

Untraditional Partners: Centers for Independent Living

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CILs are consumer-controlled

- Majority of CIL Board and Staff are individuals with cross-disabilities
- Local, independent non-profits established by Federal statute and RSA grants
- Provide four core services – advocacy, peer and IL skills assistance, I&R
- Consumers identify gaps, barriers, needs
- Data on access to transportation, healthcare service and assistive technology

CILs in collaboration

- Natural partners include vocational rehab, workforce, educational institutions, ADRCs
- Partnerships through MOUs, sub-contracts, joint funding applications, shared resources
- Majority provide services in urban & rural
- Majority of CILs in Texas participate in regional transportation planning efforts
- Participate in local cross-agency initiatives
- Maintain focus on the consumer

Texas CILs participation in transit

- 4 of 28 receive JARC, NF, 5310 funding from TxDOT
- Model for CIL transit programs Consumer-controlled vouchers developed by A.P.R.I.L.
- Mobility Management
- Travel training, transit familiarization
- Para-transit eligibility determination
- Volunteer driver programs
- I&R and application assistance for consumers
- Education & training for providers

Local examples around Texas

- Complete Streets Coalition in Houston
- Escort services on transit in Dallas
- Functional Needs Support Team for hurricane evacuations in Coastal Bend
- Partner in Aging, Disability & Transportation Resource Ctr in El Paso
- Partners with foundations in Amarillo
- MPO partner for urban-rural consumer voucher trips in Austin

Opportunities for collaboration

- Identifying gaps, barriers to services
- Planning for coordinated or new services
- Prioritizing projects, services for funding
- Budget cuts, shifts or new funding
- Changes in leadership
- When mission and values align

How to collaborate with CILs

- Value diversity
- Build a relationship
- Communication
- Set realistic goals for achievements
- Be willing to flex
- Stay focused on the customer

Shared outcomes as a result of collaboration with a CIL

- Individuals with disabilities experience community integration
- Public transit dollars better utilized with increased use of fixed route travel
- Gaps/barriers are decreased with allocations to non-traditional models
- Pro-active input for policy & service development, ie, not complaint-driven
- Increased customer satisfaction

Being a partner means sharing

- The power
- The funding
- The resources
- The risks

Resources

- Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) - www.april-rural.org
- Disability.gov's Guide to Transportation
- Texas State Independent Living Council (TSILC) www.txsilc.org
- Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living (TACIL) www.taciltexas.org
- Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living www.cbcil.org 361-883-8461