



*The United Voice
of Independent Living
in Rural America*



AgrAbility NTW
New Staff Training

Sierra Royster



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*“APRIL is a national membership organization
dedicated to advancing the rights and
responsibilities of people with disabilities living
in rural America”*



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Membership consists of Centers for Independent Living, their satellites and branch offices, Statewide Independent Living Councils, other organizations and individuals concerned with the independent living needs of people with disabilities living in rural America.



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What is IL

Independent Living (IL), as seen by its advocates, is a philosophy, a way of looking at disability and society, and a worldwide movement of people with disabilities working for self-determination, self-respect, and equal opportunities.



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Our History
“Father of Independent Living”
Ed Roberts





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What is a CIL

- Centers for Independent Living are community-based, cross-disability, non-profit organizations that are designed and operated by people with disabilities. CILs are unique in that they operate according to a strict philosophy of consumer control, wherein people with all types of disabilities directly govern and staff the organization. Centers for Independent Living provide:
 - Peer Support
 - Information and Referral
 - Individual and Systems Advocacy
 - Independent Living Skills Training
 - Transition
- 403 Centers for Independent Living (CILs)
- 330 branch offices



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What is a SILC

- Each state and US territory is required to maintain a statewide independent living council (SILC). The Council and the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) within the state develop a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The SPIL is a document required by law that indicates how the IL Network is going to improve independent living services for individuals with disabilities over the next three years. It identifies the needs and priorities of consumers, providers, and other stakeholders and sets forth goals and objectives to respond to them.
- Having a strong network for independent living in a state or territory is crucial. Collaborating on the SPIL development can help create a cohesive and unified vision among all stakeholders who have an interest in issues that impact citizens with disabilities.
- 56 Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs)



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What will this partnership do?

- Increase the awareness level of both the NAP and APRIL staff members regarding the respective services of both programs and how to access them.
- Increase the resources available to each APRIL member Center for Independent Living.
- Conducting an assessment of their membership clientele to determine the level of services being provided to AgrAbility clientele.
- Enhance the collaboration between SRAPs and Centers for Independent Living.
- Work together to increase collaboration with Youth in CILs and State AgrAbility Projects.



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If you are not at the table, you are on the menu.