IL-NET National Training and Technical Assistance Center for Independent Living Presents

Know Your Resource – Orientation to the IL-NET National Training and Technical Assistance Center for Independent Living

January 13, 2021

>> TIM FUCHS: All right, welcome everybody.

We are going to wait just about 10 seconds more to make sure that everybody is connected before we start any content.

Okay.

Let's go ahead and get started!

Hi, everybody!

Good afternoon.

I'm Tim Fuchs with the National Council On Independent Living.

I want to welcome you to our latest IL‑NET teleconference and webinar, "know your resources."

Today's presentation is brought to you by the IL‑NET training and technical for CILs and SILCs.

The IL‑NET is operated by ILRU in collaboration with NCIL, APRIL and the University of Montana, support for the project for the center, I should say is provided by the Administration for Community Living, with the US Department of Health and Human Services.

So I want to run through just some logistics, housekeeping and accessibility before we start today.

As always, we are recording today's session so that we can archive it on ILRU's website.

We will put that up within 48 hours.

And we are currently in presentation mode, or webinar mode.

So all of your lines ‑‑ your videos are open.

You can take a deep breath.

Your lines are muted.

We do have lots of time for Q&A today.

And so I will go through the Q&A process in just a moment.

But we'll have ample time for questions and answers today, and I hope you all will take advantage of that.

So, you know, in this year of Zoom, entering year two of Zoom, I guess, I think you all know the Q&A tab pretty well that's in your Zoom menu bar at the bottom of your screen.

You can use that any time at all during the presentation, but we will wait until our Q&A break to address them.

Oh, and I'm sorry.

I was on the wrong slide.

Here I thought I was on my intro slide.

I will click back to slide two where I should have been.

Thanks to those of you who let me know that.

So anyhow, you can use the Q&A tab at any time you like today.

There are a few other ways you can ask questions, mostly in the interest of accessibility.

So if that Q&A tab is not convenient or accessible for you, there's a few other ways you can do that.

You can email your questions to me at Tim@NCIL.org.

That's Tim@NCIL.org, I have my inbox open and I will keep an eye out for your questions as we go through the presentation.

Of course, we are running captions in Zoom right now.

And let me just let you know, be if you don't see those, you can click show subtitle, in your closed caption option.

If you don't see a closed caption option in your menu bar, you want to look to the very right, the far right of your Zoom menu bar, for the little ellipsis.

There's three dots that says "more."

Click that and on that pop‑up menu, one of the options should say "show subtitle," right underneath closed captioning.

You can turn that on.

You can manipulate the font size of Zoom captions.

They have improved that in the last few months, which is great but please know we are simulcasting at Streamtext.

That's a little too long to read but we will put that in the chat for you.

You can access that there.

And let's see, the other thing I wanted to mention, oh, back to the questions.

So I'm logged in to that chat screen at Streamtext right now.

And you can ‑‑ you can enter your questions there as well, if you prefer.

And I'm just going to push this URL.

Captioning is definitely displaying in Zoom right now, but you can use that link at Streamtext.

The nice thing about that, you can adjust the font size, and contrast and color and you can do very large font if you prefer.

Please know that is an option.

Finally, if you are only on the phone today, and cannot ‑‑ so I would like to reserve that option for folks.

I know some of you are both connected via the computer and listening on the phone.

If possible, I would like to save that option for folks who need that as an accommodation.

It wouldn't be efficient to try to do that for everybody.

If you can use the Q&A tab or email me a question, please do.

It's a short form.

If you want to share your thoughts with you, we will very much appreciate it and I will remind you of that before we end today.

Okay?

And we have got the better part of our team here.

We have got a lot of folks from each of the partner organizations that are going to talk about the work that they do.

Of course, there's a much larger team of folks that enables us to pull off the work of the IL‑NET center.

But we have got some great folks with us and I really appreciate the time that everyone has taken to put together the snapshot of the work that they do for the center.

We decided a few years ago, probably about five years to start doing this webinar every year, because it's a complex project.

There's a ton of activities.

There's a lot of organizations involved, and ‑‑ and we realize that it can be a little overwhelming.

And I'm so excited, again to see over 350 people signed up for this presentation.

We have got 113 on live right now.

And I know that number is going to grow.

So I'm so glad that this is ‑‑ that you all are taking advantage of it and it's of interest to you all.

I want to introduce our presenters.

We have Brooke Curtis.

Carol Eubanks is also here from ILRU.

She's the instructional designer.

Paula McElwee, who so many of you all know and work with, is IL‑NET's technical assistance coordinator.

Richard Petty is here.

Richard is codirector of ILRU and director of the IL‑NET National Training and Technical Assistance for Independent Living and finally Mary Willard is here from APRIL, Mary is APRIL as Director of Training and Technical Assistance.

Thanks once again to all the presenters.

Without any further ado I will go ahead to slide three, where you can see just a reminder on that evaluation form that I mentioned.

And then contact information for each of us.

All of us have the responsibility for technical assistance.

So you can reach out to any of us, here to ask questions about the project or really about anything related to CILs and SILCs.

We would love to hear from you.

We would love to get your questions and if we can't answer them ourselves, we will make a point of connecting you with someone in IL who can.

Here on slide 4, we have our learning objectives.

So today, we're going to learn an overview of the IL‑NET T&TA center for CILs and SILCs, the history, funding and our roles.

The overview of the website layout and the best method to search for resources on ILRU's website.

And the wide array of training resources, programs, and services available to CILs, SILCs, DSEs, consumers and other stakeholders.

And now, I'm going to pause and turn it over to Richard and Brooke to give an overview of IL‑NET.

This is the place holder slide on slide 5, and I'm going to go now to slide 6 for how the IL‑NET is funded.

>> RICHARD PETTY: Yes, thank you very much.

Welcome, everyone.

We're excited to be here to initiate this new cycle of the ILRU/IL‑NET Training and Technical Assistance Center for Independent Living.

As Tim said, I'm Richard Petty, I'm the director of the IL‑NET.

I have much to share and we will get right to it.

Some of the questions that we often receive will begin with the IL‑NET is funded through the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, as are centers for independent living and Statewide Independent Living Councils.

Funds are designated within the Rehabilitation Act, not specific funding levels but that there is funding available for training and technical assistance for both centers and SILCs.

The funding award is administered by our federal funding partner, the Administration for Community Living, administration on disability, office of independent living programs.

Slide 7.

And Tim alluded to this earlier.

We have great key collaborators in operating this very large, comprehensive training and technical assistance project, and actually, we have two projects.

And our collaborators are the National Council on Independent Living, NCIL, and, APRIL, the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living, the University of Montana Rural Institute and RTC Rural.

Slide 8.

The IL‑NET has been in operation now for over 27 years.

It's been configured at times as a single program and now it is configurated as two programs.

One for Centers for Independent Living and one for Statewide Independent Living Councils.

And it's been a hallmark of the IL‑NET program is that the program capitalizes on the strengths of each collaborator.

With the collaborators that we have, we have a national perspective, a depth of understanding of independent living, a deep commitment to IL philosophy and practice and ‑‑ and we offer a range of services and we do that to meet the training and instruction needs of centers and Statewide Independent Living Councils, of your staffs, of your boards, and we do it in such a way that you can select the activities that meet your needs at any particular time.

And for details, I will now call on ILRU's publications and training associate director Brooke Curtis.

So we'll move to slide 9 and Brooke, please proceed.

>> BROOKE CURTIS: Thanks, Richard.

Hi, everyone.

Thanks again for being here.

So as Richard said, we do have a great deal of training opportunities that we provide.

So I'm just going to go through them today.

So we do offer on‑location trainings and, of course, because of COVID, we are offering this in a virtual manner.

But most of these on location trainings are going to be conducted along with national conferences and then we're also going to be starting T&TA Institutes which I will discuss a little bit further and Tim will discuss more so in depth.

We also offer online courses.

So these are ‑‑ in the past, they have been three to four‑week long courses that are done online and you get to ‑‑ you know, you get a further look on a certain topic.

We are currently working on revamping those courses now.

We also offer webinars and teleconferences much like what you are attending today.

Then we have the self‑study web‑based tutorials also known as RapidCourses.

And these are really great.

They are available 24/7, online, and you get a certificate of completion which is really nice.

Additionally, we have training manuals, sample policies and procedures and other resources like fact sheets and then a lot of our trainings, our past on‑location trainings and webinars are available on the website on demand.

So if you miss a webinar, you can't attend, you have a conflict, it will be available on our website.

We also have CIL‑to‑CIL and SILC‑to‑SILC peer mentoring, which Mary Willard will cover later on in the presentation.

In addition to intensive support which can be individualized or statewide IL network trainings.

And we have peer technical assistance group calls which for CILs are nor executive directors, program managers, and financial managers, and then we also have peer assistance, group calls for SILCs and DSEs.

In addition to those group calls we also have the Rural community calls which are facilitated by APRIL.

We have electronic newsletters, blogs and social media postings.

A lot of you, I'm sure receive our second Tuesday newsletter and I will discuss some other newsletters that we're starting this year.

And then we have learning collaboratives.

So these are cohorts of CILs working together over a specific ‑‑ over a time period on a specific objective.

And as Tim mentioned earlier, we all also provide technical assistance.

So we are here to answer your questions and support your needs.

Next slide, please.

So I'm really excited to discuss what is new with the IL‑NET.

So like I said, we ‑‑ many of you are receiving our second Tuesday newsletter.

Something that we are starting this year is our Fast News.

So this is a compilation of all that is new on the ILRU website, just ensuring that you are up to date on everything independent living.

And if you ‑‑ you can subscribe to that newsletter here, and it goes out every Wednesday.

So another thing that's going to be new this year will ‑‑ well, really starting next year, next fiscal year is going to be the biennial T&TA Institutes.

These are going to be on‑location trainings hosted by the IL‑NET.

We also now have TA office hours.

So these are hosted by Paula McElwee, our technical assistance coordinator and they are monthly office hours and she will tell you a little bit more about that during her presentation.

We do ‑‑ so new branding under development, in response to federal partners request.

So there could be some branding changes, and we will keep you updated on this.

And then ‑‑ so as I mentioned earlier, we are revamping our online courses.

So currently the courses are suspended for this year, but, you know, if you took our online courses last year, they are great.

We are just looking to make them a little bit better and make improvements to them.

So those courses will be offered in year two.

Next slide, please.

And I will go ahead and turn it back over to Richard.

Thanks, everyone.

>> TIM FUCHS: Richard, I think you are on mute.

You came off and went back on.

Can you try it one more time?

>> RICHARD PETTY: There.

Thank you!

That's how that happened the first time.

>> TIM FUCHS: Sorry, I didn't notice it.

>> RICHARD PETTY: Thank you very much.

We have an organization chart on the ‑‑ on this slide.

And it is the organization chart of ILRU's IL‑NET Training and Technical Assistance Center for Independent Living, and this project ‑‑ this chart is the overall organization of the center that then serves both Centers for Independent Living and Statewide Independent Living Councils.

And you can see at the top that ILRU is the lead organization.

We will say more about ILRU's specific role as we proceed.

There's three connected boxes below ILRU and those are our key collaborators.

National Council On Independent Living, NCIL.

NCIL does logistics for on‑location trainings and webinars, facilitates learning collaboratives and important new approach to learning.

The Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living, APRIL, addresses peer‑to‑peer mentoring and rural community conversations.

Those are web conferences that are held monthly, and this is an important point that I can make right now.

To help what sometimes becomes a point of confusion is that the partner organizations have different roles and different work that they do aside from their roles with the IL‑NET and T&TA center.

For example, Mary Willard is technical assistance coordinator for APRIL, and for the IL‑NET T&TA Center, Mary Willard is coordinator of peer mentoring and of rural community conversations.

So that's a different role in this particular project.

And the third box, the third key collaborator is the University of Montana, Rural Institute and RTC Rural and it's directed by Dr. Martin Blair and Paula McElwee is the technical assistance coordinator for this IL‑NET and T&TA center.

Let's go to slide 12.

This is an overview of ILRU.

ILRU was created in 1977.

It is a program of TIRR Memorial Hermann.

TIRR is the institute for rehabilitation and research.

ILRU was founded, again in 1977, to conduct research on independent and community living and to provide training and technical assistance to organizations for communities and independent living for people with disabilities.

ILRU is housed with the National Center for Aging and Disabilities.

And this the IL‑NET for CILs and SILCs is a principal project of ILRU and ILRU operates other programs.

The Southwest ADA Center and the ADA participation action research consortium, that's the ADA‑PARC.

The aging and Disability Business Institute with our partners at the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging and a number of research projects, several of which focus on independent and community living for people with disabilities.

Let's move to slide 13.

And let's talk a little bit more about ILRU's role in the IL‑NET.

ILRU is the federal grantee and oversees the T&TA center.

ILRU conducts an oversight ‑‑ and oversees instructional designs for all training activities of the center.

Conducts intensive support for CILs and SILCs, develops and publishes training manuals, PowerPoints, handouts, materials, fact sheets, and a whole host of other materials.

It provides individualized group and statewide technical assistance.

It develops and manages RapidCourse tutorials and online classes.

And ILRU operates the extensive T&TA center website.

For more details, we're going to go to ILRU's Carol Eubanks and we'll proceed to slide 14 and Carol, if you will move us forward, please.

>> CAROL EUBANKS: All right.

Richard, thank you.

Hi, everyone.

Yeah, let's just dive in and head over to slide 15.

And we're going to start with a screen shot of the ILRU.org home page.

We all this the home page for all things IL‑NET.

There are eight navigation tabs, they are home, about ILRU, projects, publications, resources, technical assistance, training, and contact us.

There's three columns on the page, and located on the left column is search this site, which is a blank box located underneath and a button labeled search and this is an efficient and popular way to search with keywords.

So if you have something specific you want to search for, this is the best way to go about finding that information.

Beneath that is a link to resources on COVID‑19.

If you haven't looked at this before, you'll ‑‑ I will just let you know that there's a lot of great information and tips that you will probably find very helpful.

And then underneath is a mailing list sign‑up, and fields to input identifying information.

So if you are not on our mailing list already, you are missing out on great information, resources and announcements.

So make sure to get signed up for this.

Then below that, there are four buttons.

The first one is upcoming training and this will reveal any trainings that are currently scheduled.

Second is recent training, and this will list trainings that are now archived and available on demand.

Then latest news.

These are items of general interest, and finally, job postings.

So ILRU posts job announcements as a service many for CILs, SILCs, and other disability‑related organizations.

Then in the middle column is home, and under that is a short description of ILRU.

And below that are listed eight areas ‑‑ core areas of expertise and those are Centers for Independent Living, and the link to the directory of CILs.

Statewide Independent Living Councils, and the link to the directory of SILCs.

CIL disability, diversity, and intersectionality.

CIL business acumen, Americans with Disabilities Act, Southwest ADA Center, collaborative on health reform and independent living, Houston livable communities initiative and disaster preparedness for people with disabilities.

And underneath that is a paragraph called navigating our website with an overview of ILRU services, materials, training and technical assistance information.

And also, our website is 508 compliant and it's fully accessible.

So on the right side, in the third column, there's browse by topic, and this contains a bulleted list by alphabetical order of various topics of interest.

This is a really good way to see all the different topics on our website, but if you are looking for something specific, like I said before, the quickest and most efficient way is to search through the search this site field that I referred to in the first column.

So if we can now move to slide 16, please.

Okay.

So by opening the link to the Centers for Independent Living or Statewide Independent Living Councils, the link on the home page, here you will find a complete list of training, including biennial institutes and on location workshops and online courses.

Of course, those as Brooke said will be revamped and will be available after October of 2021.

National webinars and web‑based tutorials that we call RapidCourses.

And then we have publications for CILs and SILCs.

We produce a directory of CILs and associations.

We ask you to update us with address, phone number and name of director so your information remains up to date for those who use this directory to locate you and the great services and resources that you provide.

So make sure to send updates to ILRU@ILRU.org.

Our publications include training manuals, both self‑study and instructor led, examples include choose, get, keep, and integrated community housing, guidebook for SILC, chairpersons, members and administrators.

Let's move to the next slide, slide 17, please.

The on‑demand training catalog offers many of our previous on location trainings that can be viewed as video recordings.

A recent example is our first virtual multi‑day training that was held in September of 2020 titled "Financial Management for Centers for Independent Living Regulations and Beyond."

Going to the URL, you can access all the materials, including the PowerPoints, handouts, any valuable check lists, et cetera.

You can receive email verification for viewing trainings by completing the survey at the link shown on the slide.

Of.

And then RapidCourses.

These are self-paced, web‑based tutorials.

They require registration for you to build and refer to your transcripts and print your certificates of completion.

Course catalogs include foundations of independent living.

State Plan for Independent Living.

Consumer information files.

CIL boards of directors.

CIL core services, Designated State Entity and Statewide Independent Living Councils.

We did recently public two new courses and one is assessing risk and creating institutional diversion strategies for CILs and the second one is expanding CIL services for youth in transition.

We also updated the consumer service record series now called the consumer information file series that includes important regulatory updates.

So that's my ‑‑ my piece of this.

Let's move to the next slide 18, that I believe brings us to our first Q&A.

Thank you.

>> TIM FUCHS: And that is right.

Thank you, Carol.

Here we are on slide 18, our first Q&A break.

So you all are welcome to submit any questions you would like for the folks at ILRU, and the overview.

So, again, the process for that, you can use the Q&A tab in Zoom.

You can type your question there.

And it will come to us.

You can email me at Tim@NCIL.org.

You can enter your question on the Streamtext link in you are watching the captioning at Streamtext.

And finally, if you are on the phone, you can press star nine.

So we will give a few moments to see if any questions come in.

I realize it's early in the presentation.

So if we don't get any questions in the next few moments, we will move on.

Here is one.

Karen asked, I'm a SILC member, and want to get notices about the various calls for SILC members.

So Karen, if you are not already on ILRU's mailing list, you will want to get signed up for that and you will see when we have different events that pertain especially to the SILCs.

And Karen, asked, can we send suggestions for trainings?

We love suggestions for trainings!

And we ‑‑ we do topic selection in a variety of ways, from requests for suggestions from the field, just like you are describing, from the results of our evaluation forms, where regardless of topic, all of our evaluation forms ask, you know, what other topics would you like to see us address?

And then from the conversations and technical assistance that we have with you all, just all the project staff are in close contact with CILs and SILCs and so we kind of bring those requests and recommendations that we hear throughout the year.

So you are more than welcome to suggest topics.

We love that.

Stephan asks ‑‑ or ‑‑ I'm sorry, this is abbreviated, it could be Stephan or Stephanie, my apologies.

Do folks need to be employed by a CIL or SILC to attend webinars or receive newsletters, et cetera?

No.

This project is certainly intended for the staff, boards and consumers of CILs, SILCs and DSEs that's what the federal grants are intended for, however, you know, you do not ‑‑ we don't ask you to, you know, identify or prove your employment or anything like that.

If you are interested in the content we are putting out, you are welcome to join us.

>> RICHARD PETTY: And Tim, and Karen's question may have come in just a little bit earlier, but it probably wouldn't hurt for us to say again how to sign up for the mailing list.

And if ‑‑ if ‑‑ Tim, if you can do that, or one of the ILRU team will do that.

Brooke, could you do that, please?

Brooke may be on mute.

>> BROOKE CURTIS: Sorry, I was on mute.

Yes, we can ‑‑ we can get that done, and I think Sharon, if you could post that link, that would be great.

>> RICHARD PETTY: There is a link on the website, and we'll put that here today, so that you can get to it.

>> TIM FUCHS: Here's a relevant question how does a SILC information get information from ILRU.

I'm a self‑paying NCIL member, what happens to other members that are not NCIL members?

That's really relevant.

This technical assistance and training center does exist across our organizations.

So to be sure to get everything regarding the IL‑NET T&TA center, you will want to sign up for ILRU announcements.

Now, NCIL is going to send out announcements for everything related to our activities for the center, but there are some things that you are seeing, right, resources, additional trainings, calls, that APRIL may be operating that may not come out in the NCIL.

>> RICHARD PETTY: If you are an individual member, you can sign up yourself, or your SILC chair or your SILC director could sign up the entire SILC.

All of the members.

>> TIM FUCHS: And Mary from APRIL soliciting those SILC topic requests in the chat.

You are welcome to check in with that.

If you are not watching the chat, or you are on the phone or it's not accessible to you, Mary, like I said, is saying that we would love to have topics and suggestions for SILC Speak Calls or other IL‑NET activities.

Okay.

Let's give about five seconds and see if any other questions come in.

So again, you can type them in the Q&A tab.

You may email me at Tim@NCIL.org.

You are welcome to use the chat feature at Streamtext or press star nine if you are on the phone.

Okay.

I don't see any now.

So we will go ahead and move on.

We will have plenty of time for Q&A later on in the webinar.

I will go ahead to slide 19.

Overview of on‑location trainings, webinars and learning collaboratives with me, Tim Fuchs from NCIL.

And I ‑‑ for my role in the center, I'm the IL‑NET training logistics coordinator.

So I will go ahead to slide 20 for an overview of NCIL.

Before I get into our specific center activities.

So as many of you know, NCIL stands for the National Council on Independent Living.

We were founded in 1982.

And NCIL is the longest running cross‑disability grassroots organization run for and by people with disabilities.

Not surprisingly, if you are new to IL, NCIL is the National Association of CILs and SILCs located in Washington, D.C.

We have been involved in IL‑NET since its inception.

We are very lucky and very honored to have been here since the start and that's since 1994.

And for our role, in the IL‑NET, NCIL provides training and technical assistance activities for all CILs and SILCs through its work with the IL‑NET Training and Technical Assistance Center for Independent Living and you can visit us on our website at www.NCIL.org.

That's NCIL.org.

And, again, we do some cross promotion for other IL‑NET activities but by and large, the activities that we send out are for the ones that we coordinate, and you can always find those on our website, under our conference and trainings tab.

That URL is listed here, it's a bit long but all of our IL‑NET activities are posted at nil.org/annual‑conference/training/, in addition to on the ILRU website.

And, again that URL is a little bit long but if you go to the NCIL website at NCIL.org, on our main menu bar you will see conferences and trainings and if you click on trainings, it will list all of our IL‑NET activities.

For a high level overview, NCIL coordinates the biennial Institutes and on‑location training workshops.

Those are new.

They will begin next year.

And I will talk more about those in a moment.

We coordinate and host webinars, lots of webinars.

Coordinate the learning collaboratives and, of course, we provide technical assistance.

So let's dive a little bit deeper into each of these.

I'm here on slide 22 now.

Are.

And first up, the biennial institutes and on‑location training workshops.

We will begin to offer the biennial institutes and kudos to any of you who can keep track between biennial and biannual, and so this is the one that takes place every two years.

So not two a year, every other year.

And the first one will take place in year two of the grant, which is to say in 2022.

So we just started a new funding cycle.

So year two would be 2022.

So this will be an in‑person training if travel permits.

These will probably be a day and a half programs and there will be a different topic that we will highlight for each one.

So it will be sort of like a mini conference in a way.

If travel restrictions remain in place due to COVID‑19, the training will be virtual, of course.

We are seeing even with in‑person event, the call for a virtual component, a virtual option is expected these days.

So we will certainly take that into consideration as well.

We will continue to offer on location workshops and other presentations at IL conferences like the NCIL conference and APRIL conference.

So when we say on location conferences, that's what we are referring to there.

Many of our previous on‑location trainings are recorded.

When we talk about recording, this is not just a running video of a training as it occurs.

All the presentation materials are upload.

All of the videos are broken out into modules that make it really easy not only to make sense of and digest.

You don't have to wade through a seven hour video of one day or another.

It will be broken out by topic area and can be really manageable.

If you haven't seen them on ILRU's on demand page, I would encourage you to check one out and see how they are organized.

They are really fantastic.

We really do record virtually everything.

When we say, when many, there are few exceptions.

Sometimes when a training is older and we do a new one, we will rerecord it.

That's the only reason why something is not up there.

Individually, everything we have done is uploaded.

All the manuals and all the handouts, they are all there.

And as we will talk about too if you need help, or in the archives, we are happy to help that as well.

I'm here on slide 23.

Our webinars, the IL‑NET will offer seven to eight IL‑NET webinars each year.

These are 90‑minute presentations designed to introduce you to a topic or delve into a specific topic of CIL or SILC operations.

Again, all of our webinars are archived online, including the materials and you can access those at ILRU.org/training‑on‑demand.

Here on slide 24, a bit about the topics we cover.

We endeavor to look at everything.

We have a balance between really baseline topics like the core services and consumer control along with innovative topics and things that are new are of interest in the field.

We offered hundreds of webinars over the years.

The topics we covered are staggering in the variety of issues related to CILs and SILCs.

Our tentative topics for 2021 are transition and diversion during the COVID‑19 pandemic.

Consumer control.

CIL and SILC collaboration, disability diversity and intersectionality, outreach and equity in programs and staffing.

So that would be outreach and equity and program and staffing related to disability, and intersectionality.

And nursing homes, jail, prisons, psychiatrist institutions, homelessness.

And tentative topics for the SILCs include SILC and DSE, roles and responsibilities and SILC statewide contracts for CIL service delivery, CIL and SILC collaboration and SPIL implementation, and evaluation.

And, again, I know many of you wear multiple hats at your roles.

You may be working at the CIL but serving on the SILC.

You are welcome to join any of the presentations that interest you.

Excuse me.

Here on slide 25, the learning collaboratives.

These are relatively newer.

We're entering our, I guess, fourth year of doing learning collaboratives.

We had great success with these.

They do look a little bit different.

So let's talk about them for a moment.

IL‑NET offers, learning collaboratives on various topics.

Typically one a year.

We have one for business development for community living, exploring contracts to provide sustainable revenue for CILs.

Our learning collaboratives typically pair staff from 12 centers with expert facilitators to build capacity and programs together.

You do apply to join collaboratives.

That's unusual for us and, remember, these are a compliment to all the other trainings that we do.

So when we do a learning collaborative, we try to offer, you know, traditional training and TA on that topic as well.

So that folks that aren't accepted into the small collaborative can access that information.

And participants spend 10 months learning from the facilitator and others.

Most of the work is virtual, but participants do typically come together for a kickoff meeting at the beginning of each collaborative.

Obviously that's adjusted during COVID but I look forward to the day when we can do in‑person kickoff meetings and it's a great way to get to know each other and build some cohesion between the group.

I will go ahead to slide 26 and turn it over to Mary Willard from APRIL.

Mary?

>> MARY WILLARD: Awesome.

Thank you, Tim.

Welcome, everybody.

So, again, I'm Mary Willard.

I work for APRIL.

And we run a lot of the peer mentoring programs.

So next slide, please.

Let's just dive right in.

Oh, first of all, who are we?

So, again, we are APRIL.

You know, much like our NCIL, we are a sister organization, if you will.

And we really focus on rural independent living issues, but just like Tim mentioned earlier, I think it's important to note that you don't have to be rural to be a part of any of the programs that we coordinate for the IL‑NET.

So next slide, please.

So, again, we do peer mentoring services, the rural conversation community calls and good old technical assistance.

Next slide.

So let's talk first about peer mentoring services.

So occasion again, you know, we know that peer support is one of the building blocks of independent living, and the CIL and SILC peer mentoring program is no different.

We ‑‑ so basically, it's the idea that we will get a Center for Independent Living, you know, experienced executive director or program manager or maybe it's somebody who runs the nursing home transition program and what we will do is we will connect them with somebody who would like to learn about ‑‑ maybe they are a brand new ED and they want to learn more about their role.

Or maybe they want to grow, expand or, you know, fine tune a program that's already existing.

And with the peer mentoring program, we ask folks to but together a six‑month contract to work with each other.

To set some real specific goals so we can work for outcomes for those goals.

We do it, again, for Centers for Independent Living and the Statewide Independent Living Councils.

We do, in non‑COVID world, have some slots that have opportunity for travel.

And, you know, we're ‑‑ we're just going to kind of be playing those by ear for now we're doing everything electronically.

Until ‑‑ until.

(Laughter)

We really want there to be consumer choice in every step of the way.

So typically what we will do, is we will set you up with maybe two or three potential mentors that you can interview and talk with as a mentee and then you can choose somebody that really fits your learning style.

Maybe they have, you know, a more akin CIL.

Maybe they are more rural and have similar demographics and then your peer mentorship working on those goals can begin.

Next slide, please.

I wanted to mention this is a program that we partner, Paula McElwee will talk about the intensive support program.

We really do work together and so if you are working with Paula in the intensive support program, which she will talk about, you know, we'll it that you finish up goals with her and then you can move into the peer mentoring program if you want to expand those goals.

Most of the mentorings are going to be electronic and they are carried out online.

Once the world opens back up again, what we will do is we will look at your goal and if it's a goal that would really benefit from being in person.

You know, maybe it's shadowing a very specific program, for example.

Then we would look at travel costs that would be covered through the IL‑NET program as well.

Next slide.

Great.

So we're actually in the process of revamping applications, but we are taking them at this point.

So if you are interested in the program, please feel free to reach out to me.

That's Molson.April@gmail.com.

And I know ‑‑ some of you probably know me as Mary Olson and that's why the email relic remains.

And you can also find information from the APRIL website, ILRU, or any of our partners.

And let's see.

I think I might have already talked about these.

Oh, the only thing I missed on this slide is that in exchange for, you know, working with the mentoring, we do have ‑‑ if you are interested in being a mentor, through the IL‑NET, we are able to offer, you know, an honorarium for your time working with a mentee.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please reach out to me.

And what we ask for in exchange is that the mentee that you participate in an evaluation from our outside evaluator, so that we can get more information on how the program worked for you.

And then from the mentor, we ask that you send us the final reports for the goals or any outcomes or changes that occurred as a result of that relationship.

Next slide, please.

Great.

So the next topic is our Rural Conversation Community.

This is one of my favorite things.

They are one‑hour Zoom meetings and they are really there to build a community of peer support for centers serving rural areas.

And we say centers serving rural areas, but I just want to throw this out there that we have many, many, many centers who would consider themselves urban centers who participate in all of the calls because even though you are located in an urban area, I will bet that you probably serve a rural area.

There's somewhere in your catchment area that has a lack of access to resources that is outside of the city.

So there are no designated presenters or ‑‑ listeners for these calls.

That's the beauty of peer support.

Everyone on the call is a presenter of information and to learn from one another.

Learn from one another.

We meet the third Wednesday of the month.

So that means next Wednesday, will be our kickoff for this group.

And it meets at 11 mountain, 1 Eastern Time.

And those are, again, one‑hour calls.

And Sharon is dropping a handy dandy link in the chat to get more information on our upcoming one.

And, again, you know, folks who join these calls are executive directors, program managers, and really any of the direct service staff at Centers for Independent Living.

We really try to cover topics that are of interest to the group, in that moment, and as I bet you can all imagine, typically we have been focusing on COVID‑related issues, just finding out from your peers around the country, you know, what are you struggling with?

What are some creative solutions you have found?

And what are some questions you have for your peers?

Next slide?

That's it.

I will turn it over to the lovely Paula.

>> PAULA McELWEE: My turn!

Hi, everybody.

We're going to talk a little bit about some of the options that are part of my job responsibility.

So let's go ahead and look at that next slide.

We have some specific technical assistance that's available to you upon request.

Kind of like the on‑demand training, when you need it, it's here.

It's available again to that full range of our ‑‑ of our target audience, which would be centers, staff, consumers, board, managers, SILCs, councilmembers, DSE, the SILC staff, the DSEs themselves.

So ‑‑ so across the board in our networks, we make available to you, some options for technical assistance that's specific to your question.

So you can call me.

I'm on Pacific Time and I put that in there because some of the very eager East Coast people will otherwise get me out of bed in the morning.

So just remember.

(Chuckles) please not at 8:00 your time.

But you can call me.

That cell phone number is always there and if I'm on another line or something, it will take a message and I will get right back to you.

Same with email, I'm very quick.

So if you have a specific technical assistance request, you want to know where can I find this regulation, or, you know, how should we interpret consumer control, or, you know, whatever it is, those are just two that came in this morning.

So to give you an idea, but you can request those any time on email, also by phone and you will get that very quickly there's no charge for this.

It's all supported in our grant.

And the main focus is how to apply the law and the regulations at your center, because the law and the regulations are both foundational to how you ‑‑ what you are required to do, and so I will help you with that.

I will help you understand regulations, compliance, guidance.

We have got some guidance that is in other documents besides the regulations.

Any specific written instructions that we have or written information that we have about how centers operate, that's ‑‑ I tried to keep on top of that, so I can answer your questions about whether or not you can do something, or what ‑‑ what the ‑‑ the act would say.

I do ‑‑ I do want to say that most of the time I can't tell you no.

I'm not your compliance officer.

But you will hear the no in what I say, which is, I don't see how you can justify that as an independent living skill or an independent living program because... you know, however it fits.

I can't see that that's related to COVID‑19.

So tell me how it's related to COVID‑19, if you are going to apply the CARES Act funds to it, you tell me your justification.

Let's hear what you have to say, because it has to be related to COVID‑19.

Of so those kinds of questions will kind of let you know whether what you are asking is typical or not, and kind of what you ought to be looking at in order to know whether or not you are meeting the requirements of the law of the regulations and the other guidance that we have.

Next slide.

So in addition to that specific technical assistance, we also can put in place two ‑‑ two different ways that we do intensive support.

The first one, and the most common one is when the center is found out of compliance.

Whether the center is found out of compliance, this can be at the federal level.

So your project officer or someone from ACL or from the ‑‑ from the office of independent living programs, someone has reviewed information from you, and have said you are out of compliance.

So when you are found out of compliance, the next step is they want you to develop a corrective action plan.

If you get that, I can help you with that.

So I can help you identify what actions you will need to take to meet or correct whatever they have identified.

Now, what's happening right now is that centers are typically found out of compliance either through the comp system, the comp is the compliance system that our funder applies.

Some of that is done as part of review of, for example, the program progress report, or review of other things that they have requested to you, or sometimes they do it on site visit, but in any of those processes they may find something that they want you to fix, and I can help you with identifying that, identifying what steps you want to take and then providing you with support until you have that situation turned around, hopefully at your ‑‑ at your center.

SILCs are not found out of compliance as often, and centers that are part B only are not found out of compliance at the federal level typically because they are subgrantees of the DSE.

So we haven't been telling you, the DSE is the Designated State Entity.

It's not rehabilitation in all the states, but it often is.

And they are responsible for reviewing the part B centers and the SILCs for some compliance issues, especially related to financial ‑‑ proper use of financial things and the meeting of the requirements.

Now, the SILC has a lot of autonomy, and there's a ‑‑ there's a lot of limitations on what the DSE can impose.

But that is usually where you will see a compliance review and corrective actions, coming out of either the SILC or the ‑‑ I mean, either the DSE or either the SILC or the part B centers.

If you are part B only.

When we do assistance to you, we do that usually by phone or email or a combination.

We send documents back and forth.

We go through and say, okay, what do you need to change in this policy?

What do you need to change in your practices?

And like I said, typically, that's coming from the ‑‑ the program officer at the office of independent living programs or from the DSE.

Now, it used to be ‑‑

(Chuckles)

That a went on site a couple of times a year if it was a really significant issue.

Right now we're not traveling.

We are doing all of this remotely.

We may see the travel pick up again out our budget right now doesn't allow very much travel.

So most of this will be done remotely.

We can do network‑wide training or training for specific folks.

If not on site, we can do it online.

If I'm working with you in intensive support, I can help you with board training, for example.

So we can decide what needs to be done, and we can present that.

Sometimes I can do staff training, if the issue that is identified needs to be taught to a whole bunch of people, we can get those people in a room and we can do it on a Zoom, of course.

(Chuckles)

Just like we often do.

So on occasion, we may still at some point do on‑site training.

Some of you have been to the statewide network on‑site trainings, but right now, it's all remote at the moment.

Next slide, Tim.

Thanks.

So we also do a lot of technical assistance by ‑‑s I said before, email, and I will answer your requests.

I just wanted to mention that I do that in writing, mostly, because sometimes that's what you need me to do.

It's not unusual for me to get a request from an executive director who says, I have a board member who wants us to do X.

And I know that's probably not a good idea.

So could you ‑‑ could you explain what the requirements are and how this would usually be viewed?

So I can answer you in writing, and you can put that in your board packet for your next meeting and sometimes that's useful to me.

So just kind of keep in mind that that may be the way you want to approach it.

We can talk by phone too, but we may want to do some things in writing so that you have stuff that you can take on ‑‑ to your board or to your staff.

I also do pertinent topics on my blog, and those posts are ‑‑ are not always weekly, but pretty much weekly.

So you can subscribe.

There's a link this in ‑‑ in the slide, and you can subscribe to that.

I would like you to subscribe, so I know how many subscribers, but once you subscribe, you get a notice to your inbox and it says the post that was posted that day in the topic and you can get it more conveniently.

That's one of the things that you can do.

One of the other things that I do weekly or if you want to do it less often, we can schedule it for less often is ‑‑ especially with new executive directors of either SILCs or centers.

One of the things I do is a weekly call.

And I always tell my folks you can make a list of the things that aren't urgent.

You can make a list of all the things you want to run by me, policies you want samples of, you can put that open your list and then on the weekly call, you can go down your list and I can answer your questions and send you documents and so forth that might be of assistance to you.

So if you are a new executive director and you are not signed up for this my email is in the chat, as well as in the slides.

So do ‑‑ do take time to drop me a note and we will set up a time.

New EDs, I usually say the first two years, although we see a little bit of longer times sometimes than ‑‑ some of you don't find me until you have already been there a year.

So, you know, we'll do whatever makes sense, but that's another kind of intensive support.

We can actually have a weekly call if you don't want to do it weekly, we can set it up monthly and however you would like to do it.

So especially if you are new, it helps you with orienting on what it is that really needs to happen and what you need to do to get open the mailing list to get your ‑‑ you know, the credentials set up with all of the different websites where the director needs to be and so forth.

So we can help you walk through those issues.

Next slide.

>> TIM FUCHS: And here we are.

>> PAULA McELWEE: That's.

It well, let me say something then before I ‑‑ I forgot that was the last slide.

One thing I wanted to mention, we talked about subscribing for the calls.

How I did I miss the calls?

We have regular calls.

We talked about earlier too.

We have monthly calls for all executive directors, not just new ones.

A monthly call for our program managers, quarterly call for financial managers, the quarterly call for DSEs, and then my office hours, where you can just drop in and chat with your peers.

And then the SILC call, we also mentioned.

So we have all of these calls that take place, and you often ask, how can I get on the mailing list for the calls?

And it is ‑‑ you were given some information on signing up, but I want to give you a couple of hints.

Often when somebody says to us, I used to be on a mailing list, but now I'm not, it's because someone unsubscribed.

Now, maybe you didn't do it intentionally.

But what we find sometimes is that you forwarded the information to someone else, and they unsubscribed at the bottom of that email that you forwarded to them, and they unsubscribed you without you realizing it.

So just know that.

And know to look in your junk mail.

Sometimes we get funneled over and you need to allow it.

Those are two tips to make sure that you get the email.

Now I'm done.

The questions are all yours.

>> TIM FUCHS: All right, thanks, Paula.

Well, here we are at our final Q&A break.

So I hope this has been helpful.

I think, you know, while we wait to see if any questions come in, really, we are trying to present a comprehensive training and technical assistance program on anything you can possibly want to know about.

So I hope what you are saying away from this, especially if you are new to IL, is from introductions to new topics, in a call or webinar, all the way through to, you know, intensive one‑on‑one support or mentorship, we are here to help.

And while our trainings are, of course, organized under specific titles, or you might have mentoring or assistance‑related to a specific issue.

Our technical assistance activities are the sort of mortar between the bricks, right?

So that contact information you saw on one of the early slides, I think it's slide three if I'm right.

I really do hope you will reach out because we are here to help with any and all of this.

So let's see if there are any questions.

We got 20 minutes left.

We have plenty of time.

So don't be shy.

You can enter questions in the Q&A tab in Zoom.

You can email me at Tim@NCIL.org.

You are welcome to use the chat feature at Streamtext.net and if you are only on the telephone, you are welcome to press star nine.

And here is a question in the chat that I just noticed.

Lisa asked, is there a peer support or partnership for staff looking to move into a middle manager role at CIL?

So what would be ‑‑ I know Paula and Mary, you have a number of peer calls that you coordinate.

Is there anything like that, that would be a good fit for ‑‑ for folks looking for support from others that are interested in sort of mobilities and management roles at CILs.

>> PAULA McELWEE: Yes, I would start with the office hours, because they are wide open for any topic, right?

And they last two hours and you can come in and just listen if you want to any time.

I will also say that we don't really restrict the attendance at this point to any of these calls and so if you see something that's a topic that you really want to grow in, you are going to probably find a way to do that.

So that would also be an option and I think Mary will tell you more.

>> MARY WILLARD: I will add to that, we have done memberships before with program managers as well.

So, you know, we really encourage you to go through your process, first of, you know, maybe a mentoring program within your CIL, any kind of orientation program you might have in your CIL itself and then, you know if that person is in a new role, we can connect them with an experienced program manager through the mentoring program.

>> PAULA McELWEE: Yes, as far as access and technical assistance with me by email or by phone, I don't ask you ‑‑ I mean I do ask you what your position is but we don't screen you based on your position.

So if you are wanting to grow in a specific area and you have questions about where you might get some expertise open that area, we can ‑‑ one of us can help you find that.

>> TIM FUCHS: Okay.

Great.

Thank you.

Okay.

Next question comes from Erica who is wondering, since the six‑week courses won't begin until next year, will we have more webinars and Brooke has been generous enough to respond.

>> BROOKE CURTIS: Yes, that's a great question.

Tim really covered the webinars that we're going to be offering.

And I believe it was six to seven webinars each year.

So we will ‑‑ the purpose of revamping the online courses is we just really want to make them better.

There's a great variety of other modalities for training and technical assistance.

The RapidCourses will be really good, in addition to a lot of on demand trainings on the website.

If you are looking for training on a particular topic, definitely, like Tim and everyone else has mentioned, don't hesitate to reach out to us.

We're here to help you.

>> TIM FUCHS: Thanks, Brooke.

Other questions?

We have plenty of time left.

And I hope you will again, especially for forecasts that are new to IL or maybe in a new role, I hope you will poke around the ILRU website after today's call.

It really is an outstanding resource, and that on demand page, I know when we do ‑‑ especially when we do, I feel like it's our on location trainings where we have a little more time together and we are chatting, I ‑‑ I'm always so proud of the number of resources that are up there and the sheer amount of topics we hit on.

Because I feel like people are often surprised when we go through the roll call, the Rolodex of topics on the web page.

Check that out.

Especially if we end a little bit early, if there's something that you are not aware that was up there.

Okay.

I don't see any questions that have come in.

I will begin to close the webinar.

If any do come in, I will address them before we end.

Sharon just posted in the chat, check it all out at www.ILRU.org.

Indeed!

It's a great resource.

Okay.

So a couple of things.

I'm go to go ahead to slide 39.

And this is the ‑‑ the link to the evaluation.

This is not a live link.

I'm sharing my screen here.

You won't be able to click that link, but two ways that you can access this easily.

First of all, when I close the webinar in a few minutes, this link ‑‑ this evaluation form will literally hop in your browser on your screen.

So ‑‑ open in your browser on your screen.

If you do nothing, it will open and you can fill it out.

If you are on the phone or you need to get somewhere, I certainly understand.

The easiest way to access it then would be from the confirmation email that you received with the connection instructions and materials for today's webinar.

So down towards the bottom of that confirmation email, you will see the evaluation form.

You can click on that.

It's the very same link, excuse me.

And, again, if you haven't filled one out before, these Qualtrics surveys, they are very easy and short and easy to complete.

We need to know what you think and where we can make improvements.

Numerical scores are helpful, but we always love comments.

So especially if you have strong opinions, you know, let us know in a few words what you liked or what we could do better, depending on your thoughts.

Okay?

Let's see.

I have a chat message I want to chat before I move on.

Okay.

Just a thanks from the audience.

All right.

We will upload the recording of this webinar, if you want to revisit or you want to share it with one of your colleagues.

Again, that will be on ILRU's website within 48 hours.

Usually sooner but give us two days.

Sometimes it takes a while to get the transcript or recording from Zoom and get that all uploaded.

I hope this has been helpful, and don't be a stranger!

So whether it's in regards to today's content that we have gone through, topics you would like to suggest for the future, or just about anything you can imagine related to programs and operations of CILs and SILCs we would love to hear from you.

With that, I will give you a few minutes back in your day.

We had a great turnout.

I want to thank all of our presenters too for putting this all together, and running through your programs.

So I hope you all have a wonderful afternoon and we will talk to you soon.

Good bye.