

ACL funding acknowledgements and the Stevens Amendment

October 2026

About this Resource

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has added a condition to Center for Independent Living (CIL) awards related to CIL identification and online presence. This resource provides information to help CILs understand and implement that requirement, along with related requirements for acknowledging federal financial assistance. It explains expectations for identifying an organization as a Center for Independent Living, maintaining a current public online presence, using required federal funding acknowledgments, and updating websites and other public-facing materials. This resource is intended to support CIL compliance with the Rehabilitation Act, applicable award terms and conditions, and federal funding acknowledgment requirements; it does not replace the requirements contained in a CIL's Notice of Award or other applicable federal requirements.

The Rehabilitation Act and Online Presence

Section 725(c)(10) of the Rehabilitation Act establishes outreach requirements for Centers for Independent Living, including outreach to people with significant disabilities who are unserved or underserved. To support compliance with these requirements, each Part C recipient must maintain an active, publicly accessible online presence, such as a current website and social media platforms.

The CIL's online presence must clearly identify the organization as a **Center for Independent Living** and provide current information about CIL services and how to access them. Regardless of the organization's legal or public-facing name, its website and social media profiles must clearly identify it as a **Center for Independent Living**.

The Stevens Amendment and Federal Financial Support

CILs receiving federal financial assistance from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must also comply with applicable requirements for acknowledging federal support, including requirements associated with the Stevens Amendment.

The Stevens Amendment, first enacted in 1989 to promote transparency and accountability in federal spending, requires recipients of federal funds to provide information about the federal and non-federal spending supporting certain programs, projects, or activities when issuing public communications. The requirement is continued through annual federal appropriations and is included in ACL award terms and conditions each year.

CILs must read and comply with the complete terms and conditions included with every annual award and any subsequent amendments. This information supplements but does not replace the requirements in those award documents.

CILs that receive ACL funding must acknowledge federal support when publicly describing the CIL or its federally funded projects, activities, and services. The acknowledgment must include the applicable federal and nongovernmental funding amounts and percentages, along with the required disclaimer. A funding credit or federal logo alone is not sufficient.

Communications that May Require Federal Acknowledgment

The list below provides examples for when to include the acknowledgment of federal support in public communications that describe the Center for Independent Living or its ACL-funded work. Websites, blogs, and vlogs

- Brochures, case studies, curricula, issue briefs, manuals, resource guides, and toolkits
- Email blasts, but not routine individual emails
- Press releases and public statements
- Presentations, posters, flyers, and advertisements
- Requests for proposals and bid solicitations
- Downloadable publications and other public-facing materials

This list is not exhaustive. Review the annual award terms and conditions when deciding whether a communication requires the acknowledgment.

These examples are adapted from the [ITACC resource](#) cited by ACL.

Sample Acknowledgement Statements

To meet the Rehab Act and Stevens Amendments requirements, use the language below based on the CIL funding. Regardless of the official name of your Center for Independent Living, its website must identify that the organization is a Center for Independent Living. Following is excerpted language from <https://acl.gov/grants/managing-grant>.

- ***CILs that receive both federal and non-federal funding:*** *This Center for Independent Living [is/was] supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$[ACL/HHS award amount] with [percentage] percent funded by ACL/HHS and \$[amount] and [percentage] percent funded by non-government source(s). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.*
 - ***Example:*** *This Center for Independent Living is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$800,000 with 80 percent funded by ACL/HHS and \$200,000, or 20 percent, funded by nongovernmental sources. The contents are those of the*

author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, ACL/HHS or the U.S. Government.

- **CILs with 100 percent ACL/HHS funding:** *This Center for Independent Living [is/was] supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$[ACL/HHS award amount] with 100 percent funded by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.*
 - **Example:** *This Center for Independent Living is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$800,000 with 100 percent funded by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, ACL/HHS or the U.S. Government.*
- **Request for proposals or bid solicitation:** *This solicitation is issued by [CIL name], a Center for Independent Living, and is supported by ACL/HHS as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$800,000 with 100 percent funded by ACL/HHS.*
- **Social media:** For federal funding information for [CIL name], a Center for Independent Living, visit [link to the complete funding acknowledgment].

For separate examples for solicitations, public documents, websites, and social media and allows social media posts to link to the full website disclosure, reference the [ITACC resource](#) cited by ACL.

Steps for Updating your Materials

1. **Review your award requirements.** Read the complete Notice of Award and all incorporated terms and conditions each year. Do not assume the requirements are unchanged from the prior year.
 - a. **Confirm the funding information.** Have fiscal staff verify the current ACL/HHS award amount, funding period, total costs, and any nongovernmental funding.
 - b. **Calculate the funding percentages.** Calculate the federal and nongovernmental shares using the total costs for the same Center for Independent Living, project, activity, or service and the same funding period.
 - c. **Ask questions when funding is complex.** If the CIL receives multiple federal awards or other government funding, contact the ACL Grants Management Specialist for guidance. Do not identify state, local, or other federal funding as nongovernmental funding.
2. **Complete the acknowledgment statement.** Replace every bracketed field with the CIL's verified information. Remove any options that do not apply.
3. **Place the acknowledgment on the website.** Put the full acknowledgment where visitors can easily find it. A consistent website footer is appropriate when the same funding supports the entire website. If a page describes a separately funded project/activity, include the acknowledgment applicable to it.
4. **Make the statement accessible.** Use readable, selectable text with adequate color contrast. Check the statement on mobile devices and with a screen reader.

5. **Update other covered communications.** Add the acknowledgment to applicable publications, presentations, press releases, solicitations, and other public communications. A website statement does not replace the acknowledgment required in those materials.
6. **Review and document changes.** Review the statement after each new or amended award or whenever funding changes. Keep a dated copy of the statement and the calculations used to complete it.

Questions and official sources

Contact your ACL Grants Management Specialist for award-specific wording or funding questions. Follow the requirements in your NoA. [1]

[1] [ACL Managing a Grant](#) — see “Grantee Product Disclaimer—REQUIRED” and “Stevens Amendment.”

[2] [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#), sections 3.4.12.2–3.4.12.3. September 2026

[3] [Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities](#). *The Stevens Amendment and DD Councils*. November 2023.

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The Independent Living Training & Technical Assistance Center is on assignment with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living.