SILC Quarterly Board Meeting

Statewide Independent Living Council of Tennessee

DATE & TIME	FORMAT & FACILITATOR
Friday, August 14, 2026 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM CST	In-Person & Virtual Facilitator: Cecil C. Williams, III

MEETING AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Welcome, Introductions, and Roll Call**

3. **Speaker Spotlight (30 minutes per organization – 20-minute presentation + 10-minute Q&A)**

   a. Precious Cargo Program – Kelly Nolan Cortesi, Director of Communications, Kelly.Cortesi@tn.gov – tn.gov/revenue/precious-cargo-program.html

   b. Community Health Access and Navigation in Tennessee (CHANT) – Debra Link, Outreach Coordinator, Debra.Link@tn.gov – https://www.tn.gov/health/chant.html

4. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

   Motion by: _____ *2nd by:* _____

5. **Treasurer / Finance Report – Dr. Glover**

   Motion by: _____ *2nd by:* _____

6. **Director's Report**

   - SILC TN Operations Update
   - NCIL Conference (July 19–24) – Recap
   - 7/27 Commissioner Visit / Community Conversation – Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
   - PPR Approved – Returned by ACL on July 13, 2026 (two minor discrepancies)
   - Uncertainty in HCBS Webinar (7/16/26) – Recording & Slides, Disability Policy Consortium
   - Social Media Report

7. **Chair Report**

8. **Old Business**

9. **New Business**

- Proposed OMB Final Rule Update – see handout; updates at *ncil.org/news*

  Senate Continuing Resolution (Aug 3, 2026): funds the government through Dec. 11, 2026, and delays OMB rule implementation until Dec. 11, 2026

- Statewide IL Needs Assessment (SPIL): gathers input from Tennesseans with disabilities, families, providers, and partners to shape the next three-year SPIL. Participate via QR code, the SILC-TN website, or https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/fjs1CDpzte
- SPIL updates – Standing Monthly Meetings and outreach events.
- Budget for approval 2026 through 2027
- Meeting Schedule Review 2026–2027 and Vote – poll live now at *forms.cloud.microsoft/r/ViiYNm74Xu*
- Bylaws and Policy & Procedures Review – updates for the Q1 meeting; review on the website or app
- Individual Training Plan Updates – trainings, outreach, and any publications or webinars featured

10. **Center Director Reports (see attachments, if available)**

- TARP Center for Independent Living
- disABILITY Resource Center
- Empower Tennessee
- Disability Connection Midsouth
- TRAC Center for Independent Living
- Jackson Center for Independent Living

11. **DSE Membership Report – Cindy Mills**

12. **Public Announcements**

- Please limit comments to 3–5 minutes

13. **Adjournment**

Next meeting: Friday, November 2026, in Nashville, TN.

Children's Special Services

Children's Special Services (CSS is the State Title V Program for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN). The CSS program is coordinated through all 95 local health department Community Health Access and Navigation in Tennessee (CHANT) teams. CSS provides reimbursement for comprehensive medical services and care coordination for children with physical disabilities from birth to 21 years of age. Diagnostic, financial and residency eligibility criteria must be met to participate in the program. The CSS program is payor of last resort and provides resources for medical and non-medical services. Contact your local health department for eligibility information.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the program:

- A child must be under the age of 21
- The child must be diagnosed with a physical disability which requires medical, surgical, dental or rehabilitative treatment.
- The child's adjusted family income must be at or below 225% of the federal poverty level.

If you have a client with special health care needs, please contact your local health department CHANT team or State Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Section at 615-741-7353 for more information.

CSS may pay for:

- Diagnostic evaluation
- Hospitalization
- Care coordination
- Rehabilitation services
- Prescription drugs
- Speech & language therapy
- Physical & occupational therapy
- Durable medical equipment
- Wheelchairs & walkers
- Braces and artificial limbs
- Medical & surgical treatment
- Hearing aids
- Special formula & food

Tennessee Department of Health
Division of Family Health and Wellness
Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
Andrew Johnson Tower, 8th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: 615-741-7353

TN Department of Health

kidcentral tn
KIDCENTRALTN.COM

Tennessee Department of Health Authorization No. 355578
This Public Document was promulgated at $0.07
per copy, 10,000 copies. August 2020.

TN Department of Health

CHANT

Community Health Access and Navigation in Tennessee

What is CHANT?

Navigating the complex system of health and social services can be challenging for many individuals and families, and depending on individual needs and medical diagnoses, care may involve a number of programs, providers, and personnel. To overcome these challenges, the Tennessee Department of Health recently streamlined three public health programs, Help Us Grow Successfully (HUGS), Children's Special Services (CSS) and Tenncare Kids Community Outreach into one integrated model of care coordination, the Community Health Access and Navigation in Tennessee (CHANT). CHANT teams provide enhanced patient-centered ***engagement***, ***navigation*** of medical and social services referrals, and ***impact*** pregnancy, child and maternal health outcomes.

Who is eligible?

Individuals eligible for CHANT include:

- Pregnant and postpartum adolescents and women
- Children (Birth – 21 years)
- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Birth – 21 years)

Have a referral?

CHANT Care Coordination teams are located in each of the 95 Tennessee counties within local health departments. Referrals are accepted from all medical providers and social service agencies. Self-referrals to CHANT are also accepted. Referral forms, instructions and a listing of local CHANT teams are available by accessing the website at www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/early-childhood-program/chant.html or by contacting the CHANT Medical Services Lead, Otilia Seals at Email: otilia.seals@tn.gov Phone: (731) 421-6792

Comprehensive Screening and Assessment

Each member of the family unit is screened for the following:

- Social services needs
- Mental /behavioral health risk
- Child health and development milestones
- Special health care needs
- Medical risk
- Health insurance
- Medical and dental services

Pathways of Care

- Behavioral Health
- Child Health and Development Education
- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)
- Dental Home/Referral
- Developmental Screening/ Referral
- Employment
- Family Planning
- Health Insurance
- Housing
- Immunization Screening/ Referral
- Maternal Loss
- Medical Home/Referral
- Pregnancy/ Postpartum
- Perinatal Loss
- Smoking Cessation
- Social Service Referral
- Transition of CYSHCN 14+ yrs.

Care Coordination

- Link patients and families with resources to facilitate referrals and respond to medical and social service needs
- Communicate Care plans and goals and proactively track patients as they go to and from clinical care to communities
- Identify and refer eligible high-risk patients to available EBHV Programs

Tennessee's

PRECIOUS CARGO PROGRAM

WHAT IT IS

A confidential note you can add to your vehicle registration to alert law enforcement or emergency responders that someone in your car has a disability or medical condition.

WHO IT'S FOR

People who:

- Have difficulty communicating verbally
- May need help exiting a vehicle
- Use assistive devices
- Live with autism, Alzheimer's, Down syndrome, or other cognitive or developmental conditions

WHY IT MATTERS

This helps:

- Ensure quick, respectful assistance
- Reduce misunderstandings during traffic stops
- Protect your safety and dignity

This project is funded through a grant provided by the Tennessee Highway Safety Office.

YOU ARE PRECIOUS CARGO!

HOW TO ENROLL

1. Scan the QR code to view and download the form on TN.gov
2. Fill out your section of the form
3. Ask your doctor to complete the medical section of the form
4. Sign, date, and return the completed form to your local County Clerk office

QUESTIONS?

Email revenue.support@tn.gov

Tennessee's PRECIOUS CARGO PROGRAM

TN Department of Revenue

TN Department of Safety & Homeland Security

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE helping you ARRIVE

Tennessee SILC Quarterly Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2026 | Hybrid (In-Person & Virtual) | Recorded by Tennessee SILC Leadership

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Called to order by Edward Mitchell, M.B.A. Roll call conducted (in-person & virtual); quorum established.

GUEST SPEAKER — HINDLEY WILLIAMS (ACL/OILP)

Program Officer updates: ACL→ACF transition (no new updates); Commissioner Dr. Rebecca Hines appointed; Q90 system issues delaying PPR reviews; 2027 SPIL development timeline; TA resources available. Council thanked Ms. Williams for her partnership.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion to approve (with corrections) — Motion: Lee (Vice Chair) • Second: Amelia Roehm • Vote: Approved unanimously (voice vote)

TREASURER'S REPORT — TIFFANY GLOVER

Professional fees & conference expenses under budget (timing of reimbursements/contracts); overall budget on track.

Motion to accept — Motion: Amelia Roehm • Second: Lee (Vice Chair) • Vote: Approved unanimously

DIRECTOR'S REPORT — EDWARD MITCHELL

- Mid-year PPR submitted to Leadership & VR; insurance updated/submitted; contract execution completed
- Completed service on TN Council on Developmental Disabilities & Family Support Council
- Monthly SPIL planning meetings established; upcoming meeting w/ Julie Johnson re: PRETS & I&E funding
- National ABLE-account/financial-empowerment presentations; NDI filming (Jackson); TN Deaf Library collaboration; NASILC conference; social media growth

CHAIR REPORT / SPIL RETREAT UPDATE

Reviewed retreat outcomes, needs-assessment data trends, draft SPIL goals, monthly planning schedule, and upcoming statewide town halls. Strong Network engagement noted.

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

- Federal Fiscal Committee Budget Update (E. Mitchell): proposed federal budget language affecting CILs, DD Councils, P&A Programs, and potential Part B/C restructuring — members encouraged to follow NCIL updates
- SILC 101 Cohort Recap: advocacy/lobbying distinctions, SILC/DSU/CIL roles, IL philosophy, new-member introductions
- New Council Member: Pamela Johnson (social work, healthcare advocacy, rehabilitation, managed care background)
- Network Roles Training: DSU, SILC, CIL responsibilities & SPIL implementation expectations — no formal motions

GUEST PRESENTATION — FRIENDS OF MAN

Presenters: Arthur Belefonte, Katharine Mead. Topics: national assistance programs, adaptive equipment, mobility devices, hearing aids, home modifications, application/eligibility. Discussion: insurance denials, mobility/hearing-aid needs, rural accessibility barriers.

CENTER DIRECTOR REPORTS

Reporting: JSIL, Disability Connection Mid-South, Disability Resource Center, Empower Tennessee, TARP CIL. Topics: youth programs, ADA celebrations, accessibility initiatives, emergency preparedness, peer support, adaptive recreation, transportation advocacy, community partnerships, ASL programs, leadership academies.

DSU / MEMBERSHIP UPDATES — CINDY MILES

Membership term expirations & reappointment reminders; VR leadership changes — Suzanne Carr named Assistant Commissioner; Ophika "Jordan" appointed Interim Blind Services Director.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & RESOURCES

Assistive technology research participation opportunities; Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund advocacy support; disaster preparedness collaboration updates.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Friday, August 14, 2026 — Jackson, Tennessee

Motion to Adjourn — Motion: not clearly identified ("I so move") • Second: not clearly identified • Vote: Approved by voice vote

_____ Date

_____ Date

Revenue	Actual	Budget to Date	Variance	Budget 2025/2026
Donations				
Part B Grant - IL (State)	191,942.42	166,666.67	25,275.75	200,000.00
Other Non-Operating Revenue	29.00		29.00	
Total Revenue	**191,971.42**	**166,666.67**	**25,304.75**	**200,000.00**
Expenses				
1. Salaries/Benefits/Taxes	104,118.80	94,835.83	9,282.97	113,803.00
2. Professional Fees/Grant Awards	5,103.17	8,717.00	(3,613.83)	10,460.40
3. Supplies, Telephone, Postage &Shipping, Occupancy, Equipment Rental, Printing, & Publications	20,656.40	24,097.78	(3,441.38)	28,917.34
4. Travel, Conferences and Meetings	35,844.23	33,780.87	2,063.36	40,537.04
5. Insurance	2,109.00	2,525.00	(416.00)	3,030.00
6. Other Non-Personnel	5,391.57	4,958.33	433.24	5,950.00
Total Expenses	**173,223.17**	**168,914.82**	**4,308.35**	**202,697.78**

Director Report

- **SILC TN Operations – Update**
- **NCIL Conference July 19th-24th – Recap**
- **7/27 Commissioner Visit/Community Conversation Vanderbilt Kennedy Center**
- **PPR** - Approved - Returned by ACL on July 13, 2026. Two very small discrepancies
- **Uncertainty in HCBS Webinar (7/16/26) Recording and Slides – Disability Policy Consortium**

- **SILCTN Operations – Update**

  - Collaboration potential /Grant partnerships for rural transportation and Healthcare Resiliency
  - SILCTN new Working collaborations with the Traumatic Brain Injury Program / Council in Tennessee
  - SPIL/SILCTN Outreach –
    - ➢ African Street Festival Labor Day weekend -
    - ➢ Tennessee Disability Mega Conference is scheduled for Friday, August 21, 2026
    - ➢ dRC-- Ethics Conference – September 11th
    - ✓ TARP ADA Day July 11th
    - ✓ JCIL ADA Day July 17th

- **NCIL Conference July 21st-24th – Recap**

- SILC Director co-presented at sessions with and is on the board as Region 4 Rep, Membership coordination
- More photos on Facebook and LinkedIn
- Nickel Flickr account https://www.flickr.com/photos/101273671@N02/albums
- Digital Agenda and documents https://ncil.org/2026-conference/agenda/

- **July 27th Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. Hosted a Community Conversation with Administration on Disabilities Commissioner Dr Rebecca Hines and Ophelia McLain, Director of the Office of Disability Services Innovation, as they are on a nationwide tour to visit program partners.**

Their visit provided an opportunity to highlight our work advancing belonging, independence, and opportunities for people with disabilities, as well as the strong partnerships that drive systems change across Tennessee. This session was centered on the voices of participants from programs and a community conversation with stakeholders who shared experiences, perspectives, and ideas related to disability services and support statewide.

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- **Uncertainty in HCBS Webinar (7/16/26) The Disability Policy Consortium**

On July 16, 2026, DPC and Breslin Health Consulting hosted a national webinar, **"Uncertainty in Medicaid-Funded Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Impacting the Lives of Full-Benefit Dually Eligible Individuals."** The session examined how shifts in HCBS policies affect people with disabilities and older adults and outlined strategies states can use to protect community living rights under the ADA and Olmstead.
https://www.dpcma.org/news/uncertainty-in-hcbs-webinar-71626-recording-and-slides

Social Media — Q4 At a Glance

Reporting Period: April 1 – June 30, 2026 (Last 91 Days)

FB VIEWS	FB FOLLOWERS	LI IMPRESSIONS	LI FOLLOWERS
5,800	**598**	**7,949**	**116**
+73.2%	+4.3%	+66.1%	+41%

FB INTERACTIONS	FB VIEWERS	LI NEW FOLLOWERS	LI TOP POST
199	**1,500**	**29**	**12.4K**
+45.3%	+99.7%	+123.1%	Project SEARCH

Side-by-Side: How Each Platform Performed

FACEBOOK

598 followers • +4.3%

- 5,800 views (+73.2%)
- 1,500 unique viewers (+99.7%)
- 199 interactions (+45.3%)
- 362 page visits (+9.7%)
- 36 link clicks (+9.1%)
- 98% of audience is in the U.S.
- Top cities tied: Nashville & Paris
- 74% of followers are age 45+

LINKEDIN

116 followers • +41% total

- 7,949 impressions (+66.1%)
- 5,684 unique members reached
- 35 reactions (+9.4%)
- 5 comments (+66.7%)
- 88 link clicks
- 29 new followers (+123.1%)
- One post reached 12,397 impressions
- 0 reposts (opportunity area)

Top Posts of the Quarter

Top 3 Facebook Posts

1. Global Accessibility Awareness Workshop — *652 views, 10 clicks*

2. CIL Fact Sheet (empowering people w/ disabilities) — *449 views, 9 interactions*

3. National ASL Day — *263 views, 7 interactions*

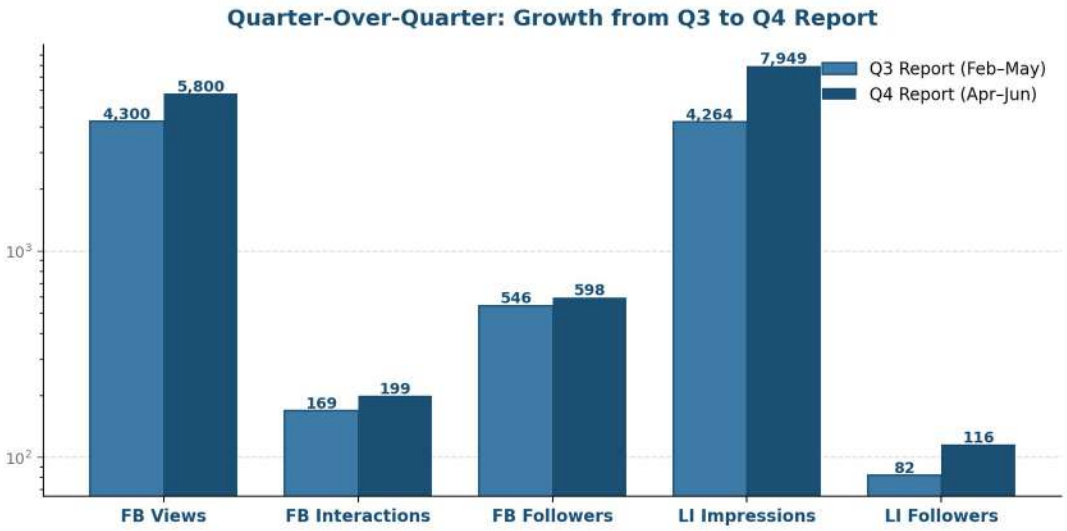
Top 3 LinkedIn Posts

1. Project SEARCH (viral post) — *12,397 impressions, 20 clicks*

2. HUD & Fair Housing Act — *626 impressions*

3. What Is SPIL? (SILCTN-authored) — *462 impressions*

Quarter-over-Quarter Growth



Nearly every metric is up compared with the Q3 report. LinkedIn impressions almost doubled, largely due to the Project SEARCH viral post; Facebook views grew 35% quarter-over-quarter.

Talking Points for the Chair

Chair's Talking Points (Plain English)

1. Big reach quarter. Facebook views jumped 73%. LinkedIn impressions jumped 66%. Unique viewers on Facebook nearly doubled.

2. Historic single-post moment. One LinkedIn post about Project SEARCH reached over 12,000 people — the biggest single-post reach in SILCTN's history.

3. Followers keep growing. Facebook is now at 598 (up from 546). LinkedIn grew from 82 to 116 — new-follower rate more than doubled (+123%).

4. Right audience, right places. 98% of followers are in the U.S. Nashville and Paris are tied at 23.9%. 74% are age 45+.

5. Everything is organic. No money was spent on ads. All growth came from consistent, mission-aligned posting.

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF TENNESSEE

Q4 Board Meeting • August 14, 2026

PROPOSED OMB RULE ON FEDERAL GRANTS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PROPOSED OMB RULE: KEY CONCERNS

- Grants could be withheld, suspended, or terminated without notice or cause.
- Federal agencies could change grant terms mid-performance, creating instability for grantees.
- Awards could be influenced by partisan ideology rather than objective criteria, community needs, or Congressional intent.
- These changes create major financial, legal, and reputational risks for grantees.
- Many qualified organizations may be unable to accept federal grants under these conditions.
- ***Potential disruptions to essential services nationwide, including housing, community development, health and education, food and shelter programs, disaster recovery, and other critical community services.***

CURRENT STATUS & CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

- The public comment period is closed.
- Advocacy continues: Congress is being urged to block the proposal.
- Community action is still needed — WE in the SILC Capacity can only educate Senators and Representatives about the proposed rule changes and protect community programs.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION (CR) UPDATES

- August 3, 2026 – U.S. Senate: Advanced a CR to fund the government through December 11, 2026, including a delay of the OMB rule implementation until December 11, 2026. Senate expected to pass the CR in the coming weeks.
- July 21, 2026 – U.S. House of Representatives: Passed its own CR without the delay language. House and Senate must reconcile the two versions before sending a final bill to the President.

WHAT A DELAY WOULD MEAN

- A delay does not eliminate the proposed rule — it provides additional time for litigation, advocacy, and Congressional review.
- ***The proposed rule is NOT law. No changes have gone into effect; no requirements have been altered.***

GUIDANCE FROM ACL

- The National IL Network has requested formal guidance from ACL; a statement is expected soon.
- ACL plans to attend the APRIL Conference in October in Niagara Falls, NY.

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF TENNESSEE

Statewide Needs Assessment — Board Brief

Board of Directors Review • August 2026 • Prepared by SILC TN

This brief summarizes results from the 2026 Tennessee Statewide Needs Assessment (35 responses; 34 usable) for board review. Names, emails, and phone numbers have been removed from all data shown.

34	50%	56%	74%
Total Respondents	Live in West TN	Cite Transportation OR Financial Barriers	Unaware of the SILCTN App

TOP BARRIERS & SERVICE NEEDS

Transportation and financial resources are the two most-cited barriers to independent living, each named by 19 of 34 respondents (56%). Assistive technology and information/resources are the two most-requested IL services.

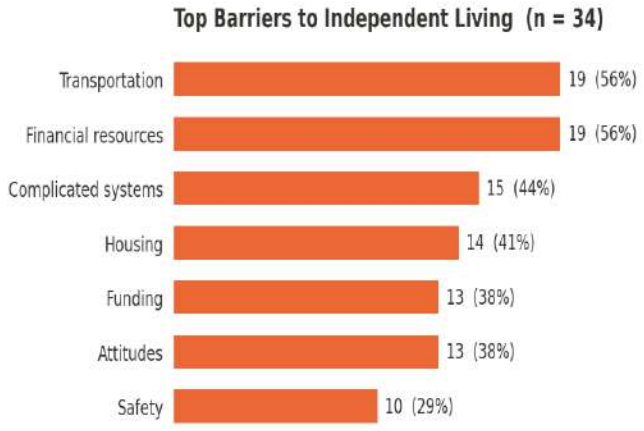


Figure 1. Barriers respondents face living independently.

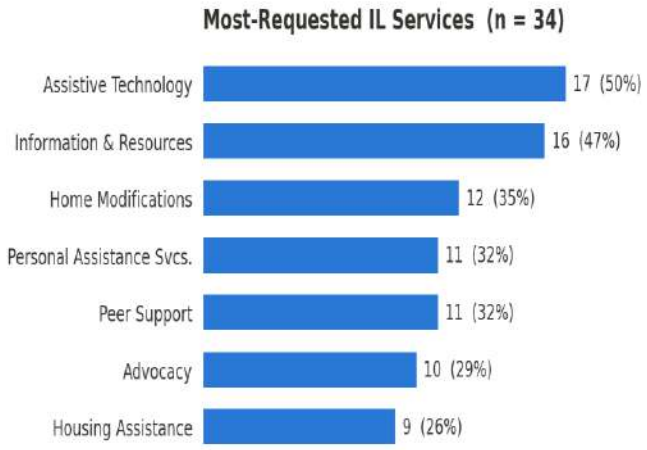


Figure 2. IL services respondents say they need it most.

KEY FINDINGS

- **56% of respondents** named Transportation and Financial Resources as barriers — tied as the top concern statewide, ahead of Housing (41%) and Funding (38%).
- **17 respondents** (41%) said they need Assistive Technology, the single most-requested IL service, followed closely by Information & Resources (47%).
- **Half (50%)** of respondents live in West Tennessee, more than Middle (35%) and East (15%) combined with East — a concentration worth checking against regional CIL capacity.
- **12 respondents** (35%) said they are not familiar with, or have not received services from, any CIL — a gap directly relevant to SPIL Goal 1 outreach objectives.

CORRELATING PATTERNS

Cross-referencing responses surface three patterns useful for SPIL planning: a regional concentration, a disability-to-service link, and a generational split in what people say holds them back.

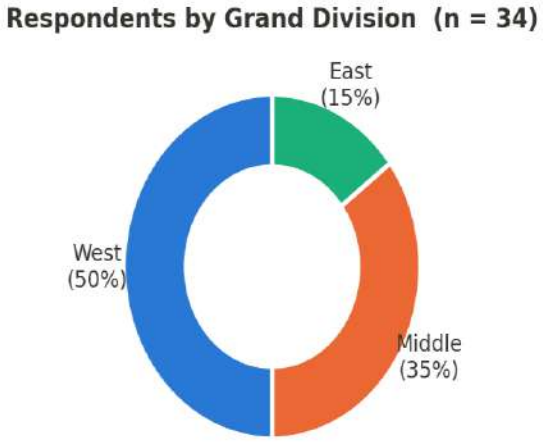


Figure 3. Respondents by grand division.

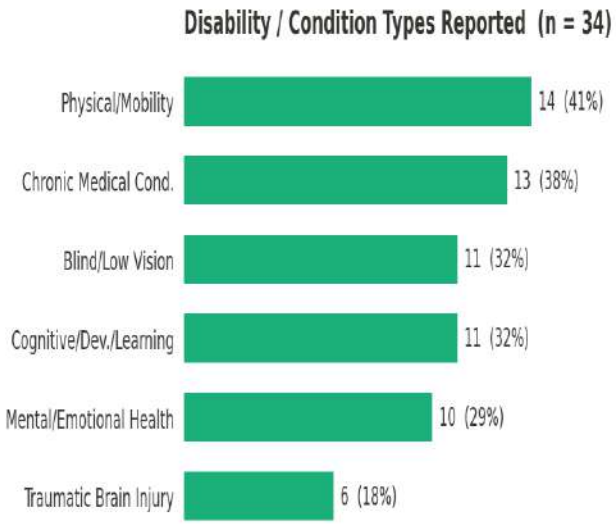


Figure 4. Disability/condition types reported.

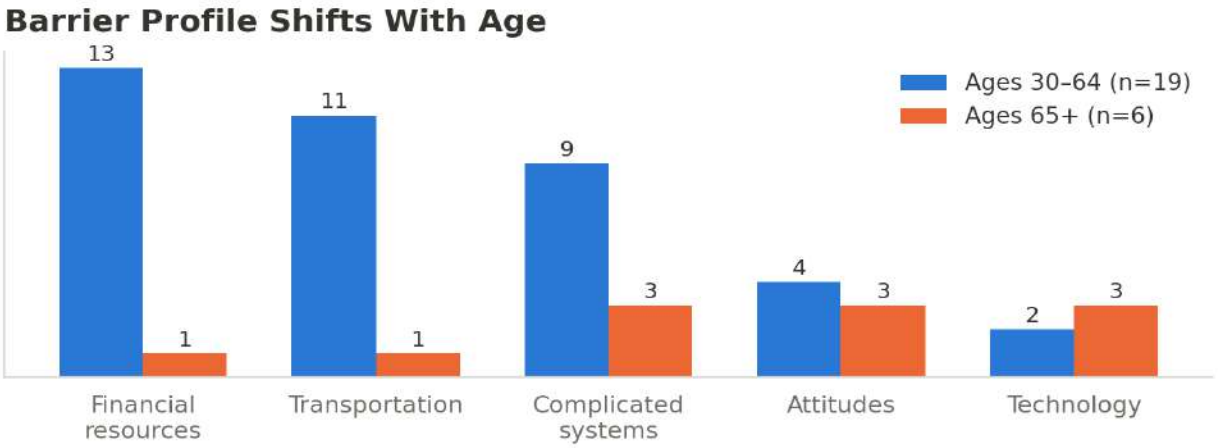


Figure 5. Working-age adults (30–64) point to financial and transportation barriers; older adults (65+) point more to attitudes, complicated systems, and technology

WHAT THE PATTERNS SUGGEST

- **41%** of respondents (14 of 34) report a physical/mobility disability, and this group's top requested services are Assistive Technology and Home Modifications — a direct, actionable pairing for CIL service planning.
- **Regional pattern:** Transportation and financial-resource strain appear across every region, but West TN respondents (n=17) report both at the highest raw counts — consistent with the network's largest response base coming from West TN CILs.
- **Age pattern:** younger and older respondents describe different obstacles than working-age adults: 65+ cite attitudes, systems complexity, and technology; 0–22 cite housing, safety, and funding — suggesting no single messaging or service approach fits all age groups.
- Beyond named barriers, several respondents raised a recurring theme in their own words: a desire for more innovative, better-evaluated programming and clearer proof that recurring services (e.g., disaster-preparedness and peer-support trainings) are producing measurable outcomes — a theme worth board discussion alongside the SPIL 1.4 Evaluation

Tennessee Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
Proposed Budget for Council Approval

Fiscal Year 2027 (October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027) |

Presented for approval at the Quarterly Meeting — August 14, 2026

The following proposed budget is submitted to the Council for review and approval. Figures reflect anticipated grant contract expenditures by line-item category for the upcoming fiscal year.

Expense Object / Line-Item Category	Grant Contract Amount
Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	$113,803.00
Professional Fees / Grant & Awards	$7,717.00
Supplies, Telephone, Postage & Shipping, Occupancy, Equipment Rental & Maintenance, Printing & Publications	$29,000.00
Travel, Conferences & Meetings	$41,000.00
Interest	$0.00
Insurance	$3,030.00
Specific Assistance to Individuals	$0.00
Depreciation	$0.00
Other non-personnel	$5,450.00
Capital Purchase	$0.00
Indirect Cost (% and method)	$0.00
In-Kind Expense	$0.00
GRAND TOTAL	**$200,000.00**

Notes:

1. Line-item categories reflect standard federal ILS PPR / SPIL grant expense object classifications.

2. All figures are proposed estimates and subject to Council approval and any subsequent budget amendment process.

Motion to Approve:

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Vote: ☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Tabled

Date: _____ Recorded by: _____

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF TENNESSEE

2027 Council Meeting Calendar — Vote Requested

Distributed at the Q4 2026 SILC Meeting

Council members: please review the proposed meeting dates below for each quarter of the 2027 program year and mark your preferred option in each section. Final dates will be confirmed by SILC leadership based on member availability and the vote totals collected today.

Before you vote, please note:

- Bellevue meetings (Q1, Q3, Q4) are held in person, with a virtual attendance option available.
- The Q2 meeting is planned as fully virtual due to historical winter-weather impacts in Tennessee.
- November 13, 2026, has been removed from consideration due to a conflicting NASILC retreat.
- August 13, 2027, is flagged as the typical date based on past council calendars.

- ***If no vote is taken during the quarterly meeting, a Microsoft Forum poll can go out Monday or is live now https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/ViiYNm74Xu***

Q1 — November 2026

Location: Bellevue (in person, with virtual option)

Vote	Proposed Date	Notes
	Friday, November 6, 2026	
	Friday, November 20, 2026	
	Friday, December 4th, 2026	

Note: *November 13 is NOT available due to a NASILC retreat conflict.*

Q2 — February 2027

Location: Virtual only - Jackson, TN (If it were in person)

Vote	Proposed Date	Notes
	Friday, February 5, 2027	
	Friday, February 12, 2027	
	Friday, February 19, 2027	
	Friday, February 26, 2027	

Note: *This meeting is planned to be fully virtual due to historical winter weather impacts across Tennessee during this window.*

SILC TN
STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF TENNESSEE

Q3 — May 2027
Location: Bellevue (in person, with virtual option)

Vote	Proposed Date	Notes
☐	Friday, May 7, 2027	
☐	Friday, May 14, 2027	
☐	Friday, May 21, 2027	

Q4 — August 2027
Location: Jackson TN (in person, with virtual option)

Vote	Proposed Date	Notes
☐	Friday, August 6, 2027	
☐	Friday, August 13, 2027	*Typical past date*
☐	Friday, August 20, 2027	

Note: *August 13 is the typical date based on past council calendars.*

Council Member Name (optional):

Thank you for helping set the 2027 council meeting calendar. A Microsoft Form will also be shared for members who wish to vote electronically.

Empower Tennessee
955 Woodland Street
Nashville, TN 37206
615-200-6028
www.empowertn.org

Report to the SILC
August 14, 2026

- Empower Tennessee serves the following counties in the Middle Tennessee area:
  - Cheatham
  - Davidson
  - Robertson
  - Rutherford
  - Sumner
  - Williamson
  - Wilson

- Ongoing Training Opportunities include:
  - Emergency Preparedness
  - Access Music City Blue Path Accessibility Surveys

- Ongoing Peer Support Groups include:
  - Empowered People (first Tuesday)
  - Empowered Book Club (second Tuesday)
  - Empowered People (second Wednesday)
  - Living Your Best Empowered Life (third Tuesday)
  - Empowered Rainbow Crew (third Thursday)
  - Empowered People (third Thursday)

- Empower Tennessee is collaborating with local venues to offer Access Music City Evenings -- opportunities for connection, inspiration, and fun where inclusion is celebrated. Events include opportunities to gather at the Frist Art Museum and Music City Chorus concerts. Empower Tennessee offers support to the venues in creating inclusive and accessible events. We offer support to our clients by lowering the barriers to participation such as helping with transportation to the event, orientation to the space, and reducing or eliminating admission fees.

- Empower Tennessee is preparing a new EmpowerCon on Mental Health. The first offering will be in the Fall of 2026.

JCIL Jackson Area Center for Independent Living

www.j-cil.net

JCIL Report-SILC Meeting--June 2026

Highlights of the first 9 months of this reporting period:

JCIL has served 514 consumers by providing 1,907 individual services. These services have allowed consumers to set 498 goals and achieve 264- the remaining 234 are in progress.

We have lent out 101 pieces of durable medical equipment from our lending library and built 42ramps.

University of Wyoming- Rural Health Pathways Project

JCIL participated in the Rural Health Pathway Project. We were randomly assigned "individual" sessions with participants either beginning immediately or delayed. The program includes 10 one on one sessions with each participant and focuses on creating and achieving goals. JCIL recruited 28 participants. By participating as a consultant JCIL received 20 hours of free staff training valued at $2,000, ongoing program support and based on our level of recruitment $7,000.

We held our annual ADA circus themed picnic- Live Under the Big Top. Consumers and community members had fun playing games, winning prizes, eating hot dogs and celebrating the ADA.

Upcoming Events

Summer Game Day -August 20

International Food Fest -September 26

Veterans Resource Fair -October 8

Insta Pot Cooking -October 17

Holiday Crafts and Bingo -November 10

November 17- Holiday Safety Open House at JCIL- Includes booths, information, cookies and hot chocolate!

December 5- Family Holiday Breakfast- Featuring the food, fun, crafts and the ever popular Big Guy himself and his band of elves.

Watch our Facebook, Instagram and website for additional events and dates including: cooking, estate planning, holiday crafts, emergency preparedness and more.

JCIL always looks for additional opportunities for collaboration and partnership in our community and specifically with the Independent Living centers and the 6 centers that provide Deaf, hard of hearing and Deaf/blind services across the state. We are all stronger when we work together and can learn from each of our strengths and past struggles.

DISABILITY RIGHTS TN

Increasing Opportunity. Strengthening Communities

Serving Every Tennessee County.

A snapshot of how Disability Rights Tennessee (DRT) creates opportunity, independence, and community for Tennesseans with disabilities through advocacy, education, outreach, investigations, and legal services.

TENNESSEE BY THE NUMBERS

160,000+
TENNESSEANS
Tennesseans living with a developmental disability

95
COUNTIES
Statewide reach, from Memphis to Mountain City

1.3
MILLION
Tennesseans have experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

35%
RURAL
More than one-third of Tennesseans live in rural counties

OUR TEAM: FUNDED BY ACL

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

> *I was very pleased with the advocates and the services received from DRT and their compassion.*
>
> – CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

DRT BY THE NUMBERS

49+
YEARS
Serving Tennessee

93
PERCENT
of clients say they would return to DRT for help

704
REQUESTS
for help through our four ACL-funded programs in FY25

83
VISITS
to facilities across Tennessee in FY25

OUR IMPACT HAPPENS IN MANY WAYS

- INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY
- MONITORING
- INVESTIGATIONS
- LEGAL REPRESENTATION
- OUTREACH & EDUCATION
- TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- POLICYMAKER EDUCATION & SYSTEMS ADVANCEMENT
- INFORMATION & REFERRAL

Behind every number is a Tennessean whose safety, rights, independence, and dignity matters.

HOW OUR WORK MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Someone needs help → They contact DRT → We listen → We help → Rights are protected → Communities become stronger

OUR REACH ACROSS TENNESSEE

From the Mississippi River to the Great Smoky Mountains, we serve all 95 counties to protect rights, expand opportunity, monitor living facilities, and support full community participation.

CONTACT US

1-800-342-1660

GetHelp@DisabilityRightsTN.org

DisabilityRightsTN.org

Disability Rights Tennessee (DRT) has offices in Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville. If you'd like to meet with us, please contact us to schedule an appointment.

Scan to learn more about our work.

STRONGER TOGETHER: FOUR PARTNERS. ONE VOICE.

A Collaborative Approach to Understanding and Improving Disability Systems in Tennessee

UTHSC CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES | DISABILITY RIGHTS TN | VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER for Research on Human Development | TN Council on Developmental Disabilities

The Tennessee Developmental Disabilities (DD) Network worked together to create the **nation's first** comprehensive, accessible, and replicable needs assessment that captures the voices of individuals with disabilities, families, and professionals across the state.

HOW WE WORKED TOGETHER

1. COLLABORATIVE PLANNING

Partners and stakeholders identified priorities, reviewed literature, and shaped the survey and focus group questions.

2. CO-CREATED TOOLS

Survey and focus group materials were drafted, piloted, and refined with input from individuals with disabilities and families.

3. ACCESSIBLE BY DESIGN

Multiple formats ensured everyone could participate: online, phone, or paper; Spanish; ASL videos; plain language; text-to-speech; and accommodations.

4. SHARED ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

Partners analyzed data together, integrated multiple perspectives, and aligned on actionable takeaways.

5. JOINT ACTION

Findings will guide system improvements, inform policy, and strengthen collaboration across the DD Network and statewide partners.

WHO WE HEARD FROM

A broad group of Tennessee citizens

322 Adults with Disabilities

693 Family Members

481 Professionals

Participants represented urban and rural communities across the state and a wide range of backgrounds.

1,496
Total Respondents

WHAT WE BUILT TOGETHER

A two-phase, mixed-methods needs assessment

PHASE 1: STATEWIDE SURVEY

Mixed-methods survey + focus groups

- Captured priorities, system experiences, and barriers
- Accessible to all

PHASE 2: REAL-WORLD INQUIRIES

Analysis of 1,400+ disability-related information & referral (I&R) inquiries

- Revealed real-time questions, navigation challenges, and help-seeking patterns

A SMARTER, MORE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES

- One coordinated process instead of four separate surveys
- Shared planning, data, and expertise
- Reduced duplication and administrative cost
- Stronger, more complete information for better decision-making

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Partnership leads to stronger results. Dived perspectives improved the relevance, accessibility, and credibility of the data.

Multiple data sources tell a fuller story. Combining statewide survey data with real-world inquiries provided a deeper understanding of needs and system barriers.

Community input drives action. Findings are already informing system improvements, policy priorities, and future initiatives.

This model is replicable. Other states can adapt this approach to engage their communities.

A MODEL OTHER STATES CAN REPLICATE

Our process is:

- ✓ **Collaborative** – Engage DD Network partners from the start
- ✓ **Inclusive** – Center the voices of individuals with disabilities and families
- ✓ **Accessible** – Use multiple formats to remove barriers
- ✓ **Efficient** – Share data, reduce duplication, maximize impact
- ✓ **Action-Oriented** – Turn input into meaningful change

The Tennessee DD Network shows what's possible when we listen together, learn together, and act together.

BRIDGING STATE GAPS. CONNECTING PEOPLE.

THE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITY SERVICES

The Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities administers the Leadership Academy, whose outcomes and impact are evaluated by the UTHSC Center on Developmental Disabilities UCEDD.

TN Council on Developmental Disabilities

UTHSC CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

A STATEWIDE INVESTMENT IN LEADERSHIP

The Leadership Academy for Excellence in Disability Services is the nation's first disability-specific training program in state government, designed to build the knowledge, skills, and partnerships that strengthen services and supports for Tennesseans with disabilities and their families.

YEAR-LONG EXPERIENCE

Delivered across six two-day bimonthly summits with 12 leadership competencies and cross-agency group projects.

SEVEN COHORTS

Since beginning in 2017, one hundred and seventy-eight state employees have participated in this unique leadership development program.

CROSS-AGENCY IMPACT

Graduates represent a wide variety of state agencies working together to improve programs and services for people with disabilities.

STRONG ENGAGEMENT

In 2022, forty-eight graduates completed a long-term evaluation survey to assess the lasting impact of this leadership program. The results are displayed below.

STATE DEPARTMENTS THAT PARTICIPATED

- TennCare (Medicaid)
- Department of Children's Services
- Department of Education
- Department of Disability and Aging
- Department of Health
- Department of Correction
- Department of Safety & Homeland Security
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
- Department of Transportation

KEY OUTCOMES

agreed or strongly agreed the training experience increased their **knowledge of disability service systems** within state government.

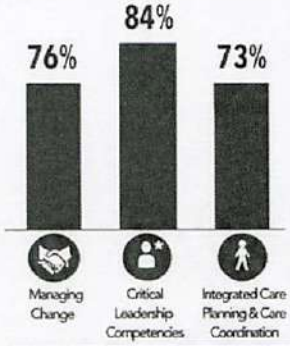
agreed or strongly agreed the training experience increased their **ability to advocate for themselves and others** effectively.

agreed or strongly agreed the training experience increased their **ability to LEAD in disability-related efforts** within their department or agency.

LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES IN ACTION

Graduates report using Academy competencies in their daily work.

COMPETENCIES USED DAILY



CONTRIBUTE MOST TO SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

WHAT GRADUATES ARE SAYING

"Even today, Charting the LifeCourse greatly informs my current work and helps me think about inclusivity from a more informed perspective."

"I appreciated the content from speakers related to person-centered practices and often consider, 'Would this be good enough for my loved one?' as a guidepost in my work."

"Due to the relationships that I developed, I have been more successful in connecting the individuals we serve to resources."

"Managing Change enables us to have a workplace that represents our community and understands how each of us contributes to identifying problems & working together to help those we serve in the state."

"The small group project was an outstanding opportunity to collaborate across agencies, build lasting professional relationships, and create solutions that improve services for Tennesseans with disabilities."

EVIDENCE. IMPACT. SCALING WHAT WORKS.

Our evaluation findings were published in the International Journal of Developmental Disabilities (2022) as a model for other states and communities seeking to build laalership capacity and strengthen sapacits for people with disabilities.

CONTINUE TO INVEST
Graduates report meaningful, lasting benefits that enhance their ability to lead, advocate, and improve systems.

EXPAND & STRENGTHEN
Broaden recruitment to additional agencies and early-career professionals to build a pipeline of future leaders and expand.

REFINE & EVOLVE
Incorporate feedback to deepen content, address implementation challenges, and ensure the Academy continues.

UTHSC

CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (UCEDD)

SHELBY COUNTY RELATIVE CAREGIVER PROGRAM

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. PREVENTING FOSTER CARE. IMPROVING OUTCOMES.

A **prevention-oriented** program of the UTHSC Center on Developmental Disabilities (**UCEDD**), serving kinship families across Shelby County.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

$5.1 MILLION
New Tennessee investment FY27–FY31

25+ YEARS
Continuous operation since 2001

9,500+ CHILDREN
Served since program inception

7,000+ FAMILIES
Supported since program inception

95%+
Of children remain safely out of state foster care

ORIGINAL TENNESSEE PILOT SITE
One of the state's longest-running and highest-performing kinship programs

WHY IT MATTERS

Keeping children safely with relatives is one of the most effective strategies for preventing unnecessary entry into foster care while preserving family relationships, school stability, and community connections.

- Promotes child well-being and healthy development
- Supports school stability and academic success
- Preserves family and community connections
- Reduces public costs and reliance on foster care systems

The Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program is a prevention program—not simply a social service program.

WHO WE SERVE

Children living with grandparents, aunts, uncles, adult siblings, and other relatives outside the formal foster care system.

AN IMPORTANT DISABILITY CONNECTION

A disproportionately high percentage of:

- **children served** have developmental disabilities, behavioral health conditions, or other special healthcare needs
- **older relative caregivers** experience disabilities, chronic medical conditions, or age-related functional limitations

This makes the program a natural extension of the mission of the UTHSC Center on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD).

HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Intensive case management
- Home safety and needs assessments
- Caregiver support groups
- Teen mentorship programming
- Family education and training
- Resource coordination
- Financial stipend administration
- Community partnerships
- Centrally located, accessible program space on the UTHSC campus

RECOGNIZED EXCELLENCE

- Nationally recognized as an Exemplary Program by ACL-funded kinship care technical assistance center
- Successfully re-awarded through a competitive statewide procurement
- Continuous UTHSC leadership since 2001
- Dedicated, fully accessible community service center on the UTHSC campus
- Strong partnerships across healthcare, education, government, and community organizations
- Built on evidence-based, prevention-oriented practice and data-driven outcomes

GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP SUPPORT NETWORK
A National Technical Assistance Center
EXEMPLARY
POLICY • PRACTICE • PROGRAM

OUR IMPACT PATHWAY: PREVENTION THAT WORKS

RELATIVE CAREGIVER → A child is cared for by a relative outside of state custody.

SUPPORT & SERVICES → Case management, training, resources, stipends, and ongoing support

STABLE FAMILY → Caregivers are strengthened. Children thrive at home.

CHILD REMAINS OUT OF FOSTER CARE → Safe, permanent connections. Better outcomes for life.

>95%
OF CHILDREN AVOID ENTRY INTO STATE FOSTER CARE
PREVENTION WORKS

STRONG FAMILIES. STRONG COMMUNITIES. STRONGER TENNESSEE.
The Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program is a proven investment in children, caregivers, and the future of our state.

Preventing foster care.
Empowering families.
Building brighter futures.

CHANGE IN ACTION

Partners in Policymaking 2025–2026

Scholars Gained Knowledge, Skills, and Confidence to Lead Systems Change Across Tennessee

TN Council on Developmental Disabilities

Partners in Policymaking is a leadership institute administered by the **Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities**, whose outcomes are evaluated by the **UTHSC Center on Developmental Disabilities UCEDD.**

UTHSC Center on Developmental Disabilities UCEDD

SIGNIFICANT GROWTH

Scholars showed statistically significant improvement in 11 of 13 outcomes.

TOP AREAS OF GROWTH (% IMPROVEMENT)

34%	33%	33%	31%	30%	28%
Influencing Policymakers	Knowledge of State Services	Accessing Services	Understanding Policy Impacts	Identifying Systems Change	Advocacy Skills

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

96%	100%	65%
said virtual sessions were worthwhile	said in-person sessions were worthwhile	preferred more in-person sessions

PROGRAM DELIVERY

100%	96%	96%	100%
said communication met their needs	satisfied with pre-recorded content	satisfied with the Google platform	who needed accessible materials said they met their needs

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

100% reported substantial satisfaction with the Partners project activity

91% said Charting the LifeCourse curriculum expanded their understanding of its relationship to advocacy

Partners in Policymaking is building a community of informed, confident leaders who are creating change for people with disabilities and families.

Experience. Knowledge. Action. Change.

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF TENNESSEE

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

THE STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF TN

will conduct its next quarterly meeting on

Friday, August 14th, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. CT
Comfort Suites Jackson I-40

It is located in Jackson, Tennessee.
Address: 61 Casey Jones Ln, Jackson, TN 38305

With a HYBRID option via ZOOM:

Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device.

Click here to register for the meeting to receive the Zoom link & calendar hold.
Or
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hx0PruANRLewkOaDwlay_w

Contact the SILCTN if you have any questions or need assistance or Accommodations.

At a minimum, all requests for accommodations must be received by the SILCTN within thirty (30) days.

SILCTN will always make its best effort to accommodate requests received closer to the meeting dates.

Edward Mitchell, M.B.A - Executive Director

Statewide Independent Living Council of Tennessee

Email: silcdirector@silctn.org Cell: 615-255-0283

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https://www.silctn.org/

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