ANNUAL REPORT 2020
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INDEPENDENT LIVING
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AN ANNUAL REPORT IS A
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON AN
ORGANIZATION’S ACTIVITIES
THROUGHOUT THE PRECEDING YEAR

The pictures to the right show the signs
and messages submitted for the 2020
Virtual March during the Annual
Conference on Independent Living.
ABOUT NCIL

NCIL is the longest-running national cross-disability, grassroots organization run by and for people with disabilities. Founded in 1982, NCIL represents thousands, including: individuals with disabilities, Centers for Independent Living, Statewide Independent Living Councils, and other organizations that advocate for the human and civil rights of people with disabilities.

Mission: NCIL advances independent living and the rights of people with disabilities.

Vision: NCIL envisions a world in which people with disabilities are valued equally and participate fully.

A Letter from the Executive Director

2020 was a year in which we were shaken to the core. We lost disabled people at a rate that is yet to be fully quantified. We witnessed rampant ableism throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We watched the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act pass as our community fought for survival.

We rose to new challenges and endured tragedies we could not have anticipated or imagined. In 2020, we maintained dedication to the principles of equality, liberty, and justice. As always, NCIL represented the interests of our members, even in trying times. NCIL won $85 million for Centers for Independent Living; joined efforts to roll back the changes to the U.S. Postal Service; continued to fight against efforts to undermine and invalidate the Affordable Care Act; and advocated to end Electronic Visit Verification mandates.

2021 is another challenging year. Now more than ever, NCIL needs your participation to help win full equality for people with disabilities and to lead the charge for disability leadership at all levels of society. Please join us at ncil.org.

In Solidarity,
Kelly Buckland
Meet the 2020 Governing Board

› Sarah Launderville, President
› Cliff Perez, Vice President
› Jeremy Morris, Treasurer
› Ami Hyten, Secretary
› Kelly Buckland, Executive Director
› Allilsa Fernandez, Diversity Committee Chair
› Steve Higgins, Region 1 Representative
› Aaron Baier Region 2 Representative
› Jill Jacobs, Region 3 Representative
› Kent Crenshaw, Region 4 Representative
› Maureen Ryan, Region 5 Representative
› Sha’ Anderson, Region 6 Representative
› Jenn Wolff, Region 7 Representative
› Amber Alexander, Region 8 Representative
› Sheri Burns, Region 9 Representative; Regional Representative Chair
› Kimberly Meck, Region 10 Representative
› Brian Peters, Member At Large
› Kim Gibson, Member At Large
› Kimberly Tissot, Member At Large
› Darrel Christenson, Member At Large
› Eiryn Griest-Schwartzman, Member At Large
› Germán Parodi, Member At Large
› Grace Trumpower, Youth Member At Large

Meet the 2020 Staff

› Lindsay Baran, Policy Analyst
› Sarah Blahovec, Civic Engagement and Voting Rights Organizer
› Kelly Buckland, Executive Director
› Sylena Campbell, Administrative Assistant / Bookkeeper
› Eleanor Canter, Communications Coordinator
› Tim Fuchs, Operations Director
› Sheryl Grossman, Community Living Advocate
› Denise Law, Member Services Associate
› Cara Liebowitz, Development Coordinator
› Gabe Mullen, Spring Policy Intern
› Rie Terashima, Accountant
Centers for Independent Living are community-based, cross-disability, non-profit organizations that are designed and within local disability communities. CILs are unique in that they operate according to a 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 and diversion of people with disabilities from institutions to the community and transition of youth with disabilities post-secondary life

America is home to: 403 Centers for Independent Living; 330 branch offices; and 56 Statewide Independent Living Councils!

In Memoriam

In 2020, the disability community mourned the loss and celebrated the lives of Stacey Park, Deidre Davis Butler, Stanley Holbrook, Mel Baggs, Spitfire Sable, Representative John Lewis, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the thousands lost to the pandemic.

Member Results

Voting Access: disABILITY LINK in Tucker, Georgia assisted over 900 individuals with disabilities in marginalized communities register to vote, get to the polls, request absentee ballots, and check their voting status.

Accessible Sidewalks: The Blue Ridge Independent Living Center in Roanoke, Virginia received complaints about e-scooters blocking sidewalks and paths of travel. As a result of BRILC’s advocacy, the distributor implemented a link on its website that allows an individual to report any e-scooter that is found blocking a sidewalk or accessible route.
The city also reduced the number of scooters and the company enacted foot patrols to do proactive monitoring and correction of parking issues. BRILC advocacy efforts resulted in less obstruction of pedestrian walkways and accessible routes.

Accessible Housing: Community Access Center in Riverside, California received a grant from the Tucker Foundation to support the purchase of five ramps to assist people with disabilities to access their homes and remain active in their communities. The modular aluminum ramps are sturdy, attractive, and meet the requirements of homeowner’s associations. They can also be moved when they are no longer needed and stay in the Center’s inventory.

Helping Rural Communities Reduce Exposure to COVID: Walton Options for Independent Living in Augusta, Georgia coordinated with the sheriff’s office to distribute PPE on a Food Drive day. Over 40 persons were able to receive masks and safety information at this event in order to help them be safe during the initial days of COVID.

Awards

Each year, NCIL recognizes and thanks advocates for their outstanding work. We offer our deepest appreciation for this year’s winners.

National Advocacy Awards:

› Max Starkloff Lifetime Achievement Award: Phil Pangrazio; Deidre Davis Butler; and Stacey Park
› President’s Award: Reyma McCoy McDeid
› Corey Rowley National Advocacy Award: Penny Shaw
› Diana Viets Award: Erica Torres
› Frank Harkin Memorial Award: Susan Ross

Regional Advocacy Awards:

› Region 1: Ericka Reil
› Region 2: Agnes McCray
› Region 3: Germán Parodi & Shaylin Sluzalis
› Region 4: Ken Mitchell
› Region 5: Renee Wood
› Region 6: Jessica Lewis
› Region 7: Reyma McCoy McDeid
› Region 8: Dr. Aisha Rousseau
› Region 9: Dwight Bateman
› Region 10: Danielle Bailey
OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Annual Conference on Independent Living

NCIL’s 2020 Annual Conference on Independent Living was truly unprecedented – an accessible virtual conference on disability rights and independent living. Despite having just weeks to overhaul our entire conference and transform it into a virtual experience, we were able to put together a three-week conference packed with a plethora of content affecting CILs, SILCs, and people with disabilities: advocacy and public policy, the COVID-19 pandemic, racism and racial justice, voting rights and access, and so much more.

While we all missed our iconic NCIL March through the streets of Washington, we were thrilled to see everyone’s photos for the virtual March, and our virtual Rally was a really exciting and moving event. Holding a virtual conference came with some silver linings, too. We had our largest conference in NCIL history, with well over 1,000 participants.

Funding to Centers for Independent Living

NCIL successfully advocated for $85 million for Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Responding to COVID-19

NCIL worked closely with a wide range of disability and civil rights organizations, participating in numerous formal and informal coalitions, to organize community and
political support for addressing the disability community’s needs in the federal COVID-19 response. NCIL collaborated with other organizations on national call-in days, letters to Congress, and countless other efforts.

NCIL also advocated around a variety of critical issues, such as: getting and keeping people out of congregate settings; medical rationing; hospital visitor policies; access to stimulus payments; family and medical leave; medication access; and opposing harmful provision in the COVID-19 response bills, like waivers to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Rehabilitation Act, and liability shields for businesses.

**Electronic Visit Verification**

NCIL continued advocacy around electronic visit verification (EVV), highlighting the harms EVV has done around the country. Specific advocacy included efforts to delay the implementation deadline, eliminate the penalty for non-implementation, and include proposed language to eliminate GPS and biometrics from EVV in future legislation.

**Barrier Removal in Healthcare Providers**

Through the Barrier Removal Fund (BRF) funded by the Centene Corporation, NCIL funded accessibility surveys and actual access improvements at healthcare providers in California, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. Through the BRF, NCIL funded over $450,000 in accessibility improvements in these three states. NCIL also contracted with CILs in these states to complete Accessibility Site Reviews for our BRF grantees. This accessibility data is being added to the provider directory so patients can see accessibility information when they select providers.

**U.S. Postal Service**

NCIL led and joined in efforts to roll back the changes to the U.S. Postal Service that resulted in delivery delays and capacity reductions ahead of the 2020 Presidential Election. NCIL closely followed Congressional action around this issue and continued advocacy until the most harmful changes were reversed.

**Food Insecurity**

Disabled people are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity, and barriers to accessing food were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. NCIL, with Portlight Strategies and Kelly’s Kitchen, helped CILs who already did or who were interested in
operating food pantries expand their capacity to assist disabled people in their communities through guidance and financial support.

**Elevate Blog**

NCIL started the Elevate Blog, which builds on the success of Elevate, the first and only campaign training for people with disabilities. The Elevate Blog will interview candidates, volunteers, and staff with disabilities about their experiences; answer common questions about running for office; and talk about what people need to think about if they want to run for office or join a campaign.

**Proposed Social Security Changes**

NCIL advocated against several proposed harmful changes to Social Security, including one that would have changed the number and frequency of Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs) and resulted in over 2 million people being at risk of losing their disability benefits over 10 years.

**Opposing Forced Treatment**

NCIL began collaborating with MindFreedom International’s Shield program, which defends people harmed by human rights violations in the mental health system.

**Affordable Care Act**

NCIL continued to fight back against efforts to undermine and invalidate the Affordable Care Act (ACA). We educated members, collected stories, and advocated to Congress about how vital the ACA has been to millions of people across the country, including people with disabilities.

**Presidential Questionnaire on Disability Politics**

NCIL released the 2020 Presidential Questionnaire on Disability Politics with the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). The questionnaire covers a broad range of policies that are important to voters with disabilities.
Policy Briefing

NCIL held its 14th annual Policy Briefing to bring advocates up-to-date on national issues and federal policies that affect people with disabilities.

The presentation provided participants with question and answer sessions with national leaders to ensure NCIL members have in-depth information on the issues we care about most as we prepared to advocate at NCIL’s 2020 Virtual Day on the Hill.

IL-NET

NCIL coordinated numerous activities for the National Training & Technical Assistance Center for CILs and SILCs, also known as the IL-NET. The IL-NET provides training and technical assistance to CILs and SILCs around the country through a variety of formats, including on-location trainings, learning collaboratives, webinars, one-on-one assistance, and more.

Through the IL-NET national training and technical assistance project, NCIL presented 3 learning collaboratives and 14 webinars in 2020. These trainings reached over 850 people.

› Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles for SILCs as Sub-Grantees
Fueling Business Acumen: How CILs are Securing Contracts with Health Plans and Payers

Operating Independent Living Programs in the Face of Coronavirus: A Q&A Session for CILs and SILCs

Disability, Diversity, and Intersectionality: A Q&A Session for CILs and SILCs

Financial Management for Centers for Independent Living: Regulations and Beyond

Hospital to Home: A Collaborative Between Community Partners – Parts 1 and 2

Ready for Review - Using ACL’s Compliance & Monitoring Protocol (COMP) Tool to Achieve Excellence – Parts 1 and 2

SILC Congress: SILC 101

SILC Congress: Creating an Effective SILC & DSE Relationship

Statewide and Systemic Responses to COVID-19 and Other Emergencies: A Q&A Session for CILs and SILCs

Remote Work and Consumer Connections During the COVID-19 Pandemic - A Q&A Session for CILs and SILCs

What You Need to Know About the New State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL): A Comprehensive Overview of the SPIL Instrument and Instructions

A National Webinar & Teleconference Presented by the Administration for Community Living / Office of Independent Living Programs (ACL / OILP) and the IL-NET

Technology Options During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Q&A Session for CILs and SILCs

National Learning Collaborative on Youth Transition at Centers for Independent Living

Minority Youth and Centers for Independent Living (MY-CIL) Learning Collaborative

Business Development for Community Living: A Learning Collaborative for Centers for Independent Living to Build Sustainable Programs and Diversify Revenue
The financial report below shows where our financial resources come from and how we spend that money to achieve our goals.

**Revenues**

Total 2020 Income: $2,202,379.98

- Grants & Programs: $1,372,541.57 (62%)
- Annual Conference: $375,329.06 (17%)
- Membership Dues: $255,274.04 (12%)
- Donations: $16,589.88 (1%)
- Other Income: $182,645.34 (8%)

**Expenses**

Total 2020 Expenses: $1,783,715.38

- Administration & Finance: $706,681.32 (40%)
- Advocacy & Programs: $700,608.85 (39%)
- Training & Assistance: $300,462.17 (17%)
- Annual Conference: $75,963.04 (4%)

*All figures represented in this statement of financial position are unaudited. Final numbers may vary slightly. Please contact NCIL for an updated report.*
Sponsors

Soldier for Justice Award Recipients: Anthem and Centene Corporation

› Verizon
› Pharmaceutical Researchers and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
› Waymo
› May Mobility
› Ability360
› Microsoft
› Humana
› Coca-Cola
› WITH Foundation
› Molina Healthcare
› Tracfone Wireless
› Progressive Independence
› Clear2Connect
› National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology

Donors

› Platform
› Running Reindeer Ranch
› St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church
› Joan Albert
› Amber Alexander
› Julia Ann
› Carol Ann
› Kathleen Artis
› Jedediah Barton
› Jeannie Baumann
› Janet Bayer
› Jim Beck
› Kathleen Becket
Tanja Behnke
Elaine Beitelspacher
Alyssa Benware
Richard Beres
Kathi Berge
Nowell Bjerkaas
Melissa Black
Sheri Burns
Arthur Blaser
Robert Blumenfeld
Sara Blumenthal
Kathy Brill
Madeline Brodt
Jaya Brooks
Mary Brougher
Darin Brunin
Lisa Bryan
Feather Callapearson
Jennifer Camacho
Donna Cardillo
Craig Carlson
Charles Carr
Laurie Cee
John Chappell, Jr.
Phil Chase
Carrie Chessmore Stevens
Zachary Churchfield
Marty Cingle
Tom Cole
Diane Coleman
Caroline Colvin
Matt Colwell
Maryah Converse
Joel Cooper
Sandra Costello
Anne Coughlin
Kacy Curry
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Yoshiko Dart
Alana Davidson
Katie Dott
Kathleen Downes
Patti Duff
Christy Dunaway
Autumn Eaken
Tom Eavenson
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Jordan Flynn
Nich Fox
Alexander Frazier
Richard Fredrickson Sr.
Julie Frkovich
Robert Fuchs
Tim Fuchs
Betti Gefecht
Brian Geiger
Laura George
Kim Gibson
Jean Gohlke
Bruce Griffin
Mindy Griffith
Jessica Haglund
Josiah Hakala
Kaye Hallows
Jesse Hambley
Candice Harris
Rob Harrison
Liz Hay-Causey
Lisa Hayes
Jeremy Hendrix
Judith Herr
Judith Heumann
Sarah Hoagland
Will Hsiung
Jason Hubbard
Mike Lynne Huber
Jeff Hughes
Lisa Irby
Zainab Jama
Catherine Jampel
Jisha Jesudass
Rhonda Jeter
Gil Jevne
Derek John
Jane Johnson
Lizabith Johnson
Ryan Joseph
Jill Jueling
Rachel Kaplan
Manasi Kapoor
Sharonjit Kaur Sagoo
Ruth Keller
Kenneth Klauck
Kathleen Kleinmann
Colleen Kolleda
Patt Kosier
Kelly Kruse
Prabhkarkar Kudva
Dawn Lacko
Elizabeth Landers
Lance Latham
Shawn Latham
Sarah Launderville
Carlotta Lawson