

# Reporting Instrument

OMB Approval No.: 0985-0061  
Expiration Date: February 28, 2025

## CIL Program Project Performance Report

Fiscal Year: 2023

Grant #: 2302WVILCL

Name of Center: Appalachian Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Acronym for Center (if applicable): ACIL

State: WV

Counties Served: Boyd (KY), Boone (WV), Braxton (WV), Cabell (WV), Calhoun (WV), Clay (WV), Doddridge (WV), Fayette (WV), Greenbrier (WV), Jackson (WV), Kanawha (WV), Logan (WV), Mason (WV), Nicholas (WV), Pleasants (WV), Putnam (WV), Raleigh (WV), Ritchie (WV), Roane (WV), Webster (WV), Wirt (WV), Wood (WV)

# SECTION 1 - GENERAL FUNDING INFORMATION

Section 725(c)(8)(D) of the Act

Indicate the amount received by the CIL as per each funding source. Enter '0' for none.

## Item 1.1.1 - All Federal Funds Received

Title VII, Ch. 1, Part B	\$125,451.00
Title VII, Ch. 1, Part C	\$234,980.00
Title VII, Ch. 2	\$0
Other Federal Funds	\$95,462.00
<b>Subtotal - All Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$455,893.00</b>

## Item 1.1.2 - Other Government Funds

State Government Funds	\$112,229.00
Local Government Funds	\$0
<b>Subtotal - State and Local Government Funds</b>	<b>\$112,229.00</b>

## Item 1.1.3 - Private Resources

Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants	\$0
Donations from Individuals	\$1,069.63
Membership Fees	\$0
Investment Income/Endowment	\$18.82
Fees for Service (program income, etc.)	\$43,422.09
Other resources (in-kind, fundraising, etc.)	\$286
<b>Subtotal - Private Resources</b>	<b>\$44,796.54</b>

## Item 1.1.4 - Total Income

Total income = (Item 1.1.1)+(Item 1.1.2)+(Item 1.1.3)	\$612,918.54
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## Item 1.1.5 - Pass Through Funds

Amount of other government funds received as pass through funds to consumers (include funds, received on behalf of consumers, that are subsequently passed on to consumers, e.g., personal assistance services, representative payee funds, or Medicaid funds)	\$64,395.00
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## Item 1.1.6 - Net Operating Resources



Total Income (Item 1.1.4) minus amount paid out to Consumers (Item 1.1.5) = Net Operating Resources	\$548,523.54
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## Item 1.2 - Resource Development Activities

Briefly describe the CIL's resource development activities conducted during the reporting period to expand funding from sources other than chapter 1 of title VII of the Act.

This year, ACIL has made significant strides in both securing funding and expanding our services, despite facing challenges in securing increased support from the West Virginia Legislature. While the Legislature has maintained funding levels for the West Virginia Independence Network (WIN) and its partner Centers for Independent Living (CILs), we have remained proactive in seeking out alternative revenue sources to sustain and grow our programs.

To ensure that Centers for Independent Living (CILs) have the necessary resources to deliver Community Living Support Program (CLSP) services promptly, the WIN partners have made substantial efforts. These initiatives included ongoing advocacy and education efforts such as IL Day at the Capitol, Disability Advocacy Day at the Legislature, and active engagement throughout the legislative session.

A significant milestone in our advocacy efforts took place when the Executive Directors (EDs) of the West Virginia Independence Network (WIN) partners met with Senate Finance Chair Senator Eric Tarr, along with several members of both the Senate and House Finance Committees. The primary focus of the discussion was the FY2025 Senate Budget General Revenue Line-Item Change Request, which WIN had completed and submitted. This request sought an increase in funding for CLSP services, raising the annual allocation from \$429,000 to \$2,000,000--an additional \$1,571,000. If approved, this funding increase would have cleared the CLSP waiting list for all Centers for Independent Living (CILs) across West Virginia, ensuring more timely service delivery for individuals in need.

Unfortunately, we did not receive the requested funding increase. However, the WIN partners remain committed to advocating and educating on behalf of our community. We will continue our efforts and plan to return next year to restart the process.

One of the key areas where we have focused our efforts to generate additional income is our transportation program. Through contracts with Modivcare and the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), we've successfully raised a total of \$15,413.38 in revenue. This includes \$824.59 from Modivcare, \$13,023.29 from UMWA and \$1,565.50 in private pay. These contracts enable us to provide non-emergency medical transportation to Medicaid recipients, retired miners, and their spouses, as well as offer transportation services to private pay consumers who don't qualify for Medicaid or need transportation for non-medical appointments. The success of this program has been a vital component of our funding strategy and continues to meet the needs of our community.

ACIL has continued to receive forgivable loans from the West Virginia Housing Development Fund for home modifications and wheelchair ramps. This year, our contracts with the Fund increased from the usual \$100,000 per year to \$120,000, a result of the strong working relationship we have developed, which has turned this into an ongoing partnership.

Additionally, our Center successfully renewed our contract with the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), which serves as our designated state entity (DSE) and fiscal agent for the administration of Title VII, Part B funds. We also renewed our contract for State Independent Living

funds, which supports the operation of our Community Living Support Program (CLSP).

In February 2024, ACIL became a Certified Rehabilitation Provider (CRP) through the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (WVDRS) to offer employment services. Since then, ACIL has been actively providing these services to individuals in need. During this fiscal year, ACIL successfully delivered employment services and received \$18,057.14 in compensation for services rendered.

# SECTION 2 - COMPLIANCE INDICATOR 1: PHILOSOPHY

## Item 2.1 - Board Member Composition

OILP-ACL Review Tool: Are there at least 51% total board members with significant disabilities? Yes  
Enter requested governing board information in the table below:

Total Number of Board Members	Number of Board Members with Significant Disabilities
9	6

Percentage of Board Members with Significant Disabilities	67.00%
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## Item 2.2 - Staff Composition

OILP-ACL Review Tool: Are at least 51% of total staff individuals with disabilities? Yes  
Enter requested staff information in the table below:

	Total Number of FTEs	FTEs Filled by Individuals with Disabilities	FTEs Filled by Individuals From Minority Populations
Decision-Making Staff	1.0	1.0	0.0
Other Staff	7.0	6.0	0.0
Total Number of Employees	8.0	7.0	0.0

### Item 2.2.1 - Staff With Disabilities

Percentage of Staff Members with Significant Disabilities	88.00%
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# SECTION 3 - INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SERVICES

Section 704(m)(4)(D) of the Act; Section 725(b)(2) of the Act; Section 725(c)(8)(B) of the Act

## Item 3.1 - Number of Consumers Served During the Reporting Period

Include Consumer Service Records (CSRs) for all consumers served during the period

	# of CSRs
(1) Enter the number of active CSRs carried over from the preceding reporting period	167
(2) Enter the number of CSRs started since the start of the reporting period	164
(3) Add lines (1) and (2) to get the <b>total number of consumers served</b>	331

## Item 3.2 - IL Plans and Waivers

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Number of consumers who signed a waiver	0
(2) Number of consumers with whom an ILP was developed	331
(3) <b>Total number of consumers</b> served during the reporting period	331

## Item 3.3 - Number of CSRs Closed by September 30 of the Reporting Period

Include the number of consumer records closed out of the active CSR files during the reporting period because the individual has:

	# of CSRs
(1) Moved	0
(2) Withdrawn	3
(3) Died	4
(4) Completed all goals set	71
(5) Other	32
(6) Add lines (1)+(2)+(3)+(4)+(5) to get <b>total CSRs closed</b>	110

## Item 3.4 - Age

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Under 5 years old	3

	# of Consumers
(2) Ages 5 - 19	9
(3) Ages 20 - 24	7
(4) Ages 25 - 59	95
(5) Age 60 and Older	217
(6) Age unavailable	0
<b>Total number of consumers by age</b>	<b>331</b>

### Item 3.5 - Sex

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Number of Females served	186
(2) Number of Males served	145
<b>Total number of consumers by sex</b>	<b>331</b>

### Item 3.6 - Race And Ethnicity

Indicate the number of consumers served in each category below. ***Each consumer may be counted under ONLY ONE of the following categories in the PPR/704 Report, even if the consumer reported more than one race and/or Hispanic/Latino ethnicity).***

	# of Consumers
(1) American Indian or Alaska Native	0
(2) Asian	0
(3) Black or African American	20
(4) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1
(5) White	306
(6) Hispanic/Latino of any race or Hispanic/ Latino only	1
(7) Two or more races	2
(8) Race and ethnicity unknown	1
<b>Total number of consumers served by race/ethnicity</b>	<b>331</b>

### Item 3.7 - Disability

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Cognitive	15
(2) Mental/Emotional	26
(3) Physical	193

	<b># of Consumers</b>
(4) Hearing	23
(5) Vision	10
(6) Multiple Disabilities	40
(7) Other	24
<b>Total number of consumers served by disability</b>	<b>331</b>

### Item 3.8 - Individuals Served by County During the Reporting Period

List each county within the CIL's service area, as indicated in the CIL's application for Part C funds and the approved SPIL. Add additional rows as necessary. For each county, indicate how many individuals residing in that county were served by the CIL during the reporting period.

<b>County Name</b>	<b>Number of County Residents Served</b>
Boone, WV	9
Braxton, WV	3
Calhoun, WV	8
Clay, WV	9
Greenbrier, WV	6
Jackson, WV	16
Kanawha, WV	216
Nicholas, WV	9
Putnam, WV	24
Roane, WV	12
Webster, WV	2
Wirt, WV	1
Wood, WV	16
<b>Total number of consumers served by county</b>	<b>331</b>

# SECTION 4 - INDIVIDUAL SERVICES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Item 4.1 - Individual Services

OILP-ACL Review Tool: Does the CIL provide evidence of the following services?

Information and referral: Yes

Independent living skills training: Yes

Peer counseling: Yes

Advocacy - individual and systems: Yes

For the reporting period, indicate in the table below how many consumers requested and received each of the following IL services.

Services	Consumers Requesting Services	Consumers Receiving Services
Advocacy/Legal Services	18	15
Assistive Technology	10	4
Children's Services	0	0
Communication Services	4	1
Counseling and related services	19	18
Family Services	0	0
Housing, Home Modification, and Shelter Services	44	23
IL Skills Training and Life Skills Training	18	15
Information and Referral Services	692	689
Mental Restoration Services	0	0
Mobility training	0	0
Peer Counseling Services	10	9
Personal Assistance Services	1	0
Physical Restoration Services	0	0
Preventive Services	0	0
Prostheses, Orthotics, and other appliances	0	0
Recreational Services	6	6
Rehabilitation Technology Services	7	4
Therapeutic Treatment	0	0
Transportation Services	28	27
Youth/Transition Services	8	7
Vocational Services	14	13
Other	14	10

## Item 4.2 - I&R Information

To inform ACL how many service providers engage in I&R follow-up contacts regarding access to

transportation, health care services or assistive technology, please indicate the following:

The service provider did **X** / did not \_\_\_\_ engage in follow-up contacts with I & R recipients to document access gained to previously unavailable transportation, health care or assistive technology.

Describe how information and referral services and the other IL core and other IL services are provided to those who request such services in formats accessible to the individual requesting the services. Describe any innovative practices (not mentioned elsewhere in this report) to enhance the availability and effectiveness of IL services.

Information and Referral (I&R) is one of the cornerstone services we provide at ACIL, offering vital resources and guidance on topics related to disability and independent living. Our staff takes a team-based approach to handling I&Rs, ensuring that every inquiry is met with a comprehensive and informed response. Over the course of this year, ACIL staff successfully provided 673 I&R services, connecting individuals with the resources and support they need to live more independently.

ACIL also places a strong emphasis on providing our staff with the most current and relevant resources. To that end, we maintain up-to-date resource binders, housing advocacy binders, and specialized advocacy resources, including materials on Medicaid Waiver programs, SNAP benefits, and the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), among others. These binders are shared and accessible to all ACIL staff, enabling us to provide consistent, accurate, and timely assistance to our consumers.

Throughout the reporting year, ACIL remained steadfast in our mission to empower individuals with disabilities. By providing comprehensive information and support, we continue to help individuals make informed decisions about their lives, fostering greater independence and inclusion within our community.

### **Item 4.3 - Peer Relationships and Peer Role Models**

Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL has promoted the development of peer relationships and peer role models among individuals with significant disabilities.

At ACIL, both our staff and board members work tirelessly to serve as peer role models through daily interactions with consumers. We understand that many individuals with disabilities face emotional challenges, including depression and anxiety, often stemming from the stress of navigating life without sufficient accessibility or accommodations. Through our personal experiences, we are able to offer empathy, understanding, and practical support to help consumers feel seen, heard, and empowered.

One of the core values that sets ACIL apart is our commitment to fostering a positive self-image among those we serve. We believe that promoting self-confidence is essential for developing meaningful peer relationships. This focus on self-empowerment is reflected in our unique organizational structure: 88% of our staff and 67% of our Board of Directors have disabilities, making us a true peer-led organization. This personal connection allows us to build trust with consumers and provide them with authentic role models who have navigated similar challenges.

ACIL continues to identify individuals with disabilities who may struggle with social skills, peer relationships, and building support networks. To address these needs, we have created several



targeted support groups, including an Autism Support Group, a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Support Group, and a Mental Health Support Group. These groups provide a safe space for individuals to share their experiences, receive emotional support, and develop skills for building stronger social connections.

This year, we have continued our support services with support groups (Autism (ASD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), etc.) within our Center. We are proud to partner with the TBI Program at the WVU Center of Excellence in Disabilities to host the TBI Support Group, further enhancing the services we offer.

To ensure accessibility, we continue to offer virtual options for those who prefer remote participation. Consumers can join support groups via Zoom or conference calls, making it easier for individuals who may face transportation barriers or prefer not to participate in person to still receive the support they need.

Through these initiatives, ACIL remains deeply committed to empowering individuals with disabilities by providing peer support, building community connections, and promoting self-advocacy. Our efforts to create inclusive, accessible spaces for personal growth and leadership are a testament to our ongoing dedication to improving the lives of those we serve.

#### **Item 4.4 - Goals Related to Increased Independence in a Significant Life Area**

Indicate the number of consumers who set goals related to the following significant life areas, the number whose goals are still in progress, and the number who achieved their goals as a result of the provision of IL services.

<b>Significant Life Area</b>	<b>Goals Set</b>	<b>Goals Achieved</b>	<b>In Progress</b>
Self-Advocacy/Self-Empowerment	80	37	34
Communication	8	3	5
Mobility/Transportation	67	35	22
Community-Based Living	59	17	29
Educational	7	2	4
Vocational	18	7	11
Self-Care	11	4	6
Information Access/Technology	7	5	2
Personal Resource Management	11	7	3
Relocation from a Nursing Home or Institution to Community-Based Living	4	2	2
Community/Social Participation	3	0	1
Other	11	4	7

**ACL Feedback:** Relocation from a nursing home or institution is a core service. Institution can be defined as hospital, rehab facility, homeless shelter....and to count the goal the CIL can partner and offer wraparound services to those about to move or those who recently located. With that in mind, does this impact your numbers under this goal? If not, please state how you will correct under 4.7.

In addition, please use the same section to talk more about how you are working to increase your core service numbers as they are very low.

#### Item 4.5 - Improved Access To Transportation, Health Care Services, and Assistive Technology

In column one, indicate the number of consumers who required access to previously unavailable transportation, health care services, or assistive technology during the reporting period. Of the consumers listed in column one, indicate in column two, the number of consumers who, as a result of the provision of IL services (including the four core services), achieved access to previously unavailable transportation, health care services, or assistive technology during the reporting period. In column three, list the number of consumers whose access to transportation, health care services or assistive technology is still in progress at the end of the reporting period.

Areas	# of Consumers Requiring Access	# of Consumers Achieving Access	# of Consumers Whose Access is in Progress
(A) Transportation	15	15	0
(B) Health Care Services	34	33	1
(C) Assistive Technology	9	5	4

Note: For most IL services, a consumer's access to previously unavailable transportation, health care and assistive technology is documented through his or her CSR. In some instances, consumers may achieve an outcome solely through information and referral (I&R) services. To document these instances as successful outcomes, providers are not required to create CSRs for these consumers, but must be able to report that follow-up contacts with these consumers showed access to previously unavailable transportation, health care and assistive technology.

#### Item 4.6 - Self-Help and Self-Advocacy

Briefly describe how the CIL has promoted self-help and self-advocacy among individuals with significant disabilities during the reporting period.

One of the core missions of a Center for Independent Living is to empower individuals with disabilities to advocate for themselves and take control of their own lives. At ACIL, we are committed to fostering self-advocacy by providing people with the tools, skills, and resources they need to live independently and confidently.

Here are just a few examples of the self-advocacy activities we have implemented:

##### Self-Help Skills Training

We provide comprehensive training in essential self-help skills that support independent living. These skills include functional academics, menu planning and meal preparation, budgeting, home maintenance and safety, self-care mobility, social skills, vocational development, and emergency preparedness. By equipping consumers with these skills, we help them build the confidence and capability to manage everyday tasks and navigate life with greater independence.

##### Community Living Services Program

Through our Community Living Services Program, we have helped 118 consumers enhance their

ability to participate in community activities by providing essential modifications such as bathroom adaptations, wheelchair ramps, and assistive devices. These modifications allow individuals to remain in their homes, engage more fully in their communities, and maintain their independence. Many of these projects involved larger, high-cost modifications that had a significant impact on improving accessibility and quality of life.

#### Assistance with Applications and Resources

Our staff works closely with consumers to support them in completing applications for Medicaid Waiver services, housing subsidies, Olmstead assistance, and other financial resources. These services are critical in helping individuals secure the support they need to live independently and access the resources available to them.

#### ADA Complaints and Rights Advocacy

Whenever requested or when situations arise, we assist consumers in understanding how to file an ADA complaint. We walk them through the steps of the process, ensuring they know their rights and how to advocate for themselves in the face of discrimination or lack of accessibility.

These are just a few examples of the self-help and self-advocacy activities we engage in at ACIL. Every initiative is designed to increase opportunities for individuals with disabilities to take charge of their lives, make informed decisions, and become active participants in their communities. Our efforts are continuously focused on building greater independence for people with disabilities, helping them live fuller, more empowered lives.

### **Item 4.7 - Additional Information Concerning Individual Services or Achievements**

Please provide any additional description or explanation concerning individual services or achievements reported in Section 4, including outstanding success stories and/or major obstacles encountered.

Mr. H is a 37-year-old Caucasian male living with Cerebral Palsy. He reached out to the Center for assistance with accessible transportation to attend social activities and events at the North Bend Sports Jamboree, scheduled from July 19th to July 24th, 2024. With the support of the Center, Mr. H was provided with the necessary transportation, enabling him to actively participate in the events of his choice. This opportunity allowed him to engage with other participants, fostering valuable peer counseling relationships and promoting social inclusion.

Mr. M is a 22-year-old male with Autism (ASD). He sought assistance from the Center to help manage his heating and cooling costs. In response, our Independent Living Skills Trainer (ILST)/Advocacy Specialist worked closely with Mr. M to complete an application for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). Following the submission of his application, Mr. M was approved for assistance and successfully received support for his heating costs, helping to alleviate some of his financial burdens.

Ms. J is a 63-year-old Caucasian female living with multiple disabilities. Our Independent Living Skills Training (ILST)/Advocacy Specialist worked closely with Ms. J to develop a personalized Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) that would support her well-being. Additionally, the ILST/Advocacy Specialist equipped her with the necessary tools to extend this support to her two sons, who also have disabilities, empowering her to better assist them in managing their needs and promoting a healthier family dynamic.

Ms. G is a 38-year-old Caucasian female with multiple disabilities. Initially, she was fearful of using the

stove top, but with the support of our Independent Living Skills Training (ILST)/Advocacy Specialist, she gained the confidence and skills to cook safely. Through personalized training and encouragement, Ms. G has overcome her initial anxiety and now takes pride in her cooking abilities. She regularly shares pictures of her food creations with her family, celebrating her newfound independence and accomplishments in the kitchen.

Ms. W is a 70-year-old Caucasian female living with multiple disabilities and was homeless. Our Independent Living Skills Training (ILST)/Advocacy Specialist provided comprehensive support to Ms. W by helping her secure stable housing, obtain incontinence supplies, and access food through our food pantry. This assistance has greatly improved her quality of life, ensuring her basic needs are met and allowing her to maintain a greater sense of independence and well-being.

Mr. J is a 19-year-old Caucasian male with an intellectual disability. As he approached his discharge from the Job Corps Program, where he had been a student living on campus and became homeless, we provided vital support to help him transition successfully to independent living. Our team assisted Mr. J in securing housing through the Foster Youth to Independence Program through HUD, ensuring he had a stable living situation. Additionally, we provided comprehensive support in areas such as youth transition services, independent living skills training, vocational services, and assistance with food insecurity through our food pantry. Mr. J is now living independently in his first apartment and is actively interviewing for jobs, taking significant steps toward self-sufficiency and independence.

One of our consumers, Ms. J, provided valuable peer support to Mr. J and generously donated items to help furnish his new apartment. As a former foster youth herself, Ms. J found common ground with Mr. J, who was also transitioning out of the foster care system. Having experienced similar challenges, Ms. J has shared her personal journey with Mr. J and is actively supporting him as he navigates this important life transition. Through their connection, Ms. J is offering guidance, encouragement, and practical support, helping Mr. J build confidence and independence in his new chapter.

Mr. H is a 34-year-old African-American male living with a mental disability and is currently homeless. Our staff assisted him in applying for housing through HUD, and he is currently on the waitlist. When an apartment became available, Mr. H was initially denied due to an outstanding bill from a previous housing complex. In response, the ILST/Advocacy Specialist contacted the apartment manager and successfully negotiated a reduction in the bill. Additionally, we partnered with KISRA staff to secure a \$300 contribution to settle the debt. As a result, Mr. H no longer has any outstanding balances on his record and remains on the housing waitlist, moving closer to securing stable housing.

Mr. M is a 22-year-old male with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). He has received support from the Center, including ILST, youth transition services, peer support, and vocational services, all aimed at increasing his independence. Recently, Mr. M reached out to share some exciting news: he excelled in his work adjustment training and was hired as a mail clerk at Job Squad. I congratulated him on his achievement and expressed how proud I am of his hard work and dedication. I also encouraged him to stay in touch with us and to reach out if he needs any additional services or support in the future.

Ms. H is an 85-year-old Caucasian female living with end-stage renal disease. She relies on our accessible transportation service three days a week to attend her life-saving dialysis appointments, ensuring she can receive the necessary treatment to manage her condition and maintain her health.

A total of 464 accessible transportation services were provided this fiscal year, enabling consumers to attend non-emergency medical appointments as well as a variety of non-medical activities, such as grocery shopping, meetings, outings, and paying bills. This service has been essential in supporting individuals' independence and improving their access to necessary resources and community engagement.

Since the launch of our Job Quest Program in June 2024, we have provided 53 vocational services and 19 employment services this fiscal year. These services have played a crucial role in helping individuals develop the skills and resources necessary to secure and sustain employment, significantly enhancing their independence and opening up greater career opportunities.

#### ADDENDUM:

We have actively engaged with Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs to inform and educate them about the services we provide. In addition, we continue to raise awareness by educating individuals about our services during outreach efforts. These ongoing initiatives help ensure that those in institutional settings, as well as their advocates, are aware of available resources and support for transitioning to more independent, community-based living.

Going forward, we will reach out to the State Ombudsman Supervisor and all nine Regional Ombudsmen to educate them about our services and how ACIL can support individuals in transitioning from institutional settings back into the community.

Please find below specific examples of successful transitions from nursing homes and institutional settings to community-based living, as well as others currently in progress.

#### Homeless Transition: (Completed)

Mr. J is a 19-year-old Caucasian male with an intellectual disability. As he approached his discharge from the Job Corps Program, where he had been a student living on campus and became homeless, we provided vital support to help him transition successfully to independent living. Our team assisted Mr. J in securing housing through the Foster Youth to Independence Program through HUD, ensuring he had a stable living situation. Additionally, we provided comprehensive support in areas such as youth transition services, independent living skills training, vocational services, and assistance with food insecurity through our food pantry. Mr. J is now living independently in his first apartment and is actively interviewing for jobs, taking significant steps toward self-sufficiency and independence.

#### Homeless Transition: (Completed)

Ms. W is a 70-year-old Caucasian female living with multiple disabilities and was homeless. Our Independent Living Skills Training (ILST)/Advocacy Specialist provided comprehensive support to Ms. W by helping her secure stable housing, obtain incontinence supplies, and access food through our food pantry. This assistance has greatly improved her quality of life, ensuring her basic needs are met and allowing her to maintain a greater sense of independence and well-being.

#### Homeless Transition: (In Progress)

Mr. H is a 34-year-old African-American male living with a mental disability and is homeless. Our staff assisted him in applying for housing through HUD, and he is currently on the waitlist. When an apartment became available, Mr. H was initially denied due to an outstanding bill from a previous housing complex. In response, the ILST/Advocacy Specialist contacted the apartment manager and successfully negotiated a reduction in the bill. Additionally, we partnered with KISRA staff to secure a \$300 contribution to settle the debt. As a result, Mr. H no longer has any outstanding balances on his record and remains on the housing waitlist, moving closer to securing stable housing.

#### Nursing Home Transition: (In Progress)

BC is a 47-year-old Caucasian male diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). He was referred by the National MS Society and has requested transition services, housing advocacy, and support in accessing essential resources. BC's primary goal is to transition from an institutionalized setting in Putnam County to an accessible two-bedroom apartment in Kanawha County, which will significantly enhance his independence.

To support this transition, our staff completed the following applications on BC's behalf:

WV Olmstead Transition and Diversion Program

Take Me Home WV

WV Aged and Disabled Waiver (ADW) Program

WV Personal Care Program

Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority

In addition to submitting these applications, we printed and provided BC with informational brochures for each program. Our staff also completed all necessary Authorizations for Release of Consumer Information and ensured that BC signed and dated each document before submitting them.

Furthermore, staff conducted an independent living skills training assessment, transition services, and provided both advocacy and housing support services during the visit.

We are actively collaborating with the Take Me Home WV program and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman to coordinate BC's transition from the nursing facility to an appropriate housing arrangement in Kanawha County. Our ongoing efforts focus on ensuring that all necessary caregiving services are in place to facilitate a safe and successful discharge.

Core Services Action Plan:

Objective:

To address and improve core service numbers by implementing targeted outreach, strengthening referral networks, enhancing consumer engagement, improving documentation practices, and leveraging staff and peer resources.

#### 1. Strengthen Community Outreach

Goal: Increase awareness and visibility of our core services among potential consumers and community stakeholders.

Action Steps:

Host educational workshops and resource fairs at libraries, community centers, and senior centers.

Develop and distribute targeted outreach materials (e.g., brochures, flyers, social media posts) explaining each core service in accessible language.

Attend local community events on a regular basis to build relationships and promote services.

#### 2. Improve Referral Pathways

Goal: Expand and optimize referral sources to bring in more consumers needing core services.

Action Steps:

Establish and maintain partnerships with hospitals, rehab facilities, long-term care institutions, and social service agencies.

Conduct educational sessions for referral partners (e.g., ombudsmen, discharge planners, case managers) to promote understanding of our core services.

Implement a referral tracking and follow-up system to monitor sources and outcomes.

### 3. Enhance Consumer Engagement

Goal: Reconnect with current and past consumers to ensure needs are met and services are ongoing where appropriate.

#### Action Steps:

Follow up with inactive or prior consumers to reassess their needs and offer continued services.

Conduct periodic consumer surveys to uncover unmet needs tied to core services.

### 4. Increase Staff Training and Involvement

Goal: Equip staff to effectively identify, deliver, and document core services across all consumer interactions.

#### Action Steps:

Provide ongoing staff training on identifying and recording core service delivery.

Integrate core service goals into regular staff meetings, supervision, and performance reviews.

Encourage staff to lead or assist with consumer groups or trainings that align with core service areas.

### 5. Improve Documentation Practices

Goal: Ensure accurate and complete reporting of all core services provided.

#### Action Steps:

Review and revise documentation protocols to ensure all qualifying services are captured.

Create and distribute user-friendly documentation templates or checklists.

Conduct periodic internal audits to verify that all services are appropriately documented.

### 6. Use Data to Guide Strategy

Goal: Make informed decisions to improve service delivery and monitor progress.

#### Action Steps:

Analyze past service data to identify trends, gaps, and opportunities for growth.

Establish clear monthly and quarterly benchmarks for each core service area.

Regularly review progress toward goals and adjust strategies as needed.

### 7. Leverage Peer Support

Goal: Use peer mentors and support networks to engage consumers and promote service utilization.

#### Action Steps:

Recruit and train peer mentors to share lived experiences and guide others through available services.

Facilitate peer-led support groups that incorporate key core service areas such as advocacy, skills

training, and information & referral.

**Next Steps:**

Implementation of this action plan will begin immediately, with progress monitored monthly and reviewed quarterly. Adjustments will be made based on measurable outcomes and staff feedback.

**ACL Feedback:** These stories show the great work you CIL is doing. Thank you.



# SECTION 5 - PROVISION OF SERVICES

## **Item 5.1 - Compliance Indicator 2: Provision of Services on a Cross-Disability Basis**

Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL has ensured that IL services are provided to eligible individuals with a diversity of significant disabilities and individuals who are members of populations that are unserved or underserved, without restrictions based on the particular type or types of significant disability and in a manner that is neither targeted nor limited to a particular type of significant disability.

During the reporting year, ACIL upheld its commitment to a strict policy of nondiscrimination, ensuring equal access to services regardless of age, sex, race, creed, political affiliation, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.

Throughout the year, ACIL provided services to 330 individuals on a cross-disability basis, addressing a wide range of significant disabilities. Evidence of our compliance with this policy can be found in the demographic section of this report.

Three staff members attended and hosted a booth at the Charleston Pride Event in Charleston, WV. The event provided a valuable platform for outreach, allowing the team to engage with both the LGBTQ community and individuals with disabilities. Through these interactions, they raised awareness about the wide range of services ACIL offers to support and empower these communities.

On August 26, 2024, the staff participated in a training session led by Shante Ellis, the Racial Equity & Inclusion Director at the YWCA Center for Racial Equity & Inclusion. The training focused on exploring implicit bias in the workplace, providing valuable insights into recognizing and addressing unconscious biases to foster a more inclusive environment.

In August 2024, Pennyryle Area Development District initiated discussions with ACIL with the goal of us offering Veterans Direct Care Services (VDCS) in our service area. We explored the potential to expand the VDCS program into the following counties: Boone, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Nicholas, Pleasants, Putnam, Ritchie, Roane, Webster, Wirt, and Wood.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) have partnered to develop the Veterans Directed Care Program (VDC), designed to enhance home-based support for veterans. The VDC program provides eligible veterans with a flexible budget to purchase goods and services that help them live independently at home and in their communities, rather than in institutional settings.

Through a Provider Agreement with VA Medical Centers (VAMC), the VDC program is delivered by Area Agencies on Aging and Independent Living (AAAILs). The program includes a functional assessment, home-based services, options counseling, support services, and financial management assistance, without duplicating any services already provided by the VAMC.

We hope to begin offering services to veterans in the upcoming fiscal year, expanding our support to

those who have served our country.

To enhance our impact and better serve the community, we strategically assigned one Transition Advocate to cover the underserved areas of Braxton, Calhoun, Doddridge, Nicholas, Pleasants, Ritchie, Wirt, and Wood Counties. These counties had historically been underrepresented in terms of our services, and by placing a dedicated advocate in these regions, we've significantly increased awareness and access to the critical services our Center offers.

### **Item 5.2 - Alternative Formats**

Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL has ensured the availability in alternative formats of all of its written policies and materials and IL services, as appropriate.

During the reporting year, ACIL has maintained an accessible website to ensure that all individuals with disabilities can easily access information about our services, designed to empower them to live more independently and accomplish daily tasks. Recognizing that no single format meets the needs of everyone, our Center is diligent in assessing the specific needs of each individual. For example, when presentations are given, we inquire whether anyone requires an alternative format and work to provide the appropriate accommodations.

Additionally, our Center ensures that all materials are available in a variety of alternative formats, such as Braille, amplifiers, large print, digital, audio, and tactile formats, to support both staff and consumers. We also have Braille signage throughout the office to enhance accessibility for individuals who are blind or have low vision.

ACIL partnered with the Cabell-Wayne Association for the Blind to have our new brochures transcribed into Braille, ensuring that all consumers have access to information in an accessible format.

Ms. L, a blind intern through the WVU School of Sociology, was provided with a JAWS (Job Access With Speech) screen reader by ACIL. This assistive technology enables her to effectively use the computer, enhancing her ability to complete tasks and gain valuable experience during her internship.

Throughout this fiscal year, ACIL provided a range of adaptive aids and assistive technology to consumers who are blind or have low vision, improving their ability to live independently and access essential services.

ACIL distributed Sprint CapTel program applications, enabling consumers to receive captioned telephones, which significantly increased their independence in communication.

Additionally, ACIL completed three (3) VISIONS (Visually Impaired Seniors In-Home Outreach and Networking Services) assessments, helping seniors with visual impairments access necessary resources and support.

To assist a hard-of-hearing consumer, ACIL provided a large-button, amplified phone, ensuring better communication and increased independence.

ACIL also provided hearing aids to eight (8) consumers with significant hearing impairments through our Community Living Services Program, supporting their ability to engage more fully with their community.

Ms. S, an 86-year-old Caucasian female with bilateral macular degeneration, received support through

our Community Living Services Program. ACIL purchased a color reader, accessible can opener, finger knife guard, and tinted yellow glasses to help reduce glare, enhancing her ability to live independently and safely manage daily tasks.

Ms. D, a 54-year-old Caucasian female with blindness, received bump dots for her microwave and an Alexa device to assist her in making phone calls. These tools enhance her independence, improve her ability to stay connected, and make everyday tasks more manageable.

Ms. L, a 42-year-old Caucasian female who is blind, met with us to discuss adaptive equipment and assistive technology that could help her live more independently. She borrowed several items from our Resource and Lending Library, including:

- Rocking T knife
- Two sock organizers
- Palm peeler
- DigiGuard
- Boil Alert

Mr. R, a Caucasian male who is blind, also discussed adaptive equipment and assistive technology to support his independence. He borrowed a sock organizer from our Resource and Lending Library. We informed Mr. R that he is welcome to keep the item.

### **Item 5.3 - Equal Access**

(A) Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL has ensured equal access of individuals with significant disabilities, including communication and physical access, to the center's services, programs, activities, resources, and facilities, whether publicly or privately funded. Equal access, for the purposes of this indicator, means that the same access is provided to any individual with a significant disability regardless of the individual's type of significant disability.

Four staff members participated in the ADA Survey Training from April 22 to April 24, 2024, known as the Mid-Atlantic Accessibility Survey Academy Project (Mid-Atlantic ADA ASAP). This training was a collaborative effort between the MidAtlantic ADA Center and Eastlake Derry and Associates.

The primary goal of the program was to equip Centers for Independent Living (CIL) staff with foundational knowledge and practical skills to offer solution-based accessibility advice to businesses, as well as state and local governments, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards.

Mark Derry, a seasoned trainer from Eastlake Derry and Associates, developed and delivered a comprehensive two-day training focused on key information and effective methods for assessing the accessibility of facilities. The training also included a hands-on survey exercise to provide real-world experience.

With over 30 years of experience working with Centers for Independent Living at local, regional, and national levels, Mr. Derry brought a wealth of expertise to the training. Two months after the in-person sessions, Mr. Derry hosted a follow-up ZOOM session to address participant questions and help foster an ongoing network dedicated to addressing accessibility challenges in each state.

One significant outcome of the training was the establishment of the ADA ASAP Networking Group. This group, passionate about ADA accessibility, provides a platform for members to exchange

resources, seek advice on complex accessibility issues, and support the ongoing training of new staff. Through this network, members can connect with peers, share solutions, and work together to advance accessibility efforts across the region.

During the reporting year, ACIL has remained committed to maintaining the highest standards to ensure that all individuals, regardless of disability, have full access to our physically ADA-compliant facility and services. We continue to prioritize equal access, regularly updating our website to ensure it is fully accessible to consumers seeking information about our programs and services.

Our staff also provides ongoing technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, helping them identify and implement home modifications to enhance accessibility. We recognize that many individuals seeking our services often aren't sure exactly what modifications they need, and we are dedicated to guiding them through the process.

ACIL ensures that all materials we distribute are available in accessible formats, including large print, Braille, audio, or other requested formats, to accommodate the diverse needs of our consumers. Additionally, our staff actively participates in various committees to advocate for and ensure equal access to services and programs for individuals with disabilities.

Through our Transportation Program, ACIL also ensures that individuals with disabilities have equal access to transportation services, further supporting their independence and participation in the community.

(B) Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL has advocated for and conducted activities that promote the equal access to all services, programs, activities, resources, and facilities in society, whether public or private, and regardless of funding source, for individuals with significant disabilities. Equal access, for the purposes of this indicator, means that the same access provided to individuals without disabilities is provided in the center's service area to individuals with significant disabilities.

#### Letter of Support:

On September 27, 2024, ACIL submitted a letter of support to the Hon. Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Secretary of Transportation, in full endorsement of the West Virginia Department of Transportation's application for a Planning Grant through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program. This grant application is for the 3rd Street Rail Underpass Community Connection Project in St. Albans, West Virginia.

The 3rd Street rail underpass serves as a critical connector between the north and south sides of St. Albans, linking MacCorkle Avenue (Route US 60) with workplaces, retail areas, and the city's historic Main Street and residential neighborhoods. Built nearly a century ago, the underpass is outdated and no longer meets the needs of this growing community. With its narrow 10-foot lanes, low vertical clearance, inadequate drainage, and lack of lighting, the underpass poses significant safety hazards for both traffic and pedestrians, including cyclists. These conditions disproportionately affect individuals with disabilities who rely on safe, accessible sidewalks. The existing design discourages walking and creates unsafe conditions, contributing to a sense of neglect among the community's most vulnerable members.

This project promises to enhance safety and accessibility for all, with particular emphasis on improving conditions for individuals with disabilities. ACIL fully supports this initiative and appreciates your consideration of this crucial project. Should the grant be awarded, we look forward to contributing as a

key stakeholder during the planning phase of this vital project.

#### ADA Survey Training:

Four staff members attended the Mid-Atlantic Accessibility Survey Academy Project (Mid-Atlantic ADA ASAP) from April 22 to April 24, 2024. This training was a collaboration between the MidAtlantic ADA Center and Eastlake Derry and Associates.

#### Client Assistance Program (CAP) Outreach:

Throughout the reporting year, ACIL has provided ongoing information to consumers regarding the Client Assistance Program (CAP), educating individuals with disabilities about how the program addresses complaints related to services received from the Division of Rehabilitation Services and Centers for Independent Living.

Additionally, ACIL has offered valuable guidance to individuals with disabilities on how to access services that improve their quality of life. This includes support in areas such as participating in favorite activities, enhancing communication and mobility, understanding their disabilities better, and increasing community involvement.

#### Community Engagement and Accessibility Initiatives:

ACIL staff have actively shared ADA-related information with local businesses and organizations to enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Our outreach efforts help ensure that businesses are informed and equipped to create more inclusive environments.

#### Legislative Advocacy:

ACIL remains committed to advocating for individuals with disabilities through our ongoing partnership with the Fair Shake Network. Together, we continue to push for legislative changes that prioritize the needs of individuals with disabilities and ensure their rights are upheld in policy discussions and decisions.

ACIL maintains an updated list of ASL interpreters, and upon request can provide real-time captions, also known as live captions or Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART). ACIL also has TTY services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing populations.

On Thursday, October 12, 2023, ACIL's ED gave a speech at the Charleston Amtrak regarding the updates to make the station a more accessible travel experience with the completion of a \$6.4 million renovation project at the Charleston, W.Va., station. These upgrades were part of Amtrak's broader commitment to enhancing accessibility, ensuring that all customers have a safer, more efficient, and comfortable journey.

On November 6, 2023, ACIL's ED/WVSILC's Vice-Chair, gave a speech to raise funds for making the new WVSILC office 100% accessible.

### **Item 5.4 - Consumer Information**

Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL has ensured that consumers have the

opportunity to develop and achieve their goals (either with or without an ILP) and that the consumer has the opportunity to express satisfaction with the center and such consumer satisfaction results are evaluated by the center.

ACIL continues to choose the same method we've used for multiple years in ensuring our consumers chooses the services they want or may need and are very satisfied with the outcome of services they received from our program. ACIL continues to collaborate with the WV SILC to analyze our consumer feedback information. Our Center also continues to send out our own short consumer satisfaction survey to ensure our consumers are happy with the services they received from us as this enables us to act quickly should there be an unsatisfied consumer on how to remedy the issue. We always encourage consumers the importance for them to mail back their survey whether it will be good or bad.

ACIL staff continues to provide consumers with our Consumer Satisfaction Survey form to complete once they have received their requested services to let us know if they are satisfied with the services they received. We always get good feedback as consumers always express their appreciation.

ACIL continues to maintain an open-door policy, as we let our consumers know they can always discuss their concerns at any time.

The monitoring of the effectiveness of the State Plan's objectives' accomplishments is the responsibility of the Administrative Team of the WVSILC. The information to be gathered on each goal and corresponding objectives includes the data to be collected, the method of collecting the data, the indicators of progress and/or accomplishments, the organizations assigned to each objective and the estimated timeline for each objective. The CILs and SILC staff prepare quarterly reports on progress made on SPIL objectives. The SILC Administrative Committee prepares quarterly reports on progress made in implementing the SPIL Evaluation Plan.

In addition, during the first year of the SPIL WIN members provide the WVSILC with names and contact information of open and closed CSR's (Consumer Service Records) for the reporting period. WVSILC mails postcards with 3-4 questions and compile the answers for the centers as well as for members of the SILC.

During the second year of the SPIL, a Return On Investment (ROI) Study of the CILs will be conducted using PPR (Program Performance Report) data and consumer stories gathered during the first two years.

During the third year of the SPIL, the WVSILC, the WVDRS, and the WIN partner's will conduct a joint statewide consumer satisfaction survey. The survey will include all open and closed CSR's during the evaluation period, as well as a random sampling of consumers with significant disabilities still working on their goals at the center. The survey compilation is conducted by an outside consultant who has worked on independent living data collection and surveys for numerous years during her tenure at West Virginia University.

### **Item 5.5 - Consumer Service Record Requirements**

Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL ensured that each consumer's CSR contains all of the required information.

During the reporting year, ACIL, along with other WIN partners, utilized CIL Suite to effectively track consumer data and manage information, ensuring streamlined operations and accurate record-keeping. Our Center has placed a strong emphasis on maintaining thorough and consistent case service record (CSR) documentation.

When a consumer requests services, or in cases where the consumer is unsure of their needs, ACIL staff conducts an Independent Living (IL) Assessment to identify specific needs. This assessment forms the basis for determining the type of assistance required. Based on the results of the assessment, the consumer decides on the type of support they need. They are then given the option to develop an Independent Living Plan (ILP), though they can also choose to waive this option if they prefer.

Once all signed documentation for the Case Service Record is received, including the ILP if applicable, both staff and the Executive Director (ED) sign off, and the case becomes officially an active consumer. Additionally, staff members take the time to explain the Client Assistance Program (CAP) to each consumer to ensure they are aware of all available resources.

To ensure consistency and quality, ACIL management reviews our Case Service Records on a consistent basis. This regular review process helps ensure that all required information is accurately applied to each case, allowing us to provide the best possible service to our consumers.

Throughout the reporting year, ACIL maintained 331 Case Service Records, all of which included an Independent Living Plan as requested by the consumers. This ongoing commitment to record-keeping supports our goal of providing effective, tailored services to meet the individual needs of each consumer.

**Item 5.6 - Community Activities**  
**Community Activities Table**

In the table below, summarize the community activities involving the CIL's staff and board members during the reporting period. For each activity, identify the primary disability issue(s) addressed as well as the type of activity conducted. Describe the primary objective(s) and outcome(s) for each activity. Add more rows as necessary.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcomes(s)
Advocacy	Outreach Efforts	8	To let people know what ACIL is and what services we currently provide. Also, to let individuals know that we are serving their area.	I was able to connect with community members and inform them of our services.
Advocacy	Outreach Efforts	5	To let ACIL is and what services we currently provide. Also, to let individuals know that we are serving their area.	I was able to connect with community members and inform them of our services. I was able to walk away from this event with two consumers that are now receiving services.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcomes(s)
Increasing Accessibility to Transportation	Community Education & Public Information	8	community awareness about vehicle modification options.	outreach efforts
Access to Education / Employment	Community Education & Public Information	2	Communicate our services and employment options to students	Getting information to students
Access to Education / Employment	Community Education & Public Information	2	Communicate our services and employment options to students	Getting information to students
Advocacy	Collaborating and Networking	2	Participate in the development and approval of the Fairshake Network Budget.	Participate in the development and approval of the Fairshake Network Budget.
Advocacy	Community and Systems Advocacy	2	Staff will participate in the TBI Advisory Board Meeting.	Staff will collaborate and network with individuals with lived experience, service providers, and other professional to develop strategies to address barriers to individuals with TBIs.
Increasing Access to Appropriate Health Care	Outreach Efforts	2	Get as much information as possible to our Seniors	handed out 20 ACIL brochures
Increasing the Availability/Access to Assistive Technology	Outreach Efforts	2	Speak with the community about our services	Handed 10 ACIL brochures
Advocacy	Outreach Efforts	4	Staff will distribute ACIL materials to businesses in the downtown area.	ACIL staff visited approximately 15 local businesses to educate and provide ACIL materials.
Access to Education / Employment	Outreach Efforts	17	Create conversation with WV teachers about our youth services. 2 Day event	Handed out 50-70 ACIL brochures
Advocacy	Community and Systems Advocacy	1	Advise WV Disability Rights on services.	Increased rights-based mental health services.
Increasing Opportunities for Affordable, Accessible housing Units	Collaborating and Networking	2	ACIL Staff met with WV COC members to discuss services and opportunities for collaboration.	ACIL staff was provided information regarding WV Housing Continuum Services and offered a seat on the WV COC board.
Advocacy	Community and Systems Advocacy	1	Staff will participate in FSN Legislative Meeting.	Staff were informed of current legislative items with cause for concern for individuals with disabilities.



Issue Area	Activity Type	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcomes(s)
Advocacy	Community and Systems Advocacy	1	Staff will participate in FSN Legislative Meeting.	Staff were informed of current legislative items with cause for concern for individuals with disabilities.
Advocacy	Community and Systems Advocacy	2	Staff will participate in the TBI Advisory Board Meeting.	Staff will collaborate and network with individuals with lived experience, service providers, and other professional to develop strategies to address barriers to individuals with TBIs.
Advocacy	Community and Systems Advocacy	1	Staff will participate in FSN Legislative Meeting.	Staff were informed of current legislative items with cause for concern for individuals with disabilities.
Advocacy	Community and Systems Advocacy	1	Staff will participate in FSN Legislative Meeting.	Staff were informed of current legislative items with cause for concern for individuals with disabilities.
Access to Education / Employment	Outreach Efforts	20	ACILL staff participation in the transition fair in order to increase awareness of services.	ACIL staff gave a presentation of services, conducted surveys to gain insight on community needs in the context of a youth program, and provide brochures of programs to attendees.
Increasing Opportunities for Affordable, Accessible housing Units	Technical Assistance	2	ACIL staff will participate in an introduction and overview of HUD Housing Programs.	The ways in which HUD Housing Programs can support the ability of older adults to age in place. The income and other eligibility requirements for the HUD Housing Programs.
Access to Education / Employment	Technical Assistance	2	ACIL staff will prepare for the development of their CRP program.	ACIL Staff learned more about what to expect from this RISE peer-to-peer e-Learning community and was introduced to Subject Matter Expert (SME) facilitators from the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL).
Advocacy	Community and Systems Advocacy	1	Staff will participate in FSN Legislative Meeting.	Staff were informed of current legislative items with cause for concern for individuals with disabilities.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcomes(s)
Recreation	Outreach Efforts	4	Fair Shake Network holds an Annual Ice Cream Social during the last Wednesday of session. Fair Shake offers this event & is open to the public each year to say thank you to the Capitol staff and Legislators for all of their hard work during session.	Four ACIL staff participated in serving and shared information regarding ACIL's services and how we can assist in systems advocacy. The staff also shared information about the Fair Shake Network.
Advocacy	Outreach Efforts	6	To spread awareness and outreach to members of the LGBTQ community that are disabled.	We gained a consumer and Joanna is in the process of helping them with benefits and advocacy.
Increasing Access to Appropriate Health Care	Community Education & Public Information	5	The goal is to network and gain information to increase access to healthcare and increase the number of people we can serve by doing outreach and sharing our information about our specific services.	The health fair was a success, and ACIL came back with 4 Information and referrals on the signup sheet for the day and many people took brochures, we passed out 12 brochures. Staff was also able to talk to other vendors.
Increasing Opportunities for Affordable, Accessible housing Units	Collaborating and Networking	23	Housing conference	Two staff members attended the conference to learn about resources, housing assistance, and received training with personal career development.

## Item 5.7 - Description of Community Activities

For the community activities mentioned above, provide additional details such as the role of the CIL staff board members and/or consumers, names of any partner organizations and further descriptions of the specific activities, services and benefits.

### Collaboration with Key Partners: Promoting Independence and Inclusion

#### WV Telephone Pioneers:

ACIL maintains a strong and active partnership with WV Telephone Pioneers, contributing to various initiatives designed to enhance accessibility and community engagement for individuals with disabilities:

**Accessible Transportation:** ACIL provided transportation services for XX individuals with disabilities to attend the North Bend Sports Jamboree, an event organized by WV Telephone Pioneers. ACIL staff meticulously coordinated all logistics, ensuring that individuals could participate in this social event with ease, promoting inclusivity and broadening opportunities for connection and recreation.

#### WV Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC):

ACIL works in close collaboration with WV SILC and other Centers for Independent Living (CILs) across the state to advance the goals of independent living:

**Freedom Car Show:** ACIL contributed significantly to organizing the Freedom Car Show hosted by WV SILC, assisting with planning and execution to ensure a successful and impactful event.

**Independent Living Day at the Capitol:** ACIL played a key role in organizing the annual Independent Living Day at the Capitol, an event designed to unite stakeholders from various sectors to raise awareness about the challenges and opportunities in independent living. This event aimed to foster stronger community involvement and advocate for policies that support individuals with disabilities. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the event had to be canceled this year. Despite this setback, ACIL remains committed to continuing these efforts in future years, ensuring that the voices of individuals with disabilities are heard and that the importance of independent living is recognized by lawmakers and the public.

**Fair Shake Network:**

ACIL is an active participant in the advocacy efforts of the Fair Shake Network, working to improve policy and access for individuals with disabilities:

**Disability Advocacy Day:** ACIL presented on Fair Accessible Housing at the Disability Advocacy Day (DAD) at the Legislature, using the opportunity to advocate for policies that improve housing accessibility for people with disabilities.

**Legislative Training:** ACIL staff attended Legislative Training Day, enhancing their advocacy skills and improving engagement with lawmakers to better serve the needs of the disability community.

**Legislator Engagement:** ACIL distributed 135 informational folders to state legislators and the Governor, educating them about the services provided by ACIL and the West Virginia Independence Network (WIN). This proactive approach ensured that key policymakers were informed about critical issues affecting individuals with disabilities.

**WV Housing Development Fund:**

ACIL collaborates with the WV Housing Development Fund to improve housing accessibility for individuals with disabilities:

**Home Modifications and Accessibility:** ACIL works closely with contractors to facilitate the installation of home modifications and wheelchair ramps, ensuring that individuals with disabilities can maintain their independence within their homes and communities.

**Application Process Support:** ACIL provides essential support to individuals navigating the application and approval process, ensuring that housing modifications are completed in a timely and efficient manner, enhancing accessibility for all.

**WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS):**

ACIL maintains a strong and productive relationship with the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) to provide comprehensive support for individuals with disabilities:

**Certified Rehabilitation Provider (CRP):** ACIL's Board of Directors unanimously approved the organization's status as a Certified Rehabilitation Provider (CRP) through WV DRS. This certification allows ACIL to deliver a higher level of service and support, reinforcing its commitment to vocational

rehabilitation and independent living.

Collaborative Initiatives: ACIL partners with DRS on various rehabilitation programs, ensuring alignment with the division's goals and facilitating access to vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities throughout the state.

**Conclusion:**

These collaborations highlight ACIL's active role in supporting individuals with disabilities, showcasing the involvement of staff, board members, and consumers in a range of initiatives aimed at promoting independence and inclusion. By working closely with key partners, ACIL continues to advance its mission of enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities in West Virginia.

# SECTION 6 - ANNUAL PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL PLANNING OBJECTIVES

## 6.1 - Work Plan for the Reporting Period

### Item 6.1.1 - Achievements

OILP-ACL Review Tool: Does the work plan include goals and objectives and also describe the CIL's progress on each of those goals or objectives during the project period? Yes

Discuss the work plan's proposed goals and objectives and the progress made in achieving them during the reporting period.

#### Goal 1 - Community Outreach

Objective 1: ACIL will collectively complete 150 hours of in-person outreach.

Progress Made: ACIL staff met the goal of 150 hours of in-person outreach. Through dedicated efforts, the team successfully engaged with community members, organizations, and stakeholders, significantly contributing to the visibility and advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

Objective 2: ACIL will increase social media outreach by 15%.

Progress Made: ACIL has made significant strides in expanding its social media presence, reaching a wider audience and engaging with the community on various platforms. We have seen a noticeable increase in interaction, engagement, and awareness of our initiatives. ACIL met the 15% increase target.

Objective 3: ACIL will increase representation on boards, councils, and committees related to disabilities or as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Progress Made: ACIL has cultivated a robust partnership with the West Virginia Housing Continuum of Care (WV Housing CoC) and has played a vital role in assisting consumers with the completion of housing applications. As part of our ongoing collaboration, one of our Transition Advocates engaged in discussions with WV CoC members regarding available services and opportunities for future cooperation. As a result of these efforts, ACIL staff were invited to join the CoC Board, further strengthening our partnership.

In addition, one of our Transition Advocates has been appointed to the West Virginia Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children (WVACEEC). This state-mandated advisory panel, formed under West Virginia State Code Â§18-20-6 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Â§300.136, provides critical guidance to state decision-makers on the educational needs of exceptional children, including students with disabilities and those identified as gifted. The Council's mission is to advocate for improvements in educational outcomes for children with exceptionalities by influencing the State Board of Education, public policymakers, and the citizens of West Virginia.

Further expanding ACIL's advocacy efforts, one of our Transition Advocates has been accepted as a member of the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Advisory Council. Established under the PAIMI Act, 42 U.S.C. 10801 et seq., the Council plays an essential role in advising Disability Rights West Virginia (DRWV) staff and the Board of Directors on policies and priorities aimed at protecting and advocating for the rights of individuals with mental illness in West Virginia.

Additionally, one of our Transition Advocates serves on the West Virginia Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Advisory Committee, established by the West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities (WVU CED) in collaboration with other partner agencies under the federal Traumatic Brain Injury Act (P.L. 104-166). The TBI Advisory Committee provides valuable guidance and feedback to state, local, and private partners on the design, development, and implementation of services and supports for individuals with traumatic brain injuries across the state.

Our Transition Advocates also continue to contribute significantly through their work with the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS) Board, a consumer-controlled program established by the West Virginia legislature in 1999. The RYPAS program enables individuals with severe disabilities to live independently in their own homes and communities.

ACIL's Executive Director (ED) has also been actively involved in leadership roles. The ED serves as the Executive Committee Vice-Chair of the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (WV SILC) and chairs the West Virginia Independence Network, WVSILC Action Committee, and WVSILC Youth Committee. Additionally, the ED is a member of multiple committees and councils, including Bridging Resources West Virginia, the Aged and Disabled Waiver Quality Improvement Advisory Council, the Access and Functional Needs Workgroup, and the WV Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters.

Through these strategic collaborations and leadership roles, ACIL continues to advocate for and support individuals with disabilities in West Virginia, fostering a more inclusive and accessible environment for all.

## Goal 2 - Resource Development

Objective 1: ACIL will become a CRP (Community Rehabilitation Program) provider.

Progress Made: ACIL became a certified CRP provider. We have completed the necessary training. This enhanced our ability to deliver essential rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities, expanding the scope of our community outreach.

Objective 2: ACIL will hire a qualified employment training specialist.

Progress Made: ACIL successfully recruited and hired a qualified employment training specialist. This new addition strengthened our capacity to provide tailored training and employment services for individuals with disabilities, helping them achieve greater independence and success in the workforce.

Objective 3: ACIL will develop partnerships with four local businesses for CRP services.

Progress Made: ACIL has established strong partnerships with numerous local businesses. These collaborations allowed us to offer CRP services to a broader pool of consumers, providing valuable work experience and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities while benefiting our community partners.

Objective 4: ACIL will build working relationships with DRS counselors to facilitate referrals and effective services.

Progress Made: ACIL has made great strides in strengthening relationships with DRS counselors. Through regular communication, quarterly meetings, and collaborative efforts, we have established a streamlined referral process that ensures individuals receive the services they need in a timely and efficient manner. These partnerships are essential for enhancing our service delivery and supporting individuals in achieving their employment goals.

Objective 5: ACIL will write two grant proposals.

Progress Made: ACIL has successfully completed and submitted numerous grant proposals over the course of the fiscal year. These proposals focused on securing additional funding to enhance our resource development efforts and further our mission to support individuals with disabilities.

## Goal 3 - Staff Training

Objective 1: ACIL will participate in local housing authority education.

Progress Made: ACIL staff have actively participated in local housing authority education programs, gaining valuable knowledge on housing resources and policies for individuals with disabilities. These trainings have equipped our staff with the tools to better assist consumers with housing-related challenges and advocate for accessible housing solutions.

Objective 2: ACIL will participate in waiver application and program training.

Progress Made: ACIL staff have completed comprehensive waiver application and program training, enhancing our understanding of the waiver process and the services available to individuals with disabilities. This training ensures that our team can provide accurate guidance to consumers navigating the Waivers.

Objective 3: ACIL will participate in CPR and First Aid training.

Progress Made: All ACIL staff members have successfully completed CPR and First Aid training, ensuring that our team is well-prepared to respond to emergency situations and provide safe, immediate care if needed. This certification enhances our commitment to the health and safety of both staff and consumers.

Objective 4: ACIL will participate in Employment Attendant Care Program & Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS)

Progress Made: Although ACIL was unable to attend the training, the Executive Director (ED) proactively communicated with the Executive Director of the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (WVSILC) to arrange for the training to be scheduled for ACIL staff in the upcoming fiscal year.

Objective 5: ACIL will participate in ADA Survey training.

Progress Made: Four ACIL staff members successfully completed the three-day training and are now certified to conduct ADA surveys.

Objective 6: ACIL will participate in QPR Suicide Prevention training.

Progress Made: ACIL staff were not able to complete QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention training. Three staff did take emotional CRP training. To better serve our consumers, this training is crucial in ensuring that ACIL provides a safe and supportive environment for all.

Objective 7: ACIL will participate in ASL training.

Progress Made: ACIL reached out to Bridge Valley Technical and Community College in regards to American Sign Language (ASL) training. Receiving this training will allow staff members to advance their skills to better communicate with consumers who are deaf or hard of hearing. This initiative is part of our commitment to fostering inclusivity and ensuring that language is not a barrier to access or service.

#### Goal 4 - Disability Awareness and People First Language

Objective 1: ACIL will start an Anti-Stigma Campaign that addresses inappropriate and stigmatizing language.

Progress Made: ACIL has launched an Anti-Stigma Campaign aimed at raising awareness about inappropriate and stigmatizing language. ACIL intern, also made a People First poster to hang in ACIL's office.

Objective 2: ACIL will increase accessibility of materials by including CART and interpreters for the Anti-Stigma Campaign.

Progress Made: To ensure inclusivity, ACIL will incorporate CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) services and sign language interpreters into our Anti-Stigma Campaign events. This effort ensures that all individuals, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing, can fully participate in our campaign and educational initiatives.

Objective 3: ACIL will provide disability awareness education to government officials and employees, policy makers and advocates, local emergency response teams, and the general population.

Progress Made: ACIL provided disability awareness education to government officials, policy makers, emergency response teams, and the general public. The purpose of disability awareness is educating key stakeholders about the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities, fostering greater understanding and empathy across various sectors.

#### Goal 5 - Foster and At-Risk Youth

Objective 1: ACIL will foster and build relationships at multiple levels of DHHR.

Progress Made: ACIL has made progress in fostering and strengthening relationships across various levels of the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR). Through regular communication

and collaborative efforts, we have established connections with DHHR staff, leading to improved coordination of services for foster and at-risk youth. These relationships are vital in ensuring that we can effectively advocate for and support youth in need.

Objective 2: ACIL will develop promotional materials targeting foster and other at-risk youth populations and service providers.

Progress Made: ACIL has not developed a set of targeted promotional materials aimed at raising awareness about our services for foster and at-risk youth populations. ACIL will create these materials in the upcoming fiscal year to be distributed to service providers, schools, and community organizations, helping to connect at-risk youth with the resources they need for success and well-being.

#### Goal 6 - Create Modules for Independent Living Skills Training

Objective 1: ACIL will obtain housing advocacy materials for a skills training module.

Progress Made: ACIL has acquired a comprehensive set of housing advocacy materials to incorporate into an independent living skills training module. These resources provide valuable insights into the housing application process, tenant rights, and navigating rental agreements, which will empower individuals with disabilities to secure and maintain stable housing.

Objective 2: ACIL will obtain employment training materials for a skills training module.

Progress Made: ACIL has sourced a range of employment training materials designed to enhance the independent living skills of individuals with disabilities. These materials cover essential topics such as resume building, job interviews, workplace communication, and on-the-job expectations, preparing individuals for success in the workforce.

#### Goal 7 - Food Insecurity, Nutritional, and Cooking Education

Objective 1: ACIL will continue to build and foster a relationship with Kelly's Kitchen.

Progress Made: ACIL has maintained and strengthened its partnership with Kelly's Kitchen, furthering our shared mission to combat food insecurity and promote nutritional education. Through this partnership, we have been able to offer additional resources and support to consumers facing food challenges.

Objective 2: ACIL will create partnerships to secure a consistent supply of food for consumers.

Progress Made: ACIL has successfully cultivated partnerships with Mountaineer Food Bank to ensure a consistent and reliable supply of food for our consumers. This collaboration has played a critical role in addressing food insecurity and ensuring that individuals have access to nutritious meals.

Objective 3: ACIL will offer nutritional and cooking classes in partnership with Kelly's Kitchen.

Progress Made: ACIL, in collaboration with Kelly's Kitchen, launched a series of nutritional and cooking classes aimed at educating consumers on healthy meal preparation and nutrition. These classes have been well-received, equipping individuals with the skills to make informed food choices and prepare balanced meals, promoting long-term health and wellness.

#### Goal 8 - Transition Services

Objective 1: ACIL will increase staff attendance in IEP meetings.

Progress Made: ACIL was not successful in increasing staff participation in Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings even with targeted outreach. ACIL will continue working on this goal in the upcoming year.

Objective 2: ACIL will cultivate relationships with local hospitals to facilitate capacity to provide psychiatric transition services.

Progress Made: ACIL has made strides in developing relationships with local hospitals and mental health facilities to expand our capacity to provide psychiatric transition services. These partnerships have allowed us to offer integrated support for individuals transitioning from hospital settings, helping to ensure continuity of care and a smoother transition to community living.

Objective 3: ACIL will work with the local school system to facilitate referrals for post-secondary education for youth transition.

Progress Made: ACIL has established a working relationship with the local school system to facilitate



referrals for youth transitioning to post-secondary education. This collaboration has led to more youth with disabilities being connected to resources and programs that help them successfully navigate the transition to higher education and vocational training.

#### Goal 9 - CLSP (Community Living Services Program)

Objective 1: ACIL will complete the West Virginia Housing Development Grant Application.

Progress Made: ACIL has completed the West Virginia Housing Development Grant Application, positioning us to secure funding for the building of wheelchair ramps and bathroom modifications for individuals with disabilities in our 16-county service area. This has helped to further our goal of promoting independent living.

Objective 2: ACIL will secure storage for durable medical equipment, assistive technology, and adaptive equipment.

Progress Made: ACIL has successfully secured a designated storage space for durable medical equipment, assistive technology, and adaptive equipment. This facility ensures that we have adequate storage capacity to maintain these critical resources, which will be available for consumers as needed to support their independence and quality of life.

#### Goal 10 - Transportation

Objective 1: ACIL will research possible funding sources for additional transportation staff in order to increase ridership.

Progress Made: ACIL has conducted thorough research into potential funding sources for expanding our transportation services. This research has identified several promising grants and funding opportunities that could support the hiring of additional transportation staff, thereby increasing ridership and improving access to essential services for individuals with disabilities.

Objective 2: ACIL will provide transportation services to CRP consumers.

Progress Made: ACIL has successfully provided transportation services to Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) consumers, ensuring that individuals have reliable access to job training, employment opportunities, and other critical services. Our transportation services continue to be an essential component of our clients' ability to participate in and benefit from CRP services.

### **Item 6.1.2 - Challenges**

Describe any substantial challenges or problems encountered by the CIL, and the resolutions/attempted resolutions.

#### Challenges Encountered:

##### Challenge: No Staff Participation in NCIL Conference

Unfortunately, no staff members were able to attend the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) conference this past summer. This was a missed opportunity for professional development, networking, and advocacy. The NCIL conference provides valuable insights into policy changes, new advocacy strategies, and best practices in independent living services. Not having staff representation at this event has limited our ability to engage with key national stakeholders, exchange ideas with peers, and stay updated on the latest trends in the field of independent living. Moving forward, we will explore alternative ways to ensure that our staff can participate in future NCIL events and similar opportunities.

##### Challenges in Hiring Qualified Staff

Another challenge was the difficulty in hiring and retaining qualified staff. While the need for knowledgeable and skilled personnel is critical to our success, finding candidates with the right expertise and passion for the mission has proven to be an ongoing obstacle. This is particularly true for

specialized roles that require a deep understanding of the intricacies of disability rights and independent living. The shortage of qualified staff impacts our ability to deliver timely and high-quality services, hindering the overall efficiency of our operations.

#### Loss of Transition Advocates Due to Funding Gaps

The loss of key positions, such as transition advocates, due to the inability to secure the necessary funding or grants, has been another significant setback. These roles were vital to supporting individuals with disabilities as they navigate the transition from institutional settings to independent living environments, diverting individuals from insitutionalized settings, and for youth transition. Without proper funding for these positions, other CIL staff has to fully support the needs of our community, which affects the continuity of services and the ability to advocate for and assist individuals during critical transitional periods in their lives.

#### Funding Challenges for the Food Pantry

The food pantry, which is an essential service for individuals facing food insecurity, also encountered difficulties in securing consistent funding. As the need for food support grows, it has become increasingly challenging to ensure a stable source of funding for this vital service. Without the necessary resources, we risk not being able to meet the demands of individuals who rely on the pantry for sustenance, thus compromising their overall well-being and ability to maintain independence.

#### Failure to Secure Approval for Benefits Counseling

A particularly disheartening challenge was the inability to secure approval for the training of the Employment Training Specialist to become a certified Benefits Counselor. This trainig would have helped individuals with disabilities understand and navigate the complex world of benefits, particularly as they transition into the workforce. ACIL currently have to refer our conusmers to someone with this specialized certification.

#### Becoming a Certified Rehabilitation Provider (CRP)

Becoming a Certified Rehabilitation Provider (CRP) has presented its own set of challenges. Although we successfully attained CRP status and began offering employment services, the process has not been without hurdles. We encountered several operational challenges as we worked to fully integrate these new services into our existing framework. From navigating the requirements to fine-tuning our service delivery processes, there were numerous "kinks" that required attention and adjustment. We remain committed to refining our approach and ensuring the effective delivery of employment services moving forward.

**ACL Feedback:** This clearly shows that your center is facing several challenges. Have you considered how these will be addressed in your work plan moving forward? Thank you!

#### Item 6.1.3 - Comparison with Prior Reporting Period

As appropriate, compare the CIL's activities in the reporting period with its activities in prior periods, e.g., recent trends.

During the reporting year in comparing to the prior year, our Center's notable differences are as follows:

##### 1. Housing Advocacy

ACIL has developed a strong partnership with the West Virginia Housing Continuum of Care (WV Housing CoC) and has successfully assisted consumers in completing housing applications. As part of our ongoing efforts, one of our Transition Advocates met with WV CoC members and discussed services and opportunities for collaboration. ACIL staff was provided information regarding WV Housing Continuum Services and was offered a seat on the CoC board.

The West Virginia Continuum of Care (CoC) is a critical funding and planning initiative aimed at providing comprehensive services to address homelessness, including prevention, emergency housing, transitional housing, and permanent housing solutions. Established under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the CoC model requires all communities to create a coordinated approach to prevent and end homelessness. Participants in the CoC can include nonprofit organizations, businesses, local and state government entities, schools, hospitals, and other community stakeholders. The primary goal of the CoC is to end homelessness through a collective effort of all involved parties.

ACIL staff worked with consumers on housing advocacy, providing a total of 131 services in this area. Additionally, staff attended a meeting with the HUD Housing Program staff to explore how these programs can support older adults in aging in place. During the meeting, they gained a deeper understanding of the income and eligibility requirements for HUD Housing Programs. In turn, the Advocate shared information about the services and supports provided by ACIL, fostering collaboration between our organization and HUD to better meet the housing needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities in our community.

## 2. Schools - Youth Transition

ACIL participated in the Bridge Valley Disability Resource Fair. We communicated our services and employment options to the students.

ACIL staff participated in the WV Reading Association Conference. Staff created conversation with WV teachers about our youth services and handed out 50 brochures.

ACIL attended the George Washington High School Ward 13 Potluck dinner to speak with the community about our services. They handed out 10 brochures at the event.

ACIL participated in the Kanawha County Schools Transition Fair. The staff gave a presentation of services, conducted surveys to gain insight on community needs in the context of a youth program, and provided brochures to attendees.

One of our Transition Advocates is currently serving on the WV Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children. The WVACEEC is a state-mandated advisory panel established under West Virginia State Code Â§18-20-6 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Â§300.136. The Council's primary responsibility is to provide guidance to state decision-makers on the educational needs of exceptional children, including students with disabilities and those identified as gifted. The Council's mission is to influence the State Board of Education, public policymakers, and the citizens of West Virginia in order to continuously improve educational outcomes for children with exceptionalities.

## 3. Diversion

ACIL staff worked closely with consumers to help divert them from entering congregate settings. By providing personalized support and exploring alternative housing and care options, they were able to assist consumers in maintaining independence and accessing more appropriate services tailored to their needs.

## 4. Transition from Congregate Settings to Community

ACIL staff successfully assisted two consumers in transitioning from congregate settings back into the community, providing vital support to help them reintegrate into their environments. In addition, ACIL staff worked with Take Me Home WV to provide advocacy and transition services to a consumer that is currently in a nursing home. We're working to get supports in place to assist the consumer in transitioning back into the community setting.

## 5. Outreach

ACIL dedicated numerous hours to outreach efforts, with a particular focus on Braxton, Calhoun, Doddridge, Nicholas, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, and Wood counties. These areas have traditionally been underserved due to their geographic location and the lack of an outstationed office in the region. Through our outreach, we aimed to raise awareness and expand access to ACIL's services for individuals in these communities.

Several of the outreach events included the WV Molasses Festival and the Calhoun County Fall Festival, where our Transition Advocate actively engaged with the community. These events provided valuable opportunities to connect with local residents and raise awareness about the services ACIL offers.

ACIL staff was a vendor at the Westside Community Health Fair on September 7, 2024. This event provided an opportunity to connect with the local community and raise awareness about the services ACIL offers.

On June 1, 2024, several staff attended the Charleston Pride Event in Charleston, WV, alongside other ACIL staff members. The event served as an important platform for outreach, where they engaged with the LGBTQ community and individuals with disabilities to raise awareness about the range of services ACIL provides.

## 6. Support Group/Peer Counseling

ACIL staff have successfully established three new support groups at the Center: the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Support Group, the Mental Health Support Group, and the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Support Group. To accommodate varying needs, we offer a hybrid format for these groups, with both in-person and virtual meetings available via Zoom.

We have been actively promoting these new support groups through our social media platforms to raise awareness and encourage participation. Additionally, our Board has generously agreed to waive the transportation fees for all participants who utilize ACIL's transportation services to attend the support groups. This initiative has increased participation, allowing more consumers to access and benefit from the support groups.

There has been growing interest from consumers in establishing a Blind/Visually Impaired Support Group. We are currently collaborating with interested consumers to launch this support group in the upcoming fiscal year.

## 7. Strengthening Social Media Presence

ACIL staff, in collaboration with the Social Media Committee, have worked diligently to create engaging content for our new Facebook, Instagram, and Threads platforms. The creativity and dedication of our Transition Advocates have greatly enhanced our social media presence, with content that resonates with our community. As a result, our Board has expressed strong satisfaction with the positive impact and growth of our online presence.

## 8. Employee Readiness Training, Employment, & Vocational Services

We provided comprehensive Employee Readiness Training, covering essential skills such as resume writing, interview preparation, and creating reference lists. Additionally, we offered guidance on effective online job search strategies and how to identify potential employers. Our training also addressed key topics, including how to disclose a disability during the job search and interview process and request workplace accommodations to foster a supportive, inclusive work environment.

Below are examples of the employment training programs we offer:

Job Readiness Training: Programs focused on foundational skills, including resume writing, interview techniques, and job search strategies.

Vocational Skills Training: Specialized training to develop job-specific skills, such as carpentry, plumbing, or computer programming.

Internship Programs: Real-world work experience opportunities within a supportive environment, allowing individuals to apply their skills.

Soft Skills Development: Workshops designed to enhance interpersonal skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

Career Counseling: One-on-one support to help individuals identify their strengths, interests, and explore potential career paths.

On-the-Job Training: Hands-on learning experiences where individuals acquire job skills while working, often under the guidance of a mentor or supervisor.

Entrepreneurship Training: Courses that equip individuals with the skills to start and manage their own businesses.

Workplace Accommodations Training: Programs that teach individuals how to request and utilize accommodations that support their success in the workplace.

Job Coaching: Ongoing support from a coach to help individuals learn job tasks and navigate workplace challenges.

Financial Literacy Training: Education focused on managing personal finances, budgeting, and understanding employee benefits.

#### 9. Food Security through the Garden of Giving Food Pantry

One of our Transition Advocates played a pivotal role in securing funding to establish the on-site Garden of Giving Food Pantry, an initiative designed to combat food insecurity in Kanawha and the surrounding counties we serve. This pantry provides essential support to individuals and families in need. ACIL staff was actively involved and worked diligently to ensure the success of our grand opening on August 6, 2024.

#### 10. WV Medicaid Summit

ACIL staff attended the WV Medicaid Summit hosted by West Virginians for Affordable Health Care. During the summit, they gained valuable insights into the latest changes to Medicaid and how these updates impact the average West Virginian. This experience equipped them with critical knowledge to better assist consumers in navigating the evolving Medicaid landscape.

#### 11. Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS)

One of our staff continued to serve on the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS) Board. Established by the West Virginia legislature in 1999, the RYPAS Act created a consumer-controlled program designed to help individuals with severe disabilities live independently in their own homes and communities. The RYPAS program provides funding for individuals with severe disabilities to hire personal assistants who assist with essential daily living tasks, including, but not limited to:

Getting in and out of bed, a wheelchair, or a motor vehicle

Bathing and personal hygiene

Dressing and grooming

Meal preparation, eating, and cleanup

Paying bills

Shopping and banking

Managing a daily schedule

The RYPAS program is managed by a seven-member, consumer-controlled board, made up of individuals with disabilities, most of whom have their own personal assistants. The board is responsible for making all decisions about the program, including eligibility for services. Board members are not eligible to receive services while serving on the board.

## 12. West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (WV SILC)

One of our staff was appointed to the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (WV SILC). The WV SILC was established under the 1992 amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and further amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in 2014. The Council is composed of 24 voting members and 7 ex-officio non-voting members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor. Members include representatives from key organizations such as the West Virginia Independence Network (WIN), the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (WVDRS), and other state agencies that serve individuals with disabilities.

The Council operates under the principles of consumer control and direction, with a majority of members being individuals with disabilities who are not employed by a Center for Independent Living or a state agency. This ensures that the WV SILC is firmly grounded in the independent living philosophy, which emphasizes:

- Consumer control
- Peer support
- Self-help and self-determination
- Equal access
- Individual and systems advocacy

The ultimate goal of the independent living philosophy is to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, while promoting their full inclusion in society. It recognizes that people with disabilities are the foremost experts on their own needs, and that they have valuable perspectives to contribute to society. Furthermore, it affirms the right of individuals with disabilities to have equal opportunities to decide how they live, work, and participate in their communities.

## 13. Taking Independence by the Reins Summer Circus Event and Hot Dog Sale

ACIL staff played key roles in planning and participating in the Taking Independence by the Reins Summer Circus Event, which took place on June 22, 2024. This inaugural event saw enthusiastic participation from numerous consumers who volunteered throughout the day.

The event featured a variety of exciting activities and performances, including captivating fire performances by trained performers. One of the highlights was the appearance of the Itty Bitty Therapy Horses, miniature therapy horses that delighted attendees. In addition to these spectacular performances, participants enjoyed hands-on activities such as a cookie decorating station and a sensory jar station, providing fun for all ages.

Consumers also assisted with the hot dog sale, contributing to the success of the event. The funds raised will support ACIL's initiatives to promote independence and community integration for individuals with disabilities.

## 14. Jingle and Jam Accessible Christmas Party

ACIL staff played a key role in planning and participating in the Jingle and Jam Accessible Christmas Party, held on Saturday, December 9, 2023. This event was open to the community and specifically designed to welcome individuals with disabilities.

The event featured a variety of engaging activities, including a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction, a cookie decorating station, and an ornament-making station. Guests also enjoyed a hot chocolate and coffee station, a Cake Walk, a selfie station, and the opportunity to take photos with Santa Claus. The event was made even more special with live music provided by the volunteer band, Relative Obscurity.

In keeping with our commitment to accessibility, the event was 100% accessible and included a dedicated sensory room to ensure a comfortable experience for all attendees.

#### 15. Freedom Car Show

ACIL staff participated in the inaugural Freedom Car Show, which took place on October 14, 2023. This impactful event was designed to educate first responders, raise public awareness, and generate funds for the Community Living Services Program (CLSP), a crucial initiative that helps individuals with disabilities obtain the vehicle modifications they need to maintain mobility and independence.

The Freedom Car Show featured a diverse array of vehicles modified with adaptive equipment, showcasing how these modifications enable people with disabilities to lead more independent lives. The event served not only as a fundraiser but also as a powerful demonstration of the importance of accessible transportation for individuals with disabilities.

All proceeds from the Freedom Car Show were dedicated exclusively to funding vehicle modifications for people with disabilities, ensuring that the event directly contributed to increasing mobility and independence for individuals in the community.

## 6.2 - Work Plan for the Period Following the Reporting Period

### Item 6.2.1 - Annual Work Plan

List the CIL's annual work plan goals, objectives and action steps planned for the period following the reporting period.

#### FY 2024-25 Work Plan

##### Goal 1 - Community Outreach

Objective 1: ACIL will collectively complete 150 hours of in person outreach.

Progress Made: ACIL is on track to complete 150 hours of in-person outreach, a key initiative aimed at increasing community engagement and raising awareness about our services. This outreach effort is designed to connect directly with individuals, organizations, and stakeholders, ensuring that more people with disabilities are informed about the resources and support available to them. We are committed to meeting this goal and further strengthening our presence within the community.

Objective 2: ACIL will increase Social Media outreach by 20%.

Progress Made: ACIL is on track to increase our social media outreach by 20% in the upcoming fiscal year. This growth strategy is focused on expanding our digital presence to engage a broader audience, share valuable resources, and raise awareness about our programs and services. Through targeted content and consistent interaction, we aim to build stronger connections with individuals and communities, ultimately promoting inclusion and empowerment for people with disabilities.

##### Goal 2 - Resource Development

Objective 1: ACIL will complete grant application(s) for expansion of youth transition services.

Progress Made: ACIL staff have been actively working on a grant application aimed at expanding our youth transition services. This initiative is focused on securing funding to enhance the support and resources available to young individuals with disabilities as they transition into adulthood. By expanding these services, we aim to provide greater opportunities for youth to achieve independence, employment, and community integration.

Objective 2: ACIL will complete grant application(s) for the expansion of the Garden of Giving Food Pantry.

Progress Made: ACIL successfully secured \$5,000 from the Posey Perry Emergency Fund Impact Grant. This funding will significantly support our ongoing efforts to provide essential services to individuals with disabilities.

Objective 3: ACIL will research grant opportunities related to personnel expansion.

Progress Made: ACIL was unable to secure funding for the expansion of a Transition Advocate position. Despite efforts to obtain the necessary financial support, this gap in funding has hindered our ability to grow our staff. We are committed to continuing our search for sustainable funding opportunities and will explore alternative strategies to ensure that we can meet the growing needs of the individuals we serve.

### Goal 3 - Staff Training

Objective 1: ACIL will complete QPR training.

Progress Made: When this training opportunity is offered, ACIL staff will make it a priority to attend. This training will provide valuable knowledge and skills that will enhance our ability to better serve individuals with disabilities and further our mission of promoting independence and inclusion. By participating, our staff will stay informed on best practices and continue to improve the quality of support we provide to the community.

Objective 2: ACIL will have two staff attend the NCIL conference and participate in staff training provided.

Progress Made: This summer, ACIL will have two new staff members attend the NCIL conference. This opportunity will provide them with valuable insights and tools to better support individuals with disabilities. By attending the conference, our staff will gain a deeper understanding of the latest trends, best practices, and advocacy efforts in the independent living movement. This experience will further enhance ACIL's capacity to advocate for and empower the individuals we serve.

Objective 3: ACIL will participate in training related to collaborating with neurodiverse populations in the workforce.

Progress Made: ACIL is working toward enhancing our ability to collaborate with neurodiverse populations in the workforce. We have committed to participating in specialized training focused on understanding and supporting neurodiversity in professional settings. This training will equip our staff with the knowledge and skills necessary to better serve neurodiverse individuals, ensuring they have equal access to employment opportunities and the necessary support to thrive in the workplace. This initiative reflects our dedication to fostering an inclusive environment for all individuals, regardless of their neurological differences.

Objective 4: ACIL will participate in beginner level ASL workshop and identify continuing steps for the future.

Progress Made: ACIL staff will reach out to Bridge Valley Community & Technical College to coordinate and schedule an American Sign Language (ASL) workshop. This workshop aims to enhance communication accessibility and foster a more inclusive environment for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. By partnering with the college, we seek to provide valuable learning opportunities for students, staff, and the community, promoting greater understanding and engagement. We are



committed to ensuring that these workshops contribute to improved accessibility and inclusion in the community.

#### Goal 4 - Disability Awareness and People First Language

Objective 1: ACIL will continue their Anti-Stigma Campaign that addresses inappropriate and stigmatizing language by including video shorts into our social media strategy.

Progress Made: Due to current staffing shortages, ACIL faces challenges in meeting this objective within the desired timeframe. Once new staff members are hired, we will need to work diligently to catch up on the progress. The absence of sufficient staff has delayed key initiatives, but we remain committed to executing the objective as soon as our team is adequately expanded. We are focused on building a strong, capable team to ensure that we can effectively complete this goal and continue making meaningful progress.

Objective 2: ACIL will increase accessibility of materials by including CART and interpreters for the Anti-Stigma Campaign.

Progress Made: ACIL will need to continue dedicating time and resources to this objective. While progress has been made, further work is required to fully achieve the desired outcomes. We remain committed to addressing the challenges and refining our approach to ensure successful completion. Continued focus and persistence will be key in overcoming any remaining obstacles and advancing this objective to its full realization.

Objective 3: ACIL will increase awareness with our consumer base regarding People First programs and advocacy opportunities.

Progress Made: ACIL plans to take the initiative to establish a People First chapter in Charleston. By reaching out to local stakeholders and individuals with disabilities, we aim to build a supportive community that advocates for the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. This effort will be a priority as we work to strengthen local advocacy, raise awareness, and provide a platform for individuals to have their voices heard. We are committed to fostering an empowering environment where everyone has the opportunity to be actively engaged and involved.

#### Goal 5 - Foster and At Risk Youth

Objective 1: ACIL will connect with providers and programs such as DHHR, Necco, Home Base Inc. National Youth Advocate Program, Parent Training & Information, Inc., Daymark Inc., Children's Home Society, etc.

Progress Made: Due to staffing constraints, ACIL has encountered challenges in initiating these connections as planned. However, we are actively working to overcome these obstacles and will prioritize these efforts once additional staff are in place.

Objective 2: ACIL will raise awareness regarding our housing advocacy services including completing applications and navigating housing systems.

Progress Made: ACIL has made strides in increasing awareness of our housing advocacy services. We have actively engaged with local community organizations and housing providers to share information about the assistance we offer, such as completing housing applications and guiding individuals through the housing system. Additionally, our staff has attended relevant housing conference and community meetings, ensuring that more individuals are informed about the available support. Moving forward, ACIL will continue to expand these outreach efforts to reach more individuals in need of housing advocacy services.

#### Goal 6 - Independent Living Skills Training

Objective 1: ACIL will create physical copies of ILS training materials that are collected in the same location and accessible to all staff.

Progress Made: ACIL is in the process of transitioning our training materials to a centralized, digital platform on SharePoint. This transition will enhance accessibility for all staff, allowing them to easily access the training resources from one location. Once the SharePoint system is fully implemented, we will ensure the physical copies of the materials are organized and available for staff who prefer in-person resources. This will streamline access and ensure consistency across all training efforts.

Objective 2: ACIL will create assessments targeting specific social skills needed for living independently.

Progress Made: Due to staffing challenges, progress on creating these assessments has been delayed. ACIL is committed to moving forward with this initiative once additional staff is in place. The assessments will be designed to focus on crucial social skills such as communication, problem-solving, and community involvement--skills necessary for independent living.

Objective 3: ACIL will create a Job Search module.

Progress Made: Due to a current staff shortage, progress on the development of the Job Search module has been delayed. However, ACIL plans to prioritize this task once staffing levels are back to full capacity. The module will be designed to support individuals in building job search skills, resume writing, and interview preparation to enhance employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Objective 4: ACIL will create a Job Maintenance module.

Progress Made: Due to a staffing shortage, the development of the Job Maintenance module has been postponed. Once additional staff are hired, ACIL plans to prioritize the creation of this module, which will focus on helping individuals maintain long-term employment by providing tools and strategies for workplace success, problem-solving, and effective communication.

## Goal 7 - Food Insecurity, Nutritional and Cooking Education

Objective 1: ACIL will launch a cooking program with organized objectives, assessments, and measurable outcomes.

Progress Made: ACIL developed the "Enchanted Eats and Treats" cooking program, complete with structured objectives and assessments. However, due to a staffing shortage, progress has been stalled, and the program has yet to be fully implemented. Once additional staff are hired, ACIL plans to move forward with launching this program, which aims to teach essential cooking skills and promote independence among participants.

Objective 2: ACIL will include a local resource in our monthly food box dispersal.

Progress Made: ACIL staff has successfully integrated valuable local resources, such as WVABLE, into the monthly food box distribution. This addition helps ensure that individuals receiving food boxes are also connected with beneficial services and resources in the community.

Objective 3: ACIL will add onto the Garden of Giving intake a brief resource assessment including SNAP/EBT eligibility, WIC, etc.

Progress Made: ACIL staff has taken an initial step by posting SNAP eligibility and WIC eligibility information on the bulletin board outside of the food pantry. This provides immediate access to important resource information for individuals visiting the pantry. Moving forward, ACIL plans to expand this by integrating a more comprehensive resource assessment into the intake process for the Garden of Giving program, ensuring individuals are aware of and connected to additional support services.

## Goal 8 - Employment Services

Objective 1: ACIL will increase referrals from Kanawha County DRS Counselors.

Progress Made: Progress has been delayed due to a gap in staffing, as the employment training specialist position has been vacant for a period of time.

Objective 2: ACIL will create a formalized employee policy handbook that details procedures.

Progress Made: The project has been delayed due to the absence of an employment training specialist for a period of time.

Objective 3: ACIL will create a CRP consumer handbook that details expectations and guidelines for the program to increase success.

Progress Made: The project has been delayed due to the extended absence of an employment training specialist.

Objective 4: ACIL will increase marketing materials for CRP including flyers that target counselors, consumers, and caregivers.

Progress Made: The project has been delayed due to the extended absence of an employment training specialist.

## Goal 9 - Systems Advocacy

Objective 1: ACIL will maintain participation in the FSN Initiative with the WV SILC.

Progress Made: Despite staffing challenges, ACIL has remained actively involved in the initiative.

Objective 2: ACIL will encourage consumer participation in the Fair Shake Initiative with the WV SILC by informing and providing transportation to legislative training day, disability advocacy, and facilitating video conferences with FSN.

Progress Made: Despite staffing challenges, ACIL has continued to actively engage in and support the initiative.

Objective 3: ACIL will encourage consumer participation in the WV WIN IL Day by providing information and transportation.

Progress Made: Despite staffing challenges, ACIL has remained actively engaged in and continues to support the initiative.

Objective 4: ACIL will provide ILS training on legislative letter writing, appointment setting, and in-person legislative meetings

Progress Made: Despite staffing challenges, ACIL has remained actively engaged in and continues to support the initiative.

Objective 5: ACIL staff will attend Legislative Consumer Appointments where consumers will implement self-advocacy skills learned in ILS training.

Progress Made: Despite staffing challenges, ACIL has remained actively engaged in and continues to support the initiative.

## GOAL 10 - Information & Referral

Objective 1: ACIL will create a central database accessible by all staff that is routinely updated.

Progress Made: ACIL is in the process of consolidating all information into SharePoint for easier access and management.

Objective 2: ACIL will increase awareness of community resources available by adding new resources

to the database.  
Progress Made:

## Item 6.2.2 - SPIL Consistency

OILP-ACL Review Tool: Does the CIL describe how the work plan is consistent with the approved SPIL? Yes

Explain how these work plan goals, objectives and action steps are consistent with the approved SPIL.

Goal 1: Establish a statewide network of centers for independent living.

Goal 1 of the SPIL is to create a robust statewide network of centers for independent living, fostering accessibility, empowerment, and inclusivity for individuals with disabilities across all regions of the state.

\*This objective is intricately connected with Goal 1 of our CIL, which focuses on enhancing community integration, advocacy, and support services to promote independent living and self-determination among individuals with disabilities.\*

1.Establish a statewide network of centers for independent living. Completed- ACIL's staff participated in the rebranding of the WIN.

\*Goal 1 of the SPIL is to establish a robust statewide network of centers for independent living, ensuring accessibility and empowerment for individuals with disabilities. This objective aligns with Goal 2 of our CIL, which focuses on ensuring that CILs have adequate resources to deliver CLSP Services promptly and effectively.\*

2.Ensure CILs have sufficient resources to provide CLSP Services in a timely manner. To ensure timely delivery of Community Living Support Program (CLSP) services, WIN partners have prioritized sustained advocacy and resource development. Efforts include participation in IL Day at the Capitol, Disability Advocacy Day, and consistent legislative engagement.

Resource development is a standing agenda item at quarterly WIN meetings and a key focus of the SILC Action Committee, both chaired by the Executive Director (ED). These meetings facilitate strategic planning and identification of funding opportunities.

A major milestone was the EDs' meeting with Senate Finance Chair Eric Tarr and key legislators to advocate for increased CLSP funding. WIN submitted a FY2024 budget request to raise CLSP funding from \$429,000 to \$2,000,000--an increase of \$1,571,000--which, if approved, would eliminate the statewide CLSP waitlist and ensure timely services for individuals with disabilities.

\*Goal 2 of the SPIL underscores the importance of resource optimization and aligns with Goal 2 of our CIL, which focuses on ensuring that CILs have the necessary resources to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities effectively. This strategic alignment facilitates synergy and collective action towards achieving our shared objectives.\*

Objective 1.1 West Virginians understand and value centers for independent living CILs. (Statewide) SPIL Goal 1.1:

Develop an "Independent Living (IL) Brand" that clearly identifies CILs and differentiates them from other entities currently labeled as "IL" services.

\*This aligns with ACIL's Goal 1: Community Outreach (Objectives 1 & 2) and Goal 4: Disability Awareness and People First Language, which collectively aim to increase public awareness, reduce stigma, and promote understanding of Independent Living services and the value of CILs.\*

1.1.a - IL Brand Development

Objective: Develop an "IL Brand" that clearly identifies Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and sets them apart from other service entities. Status: Completed

ACIL actively contributed to the rebranding efforts of the West Virginia Independent Network (WIN).

Staff participated in the development of a unified branding strategy that reflects the mission, values, and uniqueness of CILs across the state.

\*This branding initiative directly supports Work Plan Goal 1, Objective 1 & 2, by enhancing the visibility and identity of CILs in both community and digital outreach efforts.\*

#### 1.1.b - Public Education Through Updated Displays

Objective: Update CIL displays for use at public events to promote CIL services, value, and unmet community needs.

ACIL collaborated with WIN partners to design and implement a new WIN-branded display, and also helped develop a CLSP display for use during statewide outreach efforts. ACIL's contributions included: launching a redesigned, accessible website, updating brochures and social media content, and creating a modern, portable agency-specific display.

\*These efforts fulfill Goal 1, Objective 1 (outreach hours) and Goal 9, Objective 1 (CLSP promotion) by increasing community education and accessibility.\*

#### 1.1.c - Promotional Material Development

Objective: Create materials that promote all CILs in West Virginia, educate the public about the IL brand, and increase visibility.

ACIL staff participated in the creation of new promotional content used throughout the WIN network. A key product was the WIN Fact Sheet, now distributed annually at IL Day at the Capitol, educating policymakers and the general public about the scope and impact of Independent Living services.

\*These materials support Goal 4, Objective 3, by educating government officials and stakeholders, and Goal 1, Objective 2, by contributing to expanded social media reach.\*

#### 1.1.d - Consumer Storytelling Through Video

Objective: Develop and share consumer success stories in video or live format to build public support and increase understanding of IL services.

ACIL engaged with consumers to gather and present personal success stories, with two individuals sharing their experiences during IL Day at the Capitol. These powerful narratives highlighted the effectiveness of CIL support in promoting independence. In addition: Success stories are now a standing agenda item at quarterly WIN meetings.

\*This initiative reinforces Goal 1, Objective 1 (outreach), Goal 4, Objective 1 (anti-stigma efforts), and Goal 8, Objective 3 (youth transition visibility), by putting a human face to Independent Living achievements.\*

Objective: 1.2 Policymakers understand and value the impact of CILs on the lives of West Virginians with disabilities. (Statewide)

Action Steps: 1.2.a Update the CILs display/exhibit and use it at events at the Capitol to educate the Legislators and staff about CILs and their value. ACIL has undergone rebranding efforts, launched a new accessible website, and updated their display, brochures, and social media platforms.

\*Goal 1 of the SPIL focuses on enhancing service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1.2 of our CIL, which emphasizes raising awareness and educating stakeholders about the critical role of CILs in promoting independence and empowerment for individuals with disabilities.\*

#### 1.2.b Conduct a ROI study to demonstrate the value of CILs to West Virginians with disabilities.

Currently, this action is not applicable.

\*Goal 1.2b of the SPIL focuses on enhancing service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1 of our CIL, which aims to demonstrate the significant benefits and outcomes of CIL services through evidence-based studies like ROI assessments.\*

1.2.c Educate Legislators about the value of CILs, as demonstrated by the ROI study, video, and personal stories. (on-going-during interims & 2022 legislative & beyond) ACIL engaged with legislators during IL Day at the Capitol, Disability Day at the Legislature, and throughout the legislative session.

\*Goal 1.2c of the SPIL focuses on enhancing service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1 of our CIL, which emphasizes advocacy efforts aimed at educating policymakers about the essential role of CILs in promoting independence and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.\*

1.2.d Identify a new liaison from the Governor's Office. The WIN partners have made repeated attempts to contact the Governor's office to identify a new liaison, but so far, we have not been successful.

\*Goal 1.2d of the SPIL focuses on enhancing service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1 of our CIL, which aims to strengthen partnerships with governmental entities to ensure comprehensive support and advocacy for individuals with disabilities.\*

1.2.e Establish an "Independent Living Day" at the Capitol to bring attention to CILs and educate legislators, staff, and advocates about the value of CILs. ACIL staff actively contributed to creating materials and planning for IL Day at the Capitol. They also participated in the event.

\*Goal 1.2e of the SPIL focuses on enhancing service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1.2 of our CIL, which emphasizes raising awareness and educating stakeholders about the critical role of CILs in supporting independence and empowerment for individuals with disabilities.\*

Objective 1.3 Grassroots support for a statewide network of CILs exists. (Statewide) Action Steps:

1.3.a Strengthen the partnership between the SILC, CILs, and other partners and stakeholders. (on-going) ACIL actively participated in meetings aimed at developing strategies to enhance these partnerships.

\*Goal 1.3a of the SPIL focuses on improving service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1 of our CIL, which centers on fostering collaborative relationships with SILC, CILs, and stakeholders to ensure coordinated efforts in supporting individuals with disabilities and promoting their independence and inclusion.\*

1.3.b Update the CIL display/exhibit and use it at events statewide (including areas unserved by a CIL) to educate the public about CILs and their value. ACIL staff actively participated in branding and display board meetings. The Executive Director collaborated on creating a WIN display and ACIL staff worked together to develop a CLSP display. Additionally, ACIL updated their display boards, brochures, website, and social media platforms.

\*Goal 1.3b of the SPIL focuses on enhancing service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1 of our CIL, which emphasizes raising awareness and educating the public about the role and importance of CILs in promoting independence and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.\*

1.3.c Conduct listening sessions (virtual and in-person) around the state to build support and identify groups willing to work on establishing new CILs. (on-going) The Executive Director has actively participated in three listening sessions within our service area.

\*Goal 1.3c of the SPIL focuses on enhancing service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1 of our CIL, which emphasizes engaging communities through inclusive processes like listening sessions to support the establishment of new CILs and ensure equitable access to services for individuals with disabilities.\*

1.3.d Educate interested groups about how to start a CIL and CIL standards and assurances. (on-going) The Executive Director has actively participated in three listening sessions within our service area.

\*Goal 1.3d of the SPIL focuses on enhancing service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1 of our CIL, which centers on fostering knowledge and understanding among community members about starting a CIL and adhering to its standards and assurances.\*

1.3.e Gather personal stories of individuals with disabilities statewide who do or who could benefit from a CIL. ACIL staff gathered success stories from ACIL consumers and presented them at IL Day at the Capitol. These stories were also shared during legislative sessions.

\*Goal 1.3e of the SPIL focuses on enhancing service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1 of our CIL, which emphasizes empowering individuals with disabilities through advocacy and support services to achieve independence and inclusion.\*

1.3.f SILC, CILs, and other partners and stakeholders engage in advocacy efforts to build support for a statewide network of CILs. (on-going) ACIL staff engaged with members of the Legislature during WIN meetings.

\*Goal 1.3f of the SPIL focuses on enhancing service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1 of our CIL, which prioritizes advocacy efforts aimed at ensuring equal access to resources and services for individuals with disabilities.\*

1.3.g Establish a presence on social media to allow interested individuals to follow the development and progress of a CIL in their area. ACIL has launched an accessible website and revamped its social media platforms.

\*Goal 1.3g of the SPIL aims to enhance service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1 of our CIL, which

focuses on improving outreach and communication channels to ensure equitable access to information and services for all community members, including those with disabilities.\*

1.3.h make statewide network a standard agenda item at each quarterly WIN meeting to work on the process. This topic is regularly discussed during each WIN meeting as a standing agenda item.

\*Goal 1.3h of the SPIL aims to improve service accessibility, aligning with Goal 9 of our CIL, which focuses on expanding community outreach and advocacy efforts to enhance accessibility and inclusivity for individuals with disabilities.\*

Objective 1.4 Resources exist and are available to support a statewide network of CILs. (Statewide) Action Steps: 1.4.a Make statewide network of CILs a standard agenda item at each quarterly WVSILC meeting to work on identifying resources and support. ACIL's Executive Director is actively engaged in the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), serving as chair of the WIN, the Action Committee & the Youth Committee Workgroup, and as Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee. The WIN is consistently included as a standing agenda item in each meeting.

\* Goal 1 of the SPIL aims to improve service accessibility, aligning with Goal 3 of our CIL, which focuses on expanding community outreach and advocacy efforts to enhance accessibility and inclusivity for individuals with disabilities.\*

1.4.b Educate Legislators and the Governor about the resources needed to fully implement the SPIL and the design for a statewide network of CILs. (on-going) ACIL staff have been instrumental in preparing for the comprehensive implementation of the SPIL and the strategic development of a statewide network of CILs, effectively communicating these initiatives to members of the Legislature.

\*Goal 1.4b of the SPIL aims to enhance service accessibility, aligning with Goal 1 of our CIL, which focuses on ensuring equitable access to resources and services for individuals with disabilities.\*

1.4.c Research potential funding opportunities and secure funding to support a statewide network of CILs. Our Executive Director has successfully completed the Home Modification Education and Support (HOMES) Training Program at the University of Southern California Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, gaining a comprehensive understanding of various funding sources.

\*Goal 1.4c of the SPIL is focused on enhancing service accessibility, aligning with Goal 2 of our CIL, which emphasizes fostering inclusive and accessible community environments.\*

Goal 2: Ensure CILs have sufficient resources to provide CLSP Services in a timely manner.

\*Goal 2 emphasizes resource optimization and operational efficiency within Centers for Independent Living (CILs) to strengthen their capacity to deliver essential services. This directly supports our CIL's Goal 9, which aims to increase awareness and understanding of programs and services that benefit individuals with disabilities.\*

Objective 2.1 CILs have the capacity to provide Community Living Services Program (CLSP) services statewide.

2.1.a Educate Legislators and the Governor about the limitations on providing services, the waiting list, and the need for a statewide network of CILs in order to ensure statewide access to CLSP (9-30-2023) ACIL actively engages in advocacy efforts aimed at educating members of the Legislature on the critical need for increased funding for CLSP. As part of these endeavors, ACIL staff have taken proactive measures by distributing folders containing the CLSP annual report, along with informative materials for the WIN, its partners, and the SILC, directly to the Governor's office and all legislators.

\*Goal 2.1a of the SPIL underscores the importance of raising awareness among policymakers about the challenges faced in delivering CLSP services and the necessity for a statewide CIL network. This aligns with Goal 9 of our CIL, which focuses on enhancing awareness and understanding of programs and services benefiting individuals with disabilities.\*

2.1.b Research and secure potential funding sources to ensure CILs have the capacity and sufficient, diversified funds to provide CLSP services in a timely manner and eliminate the waiting list.

\*Goal 2.1b of the SPIL underscores the importance of resource mobilization to strengthen CILs' capabilities in delivering CLSP services, aligning with Goal 2 of our CIL, which focuses on enhancing awareness and understanding of programs and services benefiting individuals with disabilities.\*

Objective 2.2 Policymakers understand and value the impact of CLSP on the lives of West Virginians with Disabilities. (Statewide)

Action Steps: 2.2.a Prepare and distribute an annual report on CLSP, services provided, individuals

served, the waiting list for services, the unmet need, and what happens to individuals while they are waiting for services. (Annually) In line with this objective, ACIL furnishes comprehensive information on our CLSP service area and distributes the CLSP annual report to members of the Legislature to advocate for additional funding. Additionally, ACIL staff engage in direct meetings with legislators to discuss the importance of CLSP.

\*Goal 2.2a of the SPIL emphasizes the significance of providing policymakers with detailed insights into CLSP's impact, thereby aligning with Goal 9 of our CIL, which focuses on enhancing awareness and understanding of programs and services benefiting individuals with disabilities.\*

2.2.b Post the CLSP Annual Report on the SILC and CIL websites. (Annually) The CLSP Annual Report is made accessible to the public through its publication on ACIL's website.

\*Goal 2.2.b of the SPIL underscores the importance of transparency and accessibility by ensuring the CLSP Annual Report is readily available to stakeholders, aligning with Goal 9 of our CIL, which focuses on enhancing awareness and understanding of programs and services benefiting individuals with disabilities.\*

2.2.c Collect and share personal stories of the benefits of CLSP services. (Annually) ACIL actively collects and shares personal anecdotes to advocate for CLSP and emphasize the necessity for increased funding.

\*Goal 2.2.c of the SPIL aims to harness the power of personal narratives to underscore the significance of CLSP, aligning with Goal 9 of our CIL, which seeks to enhance awareness and understanding of programs and services benefiting individuals with disabilities.\*

2.2.d Educate partners and allies about the value of and unmet need for the CLSP program. (on-going) As part of this ongoing effort, ACIL disseminates information regarding our CLSP service area and shares the CLSP annual report with members of the Legislature. These actions are aimed at highlighting the pressing need for additional funding to address the significant demand for CLSP services. Moreover, ACIL staff actively engage with members of the Legislature to discuss CLSP, independent living (IL) services, and the mission of the WIN. These discussions serve to raise awareness about the importance of CLSP and its impact on individuals with disabilities across our community.

\*Goal 2.2.d of the SPIL underscores the importance of educating stakeholders about the value and demand for CLSP, aligning with Goal 9 of our CIL, which focuses on enhancing awareness and understanding of programs and services that benefit individuals with disabilities.\*

2.2.e Educate the Governor about the value of CLSP and the impact of the program on the lives of West Virginians with disabilities. (on-going) To further this ongoing effort, ACIL staff have proactively disseminated folders containing the CLSP annual report, along with pertinent information for the WIN, its partners, and the SILC. These materials were hand-delivered to the Governor's office and distributed to all members of the Legislature.

\*Goal 2.2e of the SPIL underscores the imperative of advocacy and education regarding CLSP, thereby aligning with Goal 9 of our CIL, which centers on fostering awareness and understanding of programs and services benefiting individuals with disabilities.\*

**ACL Feedback:** In Section 6.2.2, please specify what SPIL goals align with your CIL goals. For example: "Goal 1 of the SPIL says \_\_\_\_\_ which aligns with Goal 3 of our CIL, which states \_\_\_\_\_." Please make this change and resubmit. Thank you.



# SECTION 7 - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Item 7.1 - Other Accomplishments, Activities and Challenges

Describe any additional significant accomplishments, activities and/or challenges not included elsewhere in the report, e.g., brief summaries of innovative practices, improved service delivery to consumers, etc.

N/A

# SECTION 8 - TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## Item 8.1 - Training And Technical Assistance Needs

Training And Technical Assistance Needs	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs --- Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
<p><b>Advocacy/Leadership Development</b></p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Community/Grassroots Organizing</p> <p>Individual Empowerment</p> <p>Systems Advocacy</p> <p>Legislative Process</p> <p><b>Applicable Laws</b></p> <p>General overview and promulgation of various disability laws</p> <p>Americans with Disabilities Act</p> <p>Air-Carrier's Access Act</p> <p>Fair Housing Act</p> <p>Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act</p> <p>Medicaid/Medicare/PAS/waivers/long-term care</p> <p>Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended</p> <p>Social Security Act</p> <p>Workforce Investment Act of 1998</p> <p>Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999</p> <p>Government Performance Results Act of 1993</p> <p><b>Assistive Technologies</b></p> <p>General Overview</p> <p><b>Data Collecting and Reporting</b></p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>PPR/704 Reports</p> <p>Performance Measures contained in PPR/704 Report</p> <p>Dual Reporting Requirements</p> <p>Case Service Record Documentation</p> <p><b>Disability Awareness and Information</b></p> <p>Specific Issues</p> <p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>CIL Standards and Indicators</p> <p>Community Needs Assessment</p> <p>Consumer Satisfaction Surveys</p> <p>Focus Groups</p> <p>Outcome Measures</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>5</p> <p>8</p>

Training And Technical Assistance Needs	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs --- Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
<b>Financial: Grant Management</b>	
General Overview	
Federal Regulations	
Budgeting	
Fund Accounting	
<b>Financial: Resource Development</b>	
General Overview	3
Diversification of Funding Base	2
Fee-for-Service Approaches	
For Profit Subsidiaries	
Fund-Raising Events of Statewide Campaigns	
Grant Writing	
<b>Independent Living Philosophy</b>	
General Overview	
<b>Innovative Programs</b>	
Best Practices	
Specific Examples	
<b>Management Information Systems</b>	
Computer Skills	
Software	
<b>Marketing and Public Relations</b>	
General Overview	4
Presentation/Workshop Skills	
Community Awareness	
<b>Networking Strategies</b>	
General Overview	
Electronic	
Among CILs & SILCs	
Community Partners	
<b>Program Planning</b>	
General Overview of Program Management and Staff Development	
CIL Executive Directorship Skills Building	
Conflict Management and Alternative Dispute Resolution	
First-Line CIL Supervisor Skills Building	
IL Skills Modules	1
Peer Mentoring	
Program Design	
Time Management	
Team Building	
<b>Outreach to Unserved/Underserved Populations</b>	
General Overview	
Disability	
Minority	



# PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE (PHWF) - DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grant Number	2202WVILPH-00
Reporting Period	09/30/2023 - 09/29/2024
State	WV

## Item 1 - Total Number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)

Total Number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	2
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## Item 2 - Type of Public Health Professional(s) Hired

Type	#
Case Investigator	0
Contact Tracer	0
Social Support Specialist	2
Community Health Worker	0
Public Health Nurse	0
Disease Intervention Specialist	0
Epidemiologist	0
Program Manager	0
Laboratory Personnel	0
Informaticians	0
Communication and Policy Experts	0

## Item 3 - The Activities They Are Engaged In To Advance Public Health

In June 2023, ACIL successfully hired two Transition Advocate/Social Support Specialist positions, after facing challenges in finding qualified candidates for these roles.

To enhance our impact and better serve the community, we strategically assigned each Transition Advocate to cover a specific region, ensuring a more focused approach. One advocate was tasked with serving Boone, Clay, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Putnam, Roane, and Webster Counties, while the other focused on the underserved areas of Braxton, Calhoun, Doddridge, Nicholas, Pleasants, Ritchie, Wirt, and Wood Counties. These latter counties had historically been underrepresented in terms of our services, and by placing a dedicated advocate in these regions, we've significantly increased awareness and access to the critical services our Center offers.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of activities our Transition Advocates have completed to advance public health this past fiscal year:

## 1. Housing Advocacy

ACIL has developed a strong partnership with the West Virginia Housing Continuum of Care (WV Housing CoC) and has successfully assisted consumers in completing housing applications. As part of our ongoing efforts, one of our Transition Advocates met with WV CoC members and discussed services and opportunities for collaboration. ACIL staff was provided information regarding WV Housing Continuum Services and was offered a seat on the CoC board.

The West Virginia Continuum of Care (CoC) is a critical funding and planning initiative aimed at providing comprehensive services to address homelessness, including prevention, emergency housing, transitional housing, and permanent housing solutions. Established under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the CoC model requires all communities to create a coordinated approach to prevent and end homelessness. Participants in the CoC can include nonprofit organizations, businesses, local and state government entities, schools, hospitals, and other community stakeholders. The primary goal of the CoC is to end homelessness through a collective effort of all involved parties.

A Transition Advocate worked with consumers on housing advocacy, providing a total of 131 services in this area. Additionally, the Advocate attended a meeting with the HUD Housing Program staff to explore how these programs can support older adults in aging in place. During the meeting, they gained a deeper understanding of the income and eligibility requirements for HUD Housing Programs. In turn, the Advocate shared information about the services and supports provided by ACIL, fostering collaboration between our organization and HUD to better meet the housing needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities in our community.

## 2. Schools - Youth Transition

ACIL participated in the Bridge Valley Disability Resource Fair. We communicated our services and employment options to the students.

ACIL staff participated in the WV Reading Association Conference. Staff created conversation with WV teachers about our youth services and handed out 50 brochures.

ACIL attended the George Washington High School Ward 13 Potluck dinner to speak with the community about our services. They handed out 10 brochures at the event.

ACIL participated in the Kanawha County Schools Transition Fair. The staff gave a presentation of services, conducted surveys to gain insight on community needs in the context of a youth program, and provided brochures to attendees.

One of our Transition Advocates is currently serving on the WV Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children. The WVACEEC is a state-mandated advisory panel established under West Virginia State Code Â§18-20-6 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Â§300.136. The Council's primary responsibility is to provide guidance to state decision-makers on the educational needs of exceptional children, including students with disabilities and those identified as gifted. The Council's mission is to influence the State Board of Education, public policymakers, and the citizens of West Virginia in order to continuously improve educational outcomes for children with exceptionalities.

## 3. Diversion

The Transition Advocates worked closely with consumers to help divert them from entering congregate settings. By providing personalized support and exploring alternative housing and care options, they were able to assist consumers in maintaining independence and accessing more appropriate services tailored to their needs.

## 4. Transition from Congregate Settings to Community

The Transition Advocates successfully assisted two consumers in transitioning from congregate settings back into the community, providing vital support to help them reintegrate into their environments. In addition, ACIL staff worked with Take Me Home WV to provide advocacy and transition services to a consumer that is currently in a nursing home. We're working to get supports in place to assist the consumer in transitioning back into the community setting.

## 5. Outreach

ACIL dedicated numerous hours to outreach efforts, with a particular focus on Braxton, Calhoun, Doddridge, Nicholas, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, and Wood counties. These areas have traditionally been underserved due to their geographic location and the lack of an outstationed office in the region. Through our outreach, we aimed to raise awareness and expand access to ACIL's services for individuals in these communities.

Several of the outreach events included the WV Molasses Festival and the Calhoun County Fall Festival, where our Transition Advocate actively engaged with the community. These events provided valuable opportunities to connect with local residents and raise awareness about the services ACIL offers.

A Transition Advocate represented ACIL as a vendor at the Westside Community Health Fair on September 7, 2024. This event provided an opportunity to connect with the local community and raise awareness about the services ACIL offers.

On June 1, 2024, a Transition Advocate attended the Charleston Pride Event in Charleston, WV, alongside other ACIL staff members. The event served as an important platform for outreach, where they engaged with the LGBTQ community and individuals with disabilities to raise awareness about the range of services ACIL provides.

## 6. Support Group/Peer Counseling

The Transition Advocates have successfully established three new support groups at the Center: the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Support Group, the Mental Health Support Group, and the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Support Group. To accommodate varying needs, we offer a hybrid format for these groups, with both in-person and virtual meetings available via Zoom.

We have been actively promoting these new support groups through our social media platforms to raise awareness and encourage participation. Additionally, our Board has generously agreed to waive the transportation fees for all participants who utilize ACIL's transportation services to attend the support groups. This initiative has increased participation, allowing more consumers to access and benefit from the support groups.

There has been growing interest from consumers in establishing a Blind/Visually Impaired Support Group. We are currently collaborating with interested consumers to launch this support group in the upcoming fiscal year.

## 7. Strengthening Social Media Presence

Our Transition Advocates, in collaboration with the Social Media Committee, have worked diligently to create engaging content for our new Facebook, Instagram, and Threads platforms. The creativity and dedication of our Transition Advocates have greatly enhanced our social media presence, with content that resonates with our community. As a result, our Board has expressed strong satisfaction with the positive impact and growth of our online presence.

## 8. Independent Living Skills Training (ILST), as needed

When necessary, our Transition Advocates have proactively stepped in to provide Independent Living Skills Training (ILST) to consumers, ensuring they receive the support needed to enhance their

independence and daily living skills.

One of our Transition Advocates facilitated cooking classes for consumers, empowering them with essential life skills. In addition, the Advocate delivered 79 Independent Living Skills Training (ILST) sessions, offering personalized support to strengthen consumers' independence and daily living capabilities. Meanwhile, the other Transition Advocate conducted 10 ILST sessions, providing valuable assistance to individuals in developing their independent living skills.

#### 9. Employee Readiness Training, Employment, & Vocational Services

We provided comprehensive Employee Readiness Training, covering essential skills such as resume writing, interview preparation, and creating reference lists. Additionally, we offered guidance on effective online job search strategies and how to identify potential employers. Our training also addressed key topics, including how to disclose a disability during the job search and interview process and request workplace accommodations to foster a supportive, inclusive work environment.

Below are examples of the employment training programs we offer:

**Job Readiness Training:** Programs focused on foundational skills, including resume writing, interview techniques, and job search strategies.

**Vocational Skills Training:** Specialized training to develop job-specific skills, such as carpentry, plumbing, or computer programming.

**Internship Programs:** Real-world work experience opportunities within a supportive environment, allowing individuals to apply their skills.

**Soft Skills Development:** Workshops designed to enhance interpersonal skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

**Career Counseling:** One-on-one support to help individuals identify their strengths, interests, and explore potential career paths.

**On-the-Job Training:** Hands-on learning experiences where individuals acquire job skills while working, often under the guidance of a mentor or supervisor.

**Entrepreneurship Training:** Courses that equip individuals with the skills to start and manage their own businesses.

**Workplace Accommodations Training:** Programs that teach individuals how to request and utilize accommodations that support their success in the workplace.

**Job Coaching:** Ongoing support from a coach to help individuals learn job tasks and navigate workplace challenges.

**Financial Literacy Training:** Education focused on managing personal finances, budgeting, and understanding employee benefits.

#### 10. Food Security through the Garden of Giving Food Pantry

One of our Transition Advocates played a pivotal role in securing funding to establish the on-site Garden of Giving Food Pantry, an initiative designed to combat food insecurity in Kanawha and the surrounding counties we serve. This pantry provides essential support to individuals and families in need. Both Transition Advocates were actively involved and worked diligently to ensure the success of our grand opening on August 6, 2024. Additionally, one Transition Advocate continues to assist staff and consumers during the monthly food pantry distribution, which takes place on the third Wednesday of each month.

#### 11. PAIMI Advisory Council

One of our Transition Advocates was accepted as a member of the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Advisory Council. As outlined in the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Act, 42 U.S.C. 10801 et seq., the Council plays a crucial role in advising Disability Rights West Virginia (DRWV) staff and the Board of Directors on policies and priorities aimed at protecting and advocating for the rights of individuals with mental illness in West



Virginia.

The Council's responsibilities include:

Advising DRWV on policies and priorities related to the protection of individuals with mental illness.  
Contributing to the annual PAIMI program performance report, which includes an assessment of the Council's activities and the quality of PAIMI services.

Collaborating with the Board of Directors and PAIMI program staff to develop the annual statement of objectives and priorities for the program.

Educating the public about the mission, priorities, and activities of DRWV.

#### 12. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Advisory Committee

One of our Transition Advocates serves on the West Virginia Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Advisory Committee, which is established by the West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities (WVU CED) and other partner agencies under the federal Traumatic Brain Injury Act (P.L. 104-166). The Committee provides critical guidance and feedback to state, local, and private partners on the design, development, and implementation of statewide services and supports for individuals with TBI.

The Committee's key responsibilities include:

Analyzing the needs of individuals with TBI, their families, and caregivers, and recommending strategies to address those needs.

Reviewing best practices and making evidence-based recommendations to state and local partners.

Contributing to the creation of a comprehensive statewide plan for TBI services.

Ensuring the active involvement of individuals with TBI and their families in the development of policies and programs.

#### 13. WV Medicaid Summit

One of our Transition Advocates attended the WV Medicaid Summit hosted by West Virginians for Affordable Health Care. During the summit, they gained valuable insights into the latest changes to Medicaid and how these updates impact the average West Virginian. This experience equipped them with critical knowledge to better assist consumers in navigating the evolving Medicaid landscape.

#### 14. Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS)

One of our Transition Advocates continued to serve on the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS) Board. Established by the West Virginia legislature in 1999, the RYPAS Act created a consumer-controlled program designed to help individuals with severe disabilities live independently in their own homes and communities. The RYPAS program provides funding for individuals with severe disabilities to hire personal assistants who assist with essential daily living tasks, including, but not limited to:

Getting in and out of bed, a wheelchair, or a motor vehicle

Bathing and personal hygiene

Dressing and grooming

Meal preparation, eating, and cleanup

Paying bills

Shopping and banking

Managing a daily schedule

The RYPAS program is managed by a seven-member, consumer-controlled board, made up of individuals with disabilities, most of whom have their own personal assistants. The board is responsible for making all decisions about the program, including eligibility for services. Board members are not eligible to receive services while serving on the board.

### 15. West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (WV SILC)

One of our Transition Advocates was appointed to the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (WV SILC). The WV SILC was established under the 1992 amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and further amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in 2014. The Council is composed of 24 voting members and 7 ex-officio non-voting members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor. Members include representatives from key organizations such as the West Virginia Independence Network (WIN), the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (WVDRS), and other state agencies that serve individuals with disabilities.

The Council operates under the principles of consumer control and direction, with a majority of members being individuals with disabilities who are not employed by a Center for Independent Living or a state agency. This ensures that the WV SILC is firmly grounded in the independent living philosophy, which emphasizes:

- Consumer control
- Peer support
- Self-help and self-determination
- Equal access
- Individual and systems advocacy

The ultimate goal of the independent living philosophy is to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, while promoting their full inclusion in society. It recognizes that people with disabilities are the foremost experts on their own needs, and that they have valuable perspectives to contribute to society. Furthermore, it affirms the right of individuals with disabilities to have equal opportunities to decide how they live, work, and participate in their communities.

### 16. Taking Independence by the Reins Summer Circus Event and Hot Dog Sale

Both Transition Advocates played key roles in planning and participating in the Taking Independence by the Reins Summer Circus Event, which took place on June 22, 2024. This inaugural event saw enthusiastic participation from numerous consumers who volunteered throughout the day.

The event featured a variety of exciting activities and performances, including captivating fire performances by trained performers. One of the highlights was the appearance of the Itty Bitty Therapy Horses, miniature therapy horses that delighted attendees. In addition to these spectacular performances, participants enjoyed hands-on activities such as a cookie decorating station and a sensory jar station, providing fun for all ages.

Consumers also assisted with the hot dog sale, contributing to the success of the event. The funds raised will support ACIL's initiatives to promote independence and community integration for individuals with disabilities.

### 17. Jingle and Jam Accessible Christmas Party

Both Transition Advocates played a key role in planning and participating in the Jingle and Jam Accessible Christmas Party, held on Saturday, December 9, 2023. This event was open to the community and specifically designed to welcome individuals with disabilities.

The event featured a variety of engaging activities, including a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction, a cookie decorating station, and an ornament-making station. Guests also enjoyed a hot chocolate and coffee station, a Cake Walk, a selfie station, and the opportunity to take photos with Santa Claus. The event was made even more special with live music provided by the volunteer band, Relative Obscurity.

In keeping with our commitment to accessibility, the event was 100% accessible and included a dedicated sensory room to ensure a comfortable experience for all attendees.

#### 18. Freedom Car Show

Both Transition Advocates participated in the inaugural Freedom Car Show, which took place on October 14, 2023. This impactful event was designed to educate first responders, raise public awareness, and generate funds for the Community Living Services Program (CLSP), a crucial initiative that helps individuals with disabilities obtain the vehicle modifications they need to maintain mobility and independence.

The Freedom Car Show featured a diverse array of vehicles modified with adaptive equipment, showcasing how these modifications enable people with disabilities to lead more independent lives. The event served not only as a fundraiser but also as a powerful demonstration of the importance of accessible transportation for individuals with disabilities.

All proceeds from the Freedom Car Show were dedicated exclusively to funding vehicle modifications for people with disabilities, ensuring that the event directly contributed to increasing mobility and independence for individuals in the community.

#### **ACL Feedback:**

Sounds like a great use for PHWF funding.

# SECTION 9 - SIGNATURES

Please sign and print the names, titles and telephone numbers of the CIL director and board chair.

NAME AND TITLE OF CENTER DIRECTOR

PHONE NUMBER

SIGNATURE OF CENTER DIRECTOR

DATE

NAME AND TITLE OF CENTER BOARD CHAIRPERSON

PHONE NUMBER

SIGNATURE OF CENTER BOARD CHAIRPERSON

DATE