

IL-NET

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

Advocacy

A Core Service

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Part of our series for New CIL and SILC Staff Members

Facilitators:

- Amber O'Haver, Chief Revolutionary Officer, Disability Revolution
- Paula McElwee, Director of Technical Assistance, IL-NET at ILRU

IL-NET Partners

Today's presentation is brought to you by the Administration for Community Living at the US Department of Health and Human Services in conjunction with the IL-NET. The IL-NET is operated by ILRU and collaborates with NCIL, APRIL, the University of Montana, and a consultant network of subject-matter experts. The IL-NET T&TA Center provides training and technical assistance to centers for independent living, statewide independent living councils, and designated state entities.



Image Descriptions: Logos of Independent Living Research Utilization, Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living, National Council on Independent Living, and University of Montana.

What You Will Learn Today

- A review of what core services are.
- What is the Core Service of Advocacy?
- Can advocacy be an individual goal? Does it have to be an individual goal?
- How can we live advocacy every day?

What Are Core Services?

Remember that your CIL or ILC (Independent Living Center) must provide all the core services to qualify as a Center for Independent Living.

The Core Services are

- Information and referral;
- IL skills training;
- Peer counseling;
- **Individual and systems advocacy**; and
- Services that facilitate transition from nursing homes and other institutions to the community, provide assistance to those at risk of entering institutions, and facilitate transition of youth to postsecondary life.

How important is advocacy to IL?

When the founders of Independent Living were deciding what services every center should provide, Ed Roberts (father of IL) was asked what he thought the top three services were. He replied, Advocacy, Advocacy and Advocacy!

What is advocacy?

What the law / regs say...

Advocacy means pleading an individual's cause or speaking or writing in support of an individual.

What is advocacy?

What the law / regs say...

Advocacy may:

Involve representing an individual...

- Before private or nonprofit entities / organizations
- Before governmental agencies (fed, state, local)
- Before court of law (fed, state, local)
- In negotiations
- In mediations
- In formal or informal administrative proceedings
- In legal proceedings in a court of law

What is advocacy?

What the law / regs say...

Advocacy may:

Be on behalf of...

- A single individual (individual advocacy)
- A group or class of individuals (systems advocacy)
- Oneself (self advocacy)

What is advocacy?

There are distinct types of advocacy:

- Individual advocacy (including self-advocacy)
- Systems advocacy

Centers must provide both. SILCs may conduct systems advocacy if it is included in their State Plan for Independent Living and we recommend that it is!

What is advocacy?

Individual advocacy (including self-advocacy):

- One-on-one support of an individual to address / resolve an issue
- One-on-one support of an individual to advocate for themselves to address / resolve an issue

Problem Solving!

What is advocacy?

Systems advocacy:

- Raises the awareness of issues and needs impacting the day-to-day lives of individuals in the disability community with the goal to strengthen / change **systems**
- Changing policies, laws, rules, etc. at a national / federal, state, local level
- Can be conducted by an individual or group of individuals with common interests to address issues that have a wider impact

Why is advocacy important?

- WE are the experts! --- Nothing About Us Without Us
- Opportunity to use our voice / be heard
- Empowers / Uplifts
- Accountability / Enforcement of laws
- **Powerful tool for change** (not a service)

Questions & Discussion

What are you curious about?

What needs clarification or more explanation?

Let's turn off the recording device and discuss what you want to know!

This part is not recorded. If you are still reluctant to ask questions or make comments out loud, you can comment in the evaluation that is found at the end of the presentation.

Resources for further study

- <https://www.ilru.org/training/get-core-it-best-practices-cil-core-services-systems-advocacy> which is a 90-minute webinar about systems advocacy.
- <https://www.ilru.org/training/role-individual-advocacy-for-cils-silcs> a 90-minute webinar about individual advocacy.
- For this and all the core services, a self-paced set of training: <https://www.ilru.org/training/core-services-for-centers-for-independent-living-series>

Evaluation Survey

New CIL and SILC Staff Members Monthly Technical Assistance and Training:

Thank you for joining us today! Please complete the brief survey at the following link:

https://uthtmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Z6OeChIfGX5vsa

To view today's presentation and previously recorded New CIL and SILC Staff Members Monthly Technical Assistance and Training Peer Discussion presentations, please visit the following link:

<https://www.ilru.org/training/new-cil-and-silc-staff-members-monthly-technical-assistance-and-training>

QR Code to evaluation:



Contact Information

**Paula McElwee, Director of Technical Assistance at IL-NET Training
& Technical Assistance Center for Independent Living at ILRU:**
paulamcelwee.ilru@gmail.com

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