**Indiana SILC (INSILC) Shares COVID-19 Resources**

The IL-NET National Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) Center at ILRU is providing support to centers for independent living and statewide independent living councils as we all navigate the unprecedented times of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are sharing this resource below in support of the communities you serve. Please email us at [**ilru@ilru.org**](mailto:ilru@ilru.org) with examples of how CILs are communicating with consumers in your communities—and how SILCs are communicating within your states-- and the resources you have found helpful. Visit the [ILRU Resources on COVID-19](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__r20.rs6.net_tn.jsp-3Ff-3D00158-5F8yv47u7itI97Bv26g6oWGlOZ01fpWlXqVsjpFQwiaGZrsoesveb8FZUAjDsrG9ZkR2Y6Hrs57s7ToZQj02-5F1-2DU6w3HkJgJc6pJYMf5gK-5F5r3AA3oo59W2Ye-5F3AgizDOlAhHIwlQ7t2vXuDMwNYEuFVGiMBja6ptomLtcEgCo-3D-26c-3DW3T1b4p95S7i-5FewVJ5lXRtdilG4NKvKbWF2DQ-5FXC59j-2DmsyoXfPmFQ-3D-3D-26ch-3DVJDyhDUlZU5azo2BGYy0S-5Fgg-2Dy7LTndG3VpQZK0pJiSmQQCwRHlNjw-3D-3D&d=DwMFaQ&c=ZQs-KZ8oxEw0p81sqgiaRA&r=uGn_Vkl_JR-YWpk6ktqEcA&m=3YxXI4PRCPocrlfKh95eLqxydM9jVgK7gDJ-x8JpDZQ&s=fvAvbl7SLxgu4FIYywdP4yv90tzMMt7d_eA_Opf_D-Q&e=) webpage for daily updates.

All items we post are presented with the stipulation that they are only examples of how one CIL or SILC has addressed important emergency-related matters. Other organizations should adopt only those of the examples that fit their organization's circumstances. Each organization is responsible for ensuring compliance with federal, state, and local laws and directives. These materials have not been reviewed by ACL; therefore, no assumptions should be made regarding compliance or cost allowability.

**The following is shared by Amber O’Haver, Executive Director of Indiana SILC (INSILC) and the INSILC Team:**

I wanted to share two NEW resources we created and have pushed out to our Indiana IL Network and many of our peers with disabilities and allies/partners. I have also attached the Notice of My Healthcare Rights form and the Knowledge is Power document in PDF. As stated in the message below – both of these resources can be found in various, accessible formats at [https://www.insilc.org/covid-19/](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.insilc.org/covid-19/__;!!IPhZlOogwbDdv1o!B6UsIdyrya28bWmVpadVmrNBEHawYWCY3XtZ_fTgIXYRbcj9KXAT7yBOx_8lebkzq7ugRlll4A$).

**Contact Information:**

**Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council**

**844.446.7452**

[**info@insilc.org**](mailto:info@insilc.org)

**#WeAreEssential**

Dear Hoosier peers with disabilities, older adults, family members, and our partners/allies:

During these uncertain and unnerving times, the Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC) and its staff extend our solidarity and support to you amidst this COVID-19 pandemic.

As Hoosiers with disabilities, we know and understand how COVID-19 is impacting Hoosiers in our disability community differently than other Hoosier citizens. We see and feel the strain it is placing on our public systems compromising our healthcare, home care supports, education, employment, and transportation services, which can be especially terrifying for those of us who struggle to navigate everyday barriers and utilize and rely on these public services to maintain our independence and life in the community. Many of us are sensing with increasing urgency the need to take measures to be safe even though safety and security often already feel scarce for us. We are frightened that what little choice and control we currently have over our lives may be in jeopardy. The risk of institutionalization has never been more real. And for some of us, it feels like death may be lurking just around the corner.

Exacerbating these feelings and concerns, is the distressing and disturbing news about policies and practices being implemented across the country of discriminatory healthcare rationing and denials for much needed accommodations putting all our lives as disabled individuals at great risk. INSILC finds these types of policies and practices to be unacceptable! **#WeAreEssential – and as individuals with disabilities, we have the right to be free from discrimination, even during this time of emergency we are ALL facing.**

Neil Romano, the Chair of the National Council on Disability, made this point in an open letter to federal authorities on March 18, 2020:

*“The lives of persons with disabilities continue to be devalued in the medical profession due to pervasive negative biases and inaccurate assumptions. The belief that people with disabilities have a lesser quality of life and are less valuable to society has led to deadly consequences - physicians choosing to provide medically scarce resources to non-disabled or healthier people – [which is] a violation of human rights, civil rights and a reinforcement of the belief that people with disabilities are lesser-than and less deserving of life itself.”*

And this past Saturday on March 27, 2020, the Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights issued a [bulletin](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr-bulletin-3-28-20.pdf__;!!IPhZlOogwbDdv1o!B6UsIdyrya28bWmVpadVmrNBEHawYWCY3XtZ_fTgIXYRbcj9KXAT7yBOx_8lebkzq7tXr0ImkA$) [https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr-bulletin-3-28-20.pdf] to protect our peers with disabilities from unlawful discrimination in decisions about their treatment during the COVID-19 crisis which states that:

*"…persons with disabilities should not be denied medical care on the basis of stereotypes, assessments of quality of life, or judgments about a person’s relative “worth” based on the presence or absence of disabilities or age. Decisions by covered entities concerning whether an individual is a candidate for treatment should be based on an individualized assessment of the patient and his or her circumstances, based on the best available objective medical evidence."*

Recognizing the multiple and intersecting social identities embodied by our peers with disabilities, INSILC strives to ensure that its peers in the disability community are provided the knowledge and tools necessary to be resilient self-advocates and advocates for others in all efforts to defend and uphold their human and civil rights. This includes information based on anti-discrimination laws which is essential during times of emergency or crisis to safeguard access to effective communications, needed reasonable modifications or accommodations and vital healthcare services and medical equipment in order to prevent any unnecessary deaths of our peers with disabilities.

Therefore, on our website at [https://www.insilc.org/covid-19/](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.insilc.org/covid-19/__;!!IPhZlOogwbDdv1o!B6UsIdyrya28bWmVpadVmrNBEHawYWCY3XtZ_fTgIXYRbcj9KXAT7yBOx_8lebkzq7ugRlll4A$) you will find a document titled “**Notice of My Healthcare Rights**”. This is a form that our peers with disabilities, including older adults with conditions of aging and our peers with disabilities with limited English proficiency, can use when seeking or receiving healthcare. The second page of the document contains contact information for federal, state and local agencies and organizations that are available to assist you with additional resources, referrals and legal and advocacy efforts if your feel as though your rights have been or are being violated. To meet various accessibility needs of our disability community, this document/form is provided on our website at [https://www.insilc.org/covid-19/](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.insilc.org/covid-19/__;!!IPhZlOogwbDdv1o!B6UsIdyrya28bWmVpadVmrNBEHawYWCY3XtZ_fTgIXYRbcj9KXAT7yBOx_8lebkzq7ugRlll4A$) in English and Spanish, in PDF and plain text, in standard and large print, and in easy-to read, plain language. We hope that this document will help inform, support and empower you if you need to seek and receive healthcare during this trying time.

In addition to the “Notice of My Healthcare Rights” document, you will also find on our website at [https://www.insilc.org/covid-19/](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.insilc.org/covid-19/__;!!IPhZlOogwbDdv1o!B6UsIdyrya28bWmVpadVmrNBEHawYWCY3XtZ_fTgIXYRbcj9KXAT7yBOx_8lebkzq7ugRlll4A$) the “**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER”** document which lists regularly updated, disability-specific COVID-19 resources and information we highly recommend from a majority of organizations directed and managed by our peers with disabilities. Again, to meet various accessibility needs of our disability community, this document is provided on our website in a PDF and plain text and standard and large print.

**If you believe your rights as one of our peers with disabilities have been violated as a result of unlawful policies/practices of healthcare rationing or denial of reasonable accommodations or you believe you have a family member with disabilities who’s rights have been violated, please reach out to us to share your story or experience and seek additional direction/guidance at** [**info@insilc.org**](mailto:info@insilc.org)**.**

**To file an official complaint or report a disability-related rights violation, please contact Indiana Disability Rights at 1-800-622-4865 or** [**info@indianadisabilityrights.org**](mailto:info@indianadisabilityrights.org)**.**

These are days of both fear and fortitude, and we hope you can find strength in us and in our disability community because **#WeAreEssential**.

Much Love and Solidarity,

The INSILC Team

Amber O'Haver

Executive Director

Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC)

Phone: (844) 4.INSILC - Ext. 700

[aohaver@insilc.org](mailto:aohaver@insilc.org)

[www.insilc.org](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http:/www.insilc.org__;!!IPhZlOogwbDdv1o!B6UsIdyrya28bWmVpadVmrNBEHawYWCY3XtZ_fTgIXYRbcj9KXAT7yBOx_8lebkzq7umUtClaQ$)

**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER COVID-19 Disability, Aging, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Resources & Information**

**AARP**

<https://search.aarp.org/gss/everywhere?q=covid&intcmp=DSO-SRCH-EWHERE>]

**Administration for Community Living (ACL)**

<https://acl.gov/COVID-19>

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**Access Living**

https://www.accessliving.org/our-services/covid-19-resources-for-the-disability-community/

**American Council of the Blind**

https://www.acb.org/acb-covid19-response

**Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)**

https://www.april-rural.org/index.php

**Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)**

https://autisticadvocacy.org/2020/03/fighting-for-the-disability-community-during-covid-19/

**Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)**

https://dredf.org/covid-19-advocacy-and-resources/

**Gallaudet University**

https://coronavirus.gallaudet.edu

**Green Mountain Self-Advocates**

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Plain-Language-Information-on-Coronavirus.pdf

**Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU)**

https://www.ilru.org/resources-covid-19

**Indiana Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities**

https://www.in.gov/gpcpd/2731.htm

**National Association of the Deaf**

https://www.nad.org/2020/03/12/coronavirus/

**National Council on Aging**

https://www.ncoa.org/covid-19-resources-for-older-adults/

**National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)**

https://ncil.org/covid-19/

**National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)**

https://www.ndrn.org/?s=covid-19

**National Federation of the Blind**

https://www.nfb.org/resources/covid-19-resources

**Self-Advocacy Online**

http://www.selfadvocacyonline.org

**The Arc of Indiana**

https://www.arcind.org/covid-19-information-and-resources/

**Complaint & Advocacy Support Entities**

**Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division**

Toll-free: 855-856-1247 or 202-514-3847 – Civil Rights Division

Office: 202-307-0663 – Disability Rights Section

https://www.ada.gov/complaint/form.php?language=en

**Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights**

Toll-free: 800-368-1019

https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/complaints/index.html

**Indiana Disability Rights**

Toll-free: 800-622-4845 or 317-722-5555

Email: info@IndianaDisabilityRights.org

**Indiana Legal Services**

Toll-free: 844-243-8570

https://ilsoi.legalserver.org/modules/matter/extern\_intake.php?pid=129&h=daa817&

**Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council**

Toll free: 844-446-7452

Email: info@insilc.org

**Indiana Centers for Independent Living**

**accessABILITY**

Office: 317-926-1660 Toll-free: 866-794-7245

**Assistive Technology & Training Information Center, Inc. (ATTIC)**

Office: 812-886-0575 Toll-free: 877-962-8842

**Everybody Counts**

Office: 219-769-5055

**Everybody Counts North**

Office: 219-937-5055

**Future Choices**

Office: 765-741-8332 Toll-free: 866-741-3444

**The Independent Living Center of Eastern Indiana (ILCEIN)**

Office: 765-939-9226 Toll-free: 877-939-9226

**The League**

Office: 260-441-0551 Toll-free: 800-889-3443

**Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living (SICIL)**

Office: 812-277-9626 Toll-free: 800-845-6914

**Southeastern Indiana Independent Living Center (SIILC)**

Office: 812-427-3333

**The Wabash Independent Living and Learning Center (The WILL Center)**

Office: 812-298-9455 Toll-free: 877-915-9455

**Notice of My Healthcare Rights**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

My rights as a person with a disability, older adult with conditions of aging, and/or individual with limited English proficiency are not to be violated during the COVID-19 crisis. I expect this healthcare facility and all staff to follow the guidance bulletin released by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) titled “Civil Rights, HIPAA, and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)” on March 28th, 2020.

This includes but is not limited to:

*(Check all boxes that apply)*

 Deliver effective communication through the use of qualified interpreters (including ASL), adaptive technology/equipment, picture boards, and other means.

 Make emergency messaging available in multiple formats (i.e. plain language, other languages, audio, captioning, alternative print (including large print and Braille).

 Support my mobility needs (i.e. assistive devices, personal mobility devices, durable medical equipment, personal ventilator).

 Allow me to bring my service animal with me.

 Meet my reasonable accommodation or modification requests, as needed.

 Respect my requests for religious accommodations (access to clergy or other faith practices).

 Permit a family member or other support person to be with me (unless they are also sick).

 Help me plan and schedule appropriate follow-up care services.

 Adhere to any personal legal documents concerning my healthcare and end of life choices (i.e. Living Will, Healthcare Power of Attorney, DNR Orders, Supported Decision-Making Agreement).

 Provide all healthcare services and medical equipment necessary in order to save my life.

I am equipped to advocate for my rights as a person with a disability/older adult with conditions of aging/individual with limited English proficiency. Failure to adhere to my rights will result in complaints made to the following agencies and service providers:

*(Check all boxes that apply)*

 Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division and/or Disability Rights Section

 Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights

 Indiana Disability Rights

 Indiana Legal Services

 Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council

 Indiana Centers for Independent Living

I am requesting that you provide means for me to contact my personal representative(s) for assistance while I am receiving healthcare services:

*(Check all boxes that apply)*

 My attorney

 My healthcare power of attorney, healthcare representative or decision-maker support representative

 My Independent Living Advocate

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(*List other personal representative(s). This may include a family member, friend, personal care attendant, direct support professional, or any other individual you feel helps provide necessary support).*

**Notice of My Healthcare Rights**

**COMPLAINT & ADVOCACY SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Toll-free: 855-856-1247 or (202) 514-3847 – Civil Rights Division

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