their preferred language, of their right to receive interpreter services.
- By March 1, 2016 RAMP will have reviewed current procedures, determined what the key points of contact are, what information is shared at that time and how it is shared, and determine what steps are needed to provide services to LEP individuals at these times. These will include referral, intake, case management, and grievances.
- By April 1, 2016 RAMP will determine how they will ensure that translated materials are translated accurately and have the process in written format.
- By April 1, 2016 the point person will have reviewed our current policies and procedures, determined what may need to be updated, share the new information with current staff, and provide training on cultural and linguistic services.
- By April 1, 2016 RAMP will have signage, in at least the top 5 languages for the service areas, in common areas notifying LEP consumers of the availability of interpreter services. Front office staff will have access to information to assist with providing communication in the correct language, to the best of their ability and according to RAMP's financial ability.
- By May 1, 2016 RAMP will have key consumer information, in at least the most primary language used (besides English), for staff to share with their consumers and for marketing RAMP services.
- By June 1, 2016 RAMP will have determined how they will monitor the language and cultural competency plan and have the first monitoring completed by August 1, 2016.

Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living (Main Office)

2135 W. Ramada Lane

Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Phone: 618-457-3318

Serving: Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Williamson, Gallatin, Hardin, Saline Counties

Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living (Satellite Office)

32 Veterans Drive

Harrisburg, Illinois 62946

The Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living serves seven counties in rural southern Illinois. Gallatin, Hardin and Saline are supported by Title 7, Part C dollars. Franklin, Jackson, Perry and Williamson are funded with Title 7, Part B dollars. The Center has been in existence for thirty-one years and in that time has experienced a transition of serving people with primarily physical disabilities to serving primarily emotional and cognitive disabilities. The Center also serves a large number of visually impaired over the age of fifty-five.

Advocacy Initiatives

1. Provide grass roots advocacy for the establishment of a satellite office(s) in the southern most counties of Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski and Union that are not served by a CIL and listed as Priority 5 (the last priority) in the SILC funding plan.
2. Establish a satellite office in Williamson County. Williamson County is growing tremendously. With the establishment of a satellite office, we could better provide the core services for residents with disabilities in this county as well as Franklin County and surrounding rural areas.
3. The Southern Illinois Center will continue to advocate for greater transportation options for its citizens with disabilities in the counties in which we provide services. Advocacy to Increase transportation options for medical and vocational endeavors.
4. Eighteen thousand, three hundred and ninety-five veterans reside in SICIL's catchment areas. Specialized programs to meet housing, medical referral and treatment needs for veterans with Post Traumatic Stress disorder would be developed.
5. A great number of migratory workers are located in southern Illinois. The Illinois census indicates that 5, 643 people of Hispanic/Latino race live in the counties we currently serve providing local support to our orchards, vineyards and farms. A greater number reside in our unserved adjoining counties of Union, Johnson, Alexander, and Pulaski. Often these workers are unaware of the services provided to persons with disabilities. The Center would increase Information and Referral and direct service to Hispanic and Latino individuals with disabilities.

6. Advocate for additional funding to meet the office space and staff needs to support the above initiatives.

Soyland Access to Independent Living (SAIL)

2449 E. Federal Drive

Decatur, Illinois 62526

Phone: 217-876-8888

Serving Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Macon, Moultrie and Shelby Counties

SAIL

1810 W. South 3rd Street

Shelbyville, Illinois 62565

Soyland Access to Independent Living, SAIL, promotes independent living to all people with disabilities. The SAIL service area includes Macon, Moultrie, Shelby, Coles, Clark and Cumberland Counties. SAIL also provides Elderly Blind Services to residents in Logan County and Youth Transition Services to individuals living in Piatt County. The SAIL service area consists of counties located in central Illinois moving east to the Illinois/Indiana state lines.

The main office for SAIL is located at 2449 E. Federal Drive in Decatur Illinois. SAIL operates a branch office at 1810 W. South 3rd Street in Shelbyville Illinois providing services to those living in both Moultrie and Shelby Counties. SAIL also has a branch office located at 707 Windsor Road, Suite B in Charleston Illinois serving Coles, Clark and Cumberland counties.

SAIL serves two diverse populations; one being the residents of the urban industrial city of Decatur. The second population lives in the rural communities of the eight counties SAIL services. The majority of the towns are small in population, with the exception of the county seats; Sullivan in Moultrie County, Shelbyville in Shelby County and Charleston in Coles County. These rural communities lack effective, efficient public transportation, employment training opportunities and sustainable employment options.

Over the last seven years SAIL took drastic funding cuts in the three federal grants. These cuts brought a reduction in the number of staff in each of the SAIL offices. For many years SAIL also operated an office in the city of Sullivan in Moultrie County. Due to these cuts, that office was closed in July 2014. Increased funding would allow SAIL to work towards the goals below.

Minority Outreach – Unserved and Underserved Populations

SAIL would increase the number of staff in the main office to better identify the needs of the minority populations residing in Decatur. Over the last five years SAIL has experienced an increase in the number of African-American consumers receiving services but has not seen an increase in reaching the Hispanic population.

Rural Outreach – Unserved and Underserved Populations

SAIL would utilize additional funds to expand services in the rural areas by hiring additional staff to provide direct consumers services, conduct SAIL presentations and educational activities in the communities to raise awareness of services available to people with disabilities. This staff would also increase collaboration efforts by working alongside agencies, governing bodies and business partners developing initiatives aimed to

- improve and increase accessible and affordable housing
- implement effective local and cross-county transportation services
- design educational, employment and recreational options for youth transitioning from high school to a productive independent lifestyle in the community

These efforts would result in more people with disabilities accessing and functioning independently in their own homes, gaining access to employment opportunities and health care services and assisting youth with disabilities in establishing a lifestyle of success in education, employment, social impact bringing about systemic change and true independence.

Springfield Center for Independent Living (SCIL)

330 S. Grand Avenue West

Springfield, Illinois 62704

Phone: 217-523-2587

Serving Christian, Logan, Menard, Montgomery and Sangamon Counties

SCIL is well established in the Illinois State Capitol, Springfield, IL (population 116,250 US census 2010), with ninety-two percent of the consumers served residing in Sangamon County (population 197,465). The other four rural counties receive the remaining eight percent of our services. This is largely due to limited resources because we only receive a small amount of Part C funding to provide services to our outlying counties.

The entire population for the five Counties is approximately 305,379 people. Sangamon--197,465, Christian—34,800, Logan—30,305, Montgomery—30,104 and Menard—12,705. We estimate our underserved population to be approximately 180,000 people in our service area. Our underserved areas are due to the lack of resources to provide staff and office space for our outlying counties.

There are an estimated 29,472 (US Census 2010) people with disabilities under the age of 65 in our five county service area. In addition, there are also 45,469 Senior's over 65 in our five county service area with a significant percentage having some type of disability.

SCIL would use additional funds to provide the following services:

Rural and Small Town Outreach and Services:

In order to reach consumers in our small towns and rural areas (approximately 189,129), SCIL would open satellite offices in Lincoln, Litchfield and Taylorville. The Taylorville office would serve Christian County and the Litchfield Office would serve Montgomery County. The Lincoln office would serve Logan and Menard counties. Even with satellite offices, SCIL staff would be required to travel to the rural areas and the numerous small towns of each county to be served. Each office would staff a full-time Independent Living Specialist and Clerical staff member. The office hours would coincide with the hours in the Springfield office: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. SCIL would lease an office in Lincoln, Litchfield and Taylorville and purchase the necessary office equipment and supplies for each location.

Underserved/Unserved:

There are approximately 25,872 Black/African Americans, 3,244 Asians, and 5,573 Hispanic people in our services area. With funding, SCIL would contract with bilingual interpreters to serve Hispanic and Asian Consumers in our service area.

SCIL will also expand the following areas:

- Systemic Advocacy
- Resource Development
- Outreach
- Staff development
- Services to people who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Services to people who are blind or visually impaired
- Services to people with mental/emotional disabilities

Stone-Hayes Center for Independent Living (SHCIL)
39 North Prairie Street
Galesburg, Illinois 61401
Phone: 309-344-1306
Serving Henderson, Knox and Warren Counties

The Stone-Hayes Center for Independent Living serves a primarily rural area with the largest community being Galesburg, Knox County, which has a population of around 30,000 people. The second largest town is Monmouth, Warren County, which has a population of 10,000 people. The remainder of the service area is composed of communities with populations of around 3,000 people, but mostly less. Most communities are significantly smaller and several unincorporated communities of 150-250 people. Overall, minority statistics indicate populations of approximately 20% with a growing Hispanic representation. Our service area encompasses over 1,100 square miles. As with any rural area, in order to serve consumers to and from the outlying areas pose challenges with time and transportation. Public transportation is available in Galesburg and Monmouth.

The Center has no plans to expand the current five core services in the near future due to funding constraints and diligently seeking additional revenue in order to restore staffing capacity. However, we are striving to create on line chat classes for those transition students who live in rural areas and cannot attend regular youth meetings. The classes, facilitated by Youth and Family Advocate, would be designed to assist with independent living skills, job seeking, education, barriers that younger individuals with disabilities face.

“Dinner in the Dark” is SHCIL major fundraiser of the year with all proceeds used to serve our consumers within the three county area.

Due to the economically suppressed area we serve, we have great demand for assistive technology donated to the Center which launched our Match Program. Assistive technology donated to SHCIL is matched up with persons on our waiting list in need. We make two requests, they sign a release of liability and return equipment when it's no longer needed.

R.I.D.E. Program: Respect-Inclusion-Dignity-Empowerment. Many of our consumers who live in local housing towers find it too difficult to come to our facility on a regular basis, but they still desire to be included and want advocacy for the issues that are important to them. RIDE Program allows SHCIL to go to various housing towers and other community centers in Knox, Warren and Henderson counties to provide Peer Support and other services or programs for people with disabilities who are unable to come to our office in Galesburg.

SHCIL has two extremely active peer groups (in Knox and Warren Counties). These groups participate within their respective communities in many ways such as preparing an apartment house for individuals who are homeless, bagging groceries at local businesses, volunteering at food banks, presenting play that was written and performed by our consumers to the general public about being bullied as a person with a disability.

Outreach: SHCIL has monthly radio time that reaches all three counties and highlights upcoming events, issues important to persons with disabilities, and our programs and services. We facilitate disability awareness programs within all schools in the three county area. SHCIL network and collaborate with civic organizations for opportunities to educate.

West Central Illinois Center for Independent Living (WCICIL)

639 York Street, Suite 204

Quincy, Illinois 62301

Phone: 217-223-0400

Serving Adams, Brown, Hancock, McDonough, Pike and Schuyler Counties

WCICIL

440 North Lafayette

Macomb, Illinois 61455

Phone: 309-833-5766

PLANS FOR EXPANSION PENDING INCREASED FUNDING TO WICIL:

West Central Illinois Center for Independent Living (WCICIL) serves a large service area of west central Illinois. This includes six counties with a total population of 149,381 according to the 2013 census. Our center is located in Quincy (Adams County), which runs along the Mississippi River and is located at the center's western edge of our service area. In our larger cities of Quincy, Macomb, and Pittsfield, our population is approximately 93% white and 3.5% African-American. Quincy's minority population may be slightly higher. In the past, minorities have been a largely underserved population. In the smaller towns and rural areas of our service area the population is much smaller, however, this population has also fallen in the underserved category. These are farming communities in need of education about available resources for individuals of any age with any disability. In this very large service area, Quincy is the only community with public transportation which again limits other's access to services and programs. For this reason we are concentrating on expanding our outreach efforts and also expanding both individual and systemic advocacy efforts to better meet these needs.

OUTREACH EFFORTS:

In order to better serve our underserved populations we are focusing on identifying transportation services availability and accessibility in our 6 county service area as well as providing the staff to serve these outlying counties. With Phase 1 of the center's Linguistic and Cultural Competency Plan we are also identifying demographics in all of our service areas in order to provide LEP persons with meaningful access to WCICIL programs, as well as conducting needs assessments. We opened a satellite office in Macomb, McDonough County, to assist in reaching our northern most rural communities and are considering another office in Pittsfield, Pike County, based on funding to better reach rural communities in the southern areas of WCICIL service area. WCICIL is involved in these areas and will continue to be a visible part of these communities. Current outreach activities include ADA awareness events, fundraisers, disability etiquette trainings in each of our areas, presentations for local organizations, IEP

trainings, and personal assistant recruitments. We are looking forward to expanding our services to the deaf and blind communities within our 6 counties.

CORE SERVICES EXPANSION:

With the 2014 passing of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), centers for independent living have expanded to include Five Core Services: Advocacy, Independent Living Skills Training, Information & Referral, Peer Counseling, and Transitioning. With the addition of Transitioning, WCICIL sees a need to hire a Job Placement Specialist to facilitate collaboration and improvement of employment, training, and educational programming to youth and young adults transitioning to employment, economic stability and self-sufficiency.

WCICIL has also seen an increase in individuals with disabilities interested in and taking advantage of the new innovative assistive technology that is now available. WCICIL sees a need to expand our Computer Lab and Resource Library to better educate and highlight the latest technology. It would be important to hire an Assistive Technology Specialist to maintain this equipment and educate consumers on what options are available that best meets their needs, as well as potential funding sources to aid in acquiring the expensive devices. These AT services would be available to individuals in all 6 counties.

COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES:

We plan to continue our reintegration services by assisting persons with disabilities to move out of institutions and into an independent living setting as well as extending our youth advocacy by providing training in this area so that parents are better able to be a part of the IEP process. Our trainings will include personal assistant training, consumer training on management of personal assistants, sensitivity training with the public transit and Highway Patrol, and independent living skills. We will also have peer counseling for persons with same disability as well as a cross-disability support group. Our information and referral services will extend to work with the No Wrong Door Model, Universal Assessment Tool Screening & Intake, ADA assistance, Braille services, TTY distribution center, and an equipment loan program.

SUMMARY:

With additional funding WCICIL would like to expand concentration on these key service areas:

- Outreach in Underserved Areas
- Transitioning Youth to Employment Opportunities
- Assistive Technology Opportunities

Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living (WGCIL)
2415 A Jefferson Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435
Phone: 815-729-0162
Serving Grundy and Will Counties

WGCIL priorities are:

Developing an effective outreach plan so more people with all disabilities of all ages will use our services. This includes Spanish-only speaking consumers; rural Will County; Grundy County; and underserved disability populations. Areas on which we will focus include entities serving children with disabilities, grade and high schools, transition schools, agencies serving senior citizens, churches, etc. We will collaborate with college students whose major is marketing in order to create new, enticing means of informing the public about the Center. Our presence at fairs and expos will allow us to educate even more people.

A volunteer who is bi-lingual in Spanish and English will be recruited. This person will bridge the communication gap between our Center and those individuals who only speak Spanish.

Outreach will be made to agencies/groups that have a single disability focus. Examples include MS, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, etc. We will offer our services and invite their consumers to take advantage of them. Informing agencies that primarily serve people with developmental disabilities about our services will take place with collaborations encouraged.

We will work to attract people who are deaf, have visual disabilities, and people with hidden disabilities. Seeking a volunteer who is fluent in sign language will be sought. Many people who are deaf can only communicate with sign.

Outreaching and serving youth is another priority. As stated above, we will continue outreach to schools. Disability awareness will be provided to children without disabilities. Children with disabilities will be provided with skills they need in order to be ready for life after school.

Providing leadership development to consumers will continue. The need to develop future leaders in our movement is great. We will teach the individuals about the struggle for disability equality, pioneers in the movement, disability laws, and their place in our efforts.

Lastly, we will continue seeking sources of additional funding. Examples include government grants, fee for service, fund raisers, foundation support, membership fees, etc. Diversifying our sources of revenue is a necessity during these challenging times.