



Needs Assessment Roundtable

Background Information from IL T&TA Center: Public Input Process for the SPIL

SILC Congress 2026
National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils
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IL T&TA

Independent Living

Training & Technical Assistance Center

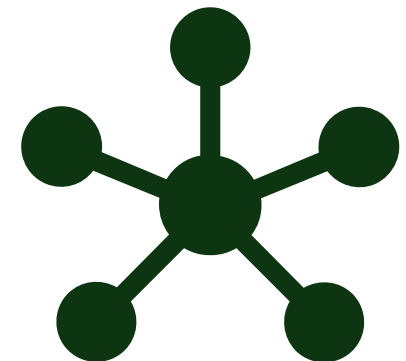
The IL Training & Technical Assistance Center is operated by the University of Montana's Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities (RIIC) and funded by the Office of Independent Living Programs, Administration on Disabilities, Administration for Community Living (ACL), to provide expert information, support, and training tailored for Centers for Independent Living (CILs), Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs), and Designated State Entities (DSEs) across the country.



Your Presenters:

Carrie England, Executive Director at California State Independent Living Council (CA SILC) & Peer Consultant with the IL T&TA Center

Jeremy Morris, Executive Director at Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council & Peer Consultant with the IL T&TA Center



Reminders

Accessibility



- **WAIT FOR THE MICROPHONE!**

- Provide your name and organization when introducing yourself and each time you are speaking.

Be Open to Learn



- The group contains all levels of experience and backgrounds.
- This is a learning environment, and all questions are appropriate and expected.

Share

- Share great ideas that are working for your state.
- But don't overshare...if you need one-on-one assistance, reach out to us

Public Input Process for the SPIL

Public Input for the SPIL

- The federal regulations on the SPIL and the SILC Indicators lay out the following requirements the SILC must follow to get public input on the development of the SPIL.
- **Public Input Is the First Step:** You must receive public input from individuals with disabilities and other stakeholders throughout the State before the SPIL can be developed.

Public Input for the SPIL

Public Allowed to Attend All SPIL development meetings:

- The SILC must allow the public to attend all meetings on SPIL development.
- When the SILC has a SPIL meeting where they ask for input from the public, certain rules must be followed.
- The SILC must follow both federal and state rules to provide advance notice of these meetings.

Public Input for the SPIL

Physical, Digital, and Communication Access Is Important:

- Public meeting locations, where public input is being taken, must be accessible to all people with disabilities, including, but not limited to:
 - proximity to public transportation
 - physical accessibility, and
 - effective communication and accommodations that include auxiliary aids and services, necessary to make the meeting accessible to all people with disabilities.
- Materials available electronically must be 508 compliant and, upon request, available in alternative and accessible formats, including other commonly spoken languages.

Who Should Be Included?



- Public
- People with Disabilities
- CILs and their consumers
- Other IL service providers
- Other community-based organizations that support community life for persons with disabilities
- Entities carrying out other programs providing services for persons with disabilities

Before Submission

- **Public Allowed to Comment on State Plan Draft Before It's Finalized**
 - The public must have an opportunity to comment on the State plan before its submission. You must accommodate people with disabilities as part of this process.
 - You can **hold a public meeting before a draft is prepared AND allow public comment before the draft is submitted.**
 - Public Meeting Requirements:
 - Accessible & Appropriate 30-Day Notice (Notices must be provided in alternative accessible formats by request)
 - Posting public notice via media such as websites, newspapers, public service announcements, and contact with appropriate constituency groups.

During SPIL Evaluation

- The SPIL is required to include a “SPIL Evaluation Plan.” SPIL must include a plan for evaluation of its effectiveness in meeting its objectives and a plan for evaluation of satisfaction by individuals with disabilities. The SPIL Evaluation plan includes several elements, but today we are going to focus on two important components. How the SILC will:
 - Measure consumer satisfaction– this is separate from the CIL’s responsibility to measure consumer satisfaction but may be done in collaboration with the CILs
 - Include a method to gather input from stakeholders (targeted populations, CILs, etc.) and the public
 - ***The SPIL Evaluation plan is not intended to be used to evaluate CIL services and/or compliance with CIL standards and assurances***

SILC Interaction with Consumers

- **Stay in your lane!** Keep in mind that SILCs do not provide independent living services or individual advocacy. When requests come up, be prepared to refer them to their local CIL.
- **Ensure accessibility for all:** The SILC is required to ensure all public input events are accessible for people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. Plan and budget for the cost of accommodations and translations. Create a process and timeline for the public to request reasonable accommodations to participate.
- **Be in listening mode:** Often, consumers and advocates will use the public comment process to discuss their individual situations and needs. Ensure you refer to CILs, the CAP program, etc. Look for trends that may indicate larger systemic issues to be addressed.

SILC Interaction with Consumers

- **Get Creative--Allow People to Respond in Different Ways:** Keep your community/culture in mind when developing ways for the public to provide input. Consider asking the same questions but allowing folks to respond in different methods (digital survey, paper survey, in-person, small groups, etc.)
- **Be Prepared to Retain Records of Responses**

Ways of Gathering Feedback and Input

These Will Vary Based on Community Preference

- **Survey**

- Paper
- Digital (Links and QR codes)
- Survey Monkey is low-cost and generally accessible

- **Live Polling of Audiences**

- Allows for instant feedback and audience

Ways of Gathering Feedback and Input

- **Hosting Townhalls or “Listening Sessions”**
 - Try partnering with CILs to co-host these sessions
 - Consider allowing remote access
 - Ask local advocacy groups to partner
- **Host focus groups (or small discussion groups)**

Understand the Community



- Input Gathering and Public Comments can come from a variety of ways.
- Know how unserved and underserved communities are connecting with others.
- Identify partners that can share input opportunities.
- Look outside of your immediate network.

CIL Engagement



- The CILs each have their own outreach plans.
- See what CILs have the best success in gathering consumer feedback.
- Have Network discussion on how that example can be a best practice for gathering SPIL input.



Questions?

How to Connect with Us!

Website: www.ILTTACenter.org

Request training and / or technical assistance (expert help for your organization): fill out a form on our website to let us know how we can help.

Call: 406-243-5300, and someone will get back to you as soon as we can.

Sign-Up for Events & Announcements:

Visit our website to sign up for updates about live training, group technical assistance, new publications, and other happenings around the Center.



Or ask your Program Officer:

The Program Officers are assigned by federal region and are listed on the [ACL website](#).