

Disability Network/Michigan

Maximizing the effectiveness of Michigan Centers for Independent Living





By doing more, we help our CILs do more.

Every year, Disability Network/Michigan supports 15 Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and thousands of persons with disabilities across the state. Most of our funds come from membership dues, supplemented by short-term grants and contracts, which are often instrumental in statewide systems change benefitting people with disabilities.

Working within that budget, we strive to get the biggest possible benefit out of every dollar. While some needs are equally distributed throughout Michigan, others are focused on specific activities or regions. Our close communication with all of the CILs puts us in an ideal position to identify and respond to the greatest needs.

The following pages highlight our progress and accomplishments.

“State funding has remained at current levels and was even increased in FY 2009.”

1. GOAL: Maintain/increase state funding

ACCOMPLISHMENT #1

CIL funding has stayed at current levels and was even increased in FY 2009 by \$500,000, due in part to the support of our lobbyist, annual report, and legislative report.

ACCOMPLISHMENT #2

Many CILs have reported increased fee-for-service opportunities with MRS. This was made possible through relationship building and collaboration with MRS, including a new Strategic Alliance designed to increase and improve local level collaborations and services to people with disabilities. Ruth Stegeman, former Executive Director of Disability Network/Lakeshore, has been hired as a consultant to facilitate this effort.

“Since 2009 \$2,000 is provided to each CIL for staff training in assistive technology”

2. GOAL: Find and coordinate statewide opportunities

ACCOMPLISHMENT #1

The statewide VA Program’s development was coordinated by DNM in FY 2007, and the CIL’s VA Peer Support Team was created. Our CILs are represented on the NCIL Veterans Subcommittee through DNM, which could result in future opportunities with the VA. DNM has provided coordination, support, and training to the VA Team since its inception.

ACCOMPLISHMENT #2

The Statewide Nursing Facility Transition Services Program began in 2009, following years of continuous relationship building and collaboration with DCH on pilot programs. DNM provides coordination, support and training to the CIL Nursing Facility Transition Specialists through its Long Term Care Peer Support Team. In fiscal year 2010, CIL staff helped 230 people move out of nursing facilities and back into their own communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENT #3

DNM has partnered with Michigan Disability Rights Coalition since 2009 to provide \$2,000 to each CIL for staff training in assistive technology each year. This has helped the CILs to provide a much needed service to people with disabilities in their communities.



3. GOAL: Consistent, reliable data collection, recording and reporting

ACCOMPLISHMENT #1

DNM developed outcome-focused logic models that became the models for our current system of data collection and reporting. These logic models are updated on a regular basis as needed. The statewide data collected by DNM is used for our annual and legislative reports, and has been instrumental in the development of marketing strategies for the CILs.

ACCOMPLISHMENT #2

We developed the “Telling Our Story” handbook to help CILs across Michigan understand what data to collect and how it is used. The handbook assists CILs in capturing, describing and reporting the important work they do.

ACCOMPLISHMENT #3

Peer support is provided to CIL staff through the Program Evaluation Leadership Team’s monthly meetings coordinated and supported by DNM, along with a listserv that is maintained by DNM.

ACCOMPLISHMENT #4

We provide training and technical assistance through a non-monetary agreement with SILC and by purchasing assistance from experts in the Network. This includes training on the CFAL database, queries for various data, organization of recording community services, etc.

ACCOMPLISHMENT #5

DNM has an appointed representative on the national NCIL Outcome Measures Taskforce, which may have a major impact on how CILs report to RSA. Given Michigan’s progress in consistent, reliable data collection and the level of coordination with partners, our DNM representative plays an important role on this taskforce.



4. GOAL: Market the CIL Network

ACCOMPLISHMENT #1

Our legislative report has been instrumental in educating our legislature about the value of CILs and their return on investment.



ACCOMPLISHMENT #2

The newer annual report provides a more sophisticated marketing tool for CILs to use in meetings with legislators, donors, and community partners.

ACCOMPLISHMENT #3

DNM staff gave the following presentations:

- **MRS New Counselors Training:** Focused on the need for independent living services for MRS customers and how partnering with a CIL can benefit them and their customers.
- **SILC Council meeting:** A broad-based picture of CILs and the services they provide to individuals and their communities.
- **DNR-municipalities training:** Background information on CILs and the services they can provide to local municipalities, specifically recreation accessibility audits.
- **A presentation on veteran services** at the NCIL Conference and SILC Congress. This opened the door to negotiations with the VA in Washington, DC. DNM staff also helped educate CILs and SILCs around the country about the Michigan Veterans Collaborative Model. Many states are starting to look at duplicating the efforts we've made in Michigan.



ACCOMPLISHMENT #4

DNM coordinates the annual Legislative Luncheon at the Capitol and provides talking points for CILs. Our lobbyist, Sandi Lewis, reported recently that our luncheons have better attendance than most other organizations. Legislators have opportunities to meet face-to-face with their constituents, including CIL staff, board members and individuals who have received services from CILs.

“Lean means creating more value for our customers with fewer resources.”

Evaluation of trainings conducted last year show that 62% of CIL staff rated the information as excellent, 37% rated it as good, and 1% rated it as fair.

5. GOAL: Provide peer support, technical assistance and training for network staff

ACCOMPLISHMENT

We organize several trainings each year for CIL staff, along with facilitating CIL peer groups on topics such as Program Evaluation, VA Leadership, Nursing Facility Transition and Long-Term Care, Housing, and Transportation.

In FY 2010, we provided the following workshops, training and technical assistance:

- CFAL and 704 reports
- Recording community services in CFAL
- Discussion at Program Evaluation meetings about the SPIL process, best practices for consumer contact notes, how best to record outcomes for NF transitions, how to record goals/objectives of veterans, new HIPPA laws, ARRA, consumer satisfaction surveys and needs assessments.
- Training on veteran services and working with the VA
- VA workgroup (formed to develop cross trainings and handbooks on veteran services)
- Communicating with Diplomacy Workshop
- Training on completing recreational accessibility audits
- Person Centered Thinking, in collaboration with OSA
- Lean Training, focusing on creating more value for customers with fewer resources
- Quarterly Project SEARCH meetings.
- NFTS training on rethinking guardianship, Alzheimers, and community living, the State Ombudsman Program, NFT database development, and training for new CIL NFT Specialists, as well as technical assistance and peer support through monthly meetings.
- Technical assistance for nonprofit accounting and QuickBooks
- Development and continual updates of the Smartbook, a resource for CIL Directors and staff

“Michigan now leads the nation in communities that have passed local Complete Streets policies.”

6. GOAL: State-level systems change

ACCOMPLISHMENT #1

The Network is represented on several committees, councils and coalitions, including:

- DNRE Accessibility Advisory Council: An appointed council that provides input on the DNRE’s policies and procedures and implements accessible recreation events and projects in Michigan.
- Disability Caucus: Hosted by Senators Gleason and Spade, this caucus informs legislators and the public about various disability issues. DN/M has helped present on several issues in this forum.
- Developmental Disability Council Transportation Committee: Advocates for transportation funding and access statewide. This group holds an annual legislative day at the capitol.
- MDOT Advisory Group: Developed more accessible policies/standards for MDOT-funded projects.
- Olmstead Coalition
- This past year the Olmstead Coalition worked with the Director of Medicaid to implement a policy that allows people in nursing facilities to use their patient pay amounts (normally paid to the nursing facility) to maintain their housing.
- Michigan Quality Consumer Care Council: Maintains a directory of screened Home Help providers and provides training to direct care workers.
- CIL issues/concerns are represented at the State ADRC Steering Committee, the ADRC IT Committee, and the ADRC Definitions and Standards group. Three emerging ADRCs were designated in Michigan.
- Michigan’s Disability Housing committee was able to convince MSHDA to alter its Qualified Allocation Plan to include increased points for builders using an inclusive model.
- Michigan Consumer Taskforce: A statewide advisory group, led by users of long term care supports and services. This group has had a profound impact on many state-level long- term care grants and programs.



6. GOAL: State-level systems change continued

ACCOMPLISHMENT #2

Recently hired a public policy person to research and analyze legislation, develop talking points, organize the Network around disability issues, and work with the DNM Public Policy Team and lobbyist.

ACCOMPLISHMENT #3

Coordinated Project SEARCH in Michigan, serving people with disabilities through innovative workforce and career development.

ACCOMPLISHMENT #4

Coordinated and facilitated the MiJob Coalition to amend the Freedom to Work Act to increase the number of eligible participants. The MiJob Coalition is made up of 38 members, with strong representation from Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Social Security Administration, Veterans, etc. Some of the benefits and outcomes from the Coalition include:

- Provided a strong collective voice for advocacy issues related to employment and the employment of people with disabilities.
- Successfully developed and introduced an amendment to the Freedom to Work Act to allow people into the program.
- Developed online “School to Work” and “Benefits to Work” real-time calculators to help Social Security beneficiaries understand the impact of work and transition. Held various trainings statewide.
- Created a training module on employment and state and federal work incentive programs that is currently being used to train the frontline staff of various partners, including Michigan State University.
- Developed a proposal to eliminate Substantial Gainful Activity (major barrier to employment) that is currently being circulated at the Federal Level.



6. GOAL: State-level systems change continued

- Facilitated employer-to-employer outreach regarding the “business case” for hiring people with disabilities.
- Obtained invaluable feedback from people with disabilities about barriers to employment from their prospective.
- Project SEARCH focuses on employment outcomes and corporate culture change related to the inclusion of people with disabilities. Four sites are currently up and running with at least four more in active development.
- Partnered with the Michigan Works Association to develop better accommodation processes for the newly mandated Work Keys test.
- Maintained www.mijobcoalition.com, which contains information and resources for job seekers with disabilities, employers, and the public.

There's so much to do to make Michigan a better place to live for people with disabilities. With the right support, we can do even more to meet their needs.

Disability Network/Michigan
1476 Haslett Road
Haslett, Michigan 48840
517 339 0539
www.dnmichigan.org

