



## **Independent Living Services for Minority Youth with Disabilities: Strategies and Successes**

March 22, 2022

### **Today's webinar**

- Discuss the importance of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in supporting youth with disabilities from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds (ages 14 to 24)
- Share highlights from the Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living (SCRS-IL)
- Gain the perspectives of youth about their experiences with SCRS-IL
- Invite audience Q&A

### **Host, panelists and facilitators**

Frank Martin, Mathematica Researcher

Rudy Contreras, SCRS-IL CEO

David Estrella, SCRS-IL Transition Director

Sharonlyn Harrison, MY-CIL Consultant for CIDNY

### **Panelists and facilitators (continued)**

Edgar Cantero, SCRS-IL consumer

Samantha Mendoza, SCRS-IL consumer

Brooke Curtis, ILRU associate Director for Training and Publications

### **Housekeeping items**

- CART captioning and ASL interpreters are available.
- We will have audience Q&A today. You may submit a question through:
- Zoom in the Q&A Tab
- Email to Jose Vega at [jose.vega@memorialhermann.org](mailto:jose.vega@memorialhermann.org)
- Submit questions anytime, but we will wait for our Q&A break to address them.

## **MY-CIL funding and disclaimer**

- Funding for MY-CIL is provided by the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project on Minority Youth and Centers for Independent Living at Hunter College, City University of New York.
- This project is jointly funded under grant number 90DPGE0013 as a cooperative agreement between the Office of Independent Living Programs and the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, both in the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- The contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Health and Human Services, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.

## **CILs and minority youth with disabilities**

- Many youth are potentially eligible for services:
- There are more than 2.4 million youth with a disability in the United States
- 44 percent of youth (aged 16-24) with a disability are from a racial or ethnic minority (~1.07 million)
- Nearly one-third (30 percent) of youth with a disability are neither working nor in school
- 40 percent of out-of-school youth with a disability are from a racial or ethnic minority

## **CILs and minority youth with disabilities**

- CILs play an essential role for youth with disabilities:
  - Transition is one of five core independent living services
  - Many CILs (40 percent) report most of their consumers are from racial or ethnic minority groups

## **MY-CIL Project**

- Research to generate new knowledge on effective CIL practices for out-of-school youth ages 14 to 24 from minority backgrounds
- Technical assistance to increase CILs' capacity to adopt evidence-based practices
- Learning collaboratives for CIL training, capacity building, and knowledge exchange
- Dissemination on promising and innovative practices
- Stakeholder advisory group to inform MY-CIL research and learning activities

## **Overview of SCRS-IL**

- SCRS-IL serves a racially and ethnically diverse consumer population in the California counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino
- SCRS-IL programs and practices support minority youth with disabilities, many of whom are out of school, through:
  - Employment collaborations with state agencies such as Vocational Rehabilitation and Developmental Disability Services
  - Educational collaborations with local colleges:
    - Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
    - Empowering Disability Groups Through Education (EDGE)

## **Panel discussion #1: SCRS-IL programs and engagement strategies**

How would you describe SCRS-IL's primary programs and your approach to staffing, collaboration, and program implementation for youth?

Who are the staff involved?

How do race, ethnicity, and language play a role in developing and delivering programs?

How do you access and engage youth, especially those out of school?

How does SCRS-IL collaborate with state and local agencies to work with youth with disabilities?

How are youth involved in SCRS-IL's program development?

How does SCRS-IL fund its activities?

What advice or lessons learned do you have for other CILs and their partners interested in implementing programs that are similar to those developed by SCRS-IL?

## **Panel discussion #2: Consumers' experiences with SCRS-IL youth and transition services**

Could you tell me what you enjoyed most about SCRS-IL's programs?

How did you find the CIL?

What did you know about independent living or CILs before you joined?

What was it about SCRS-IL and the programs that helped you grow as a person?

What do you think CILs could do to encourage youth and young adults to use CIL programs or activities?

What's next for you?

What are your plans moving forward?

## **Q & A with panelists**

Submit written questions for panelists using the Zoom Q&A tab.

Or email questions to Jose Vega at [jose.vega@memorialhermann.org](mailto:jose.vega@memorialhermann.org)

## **Thank you!**

For more information about MY-CIL, contact:

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<https://minorityyouthcil.com/>

For questions about today's webinar, contact:

Frank Martin

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## **Thank you!**

For questions about Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living contact:

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## **Thank you!**

Please complete our post-event questionnaire!

[https://uthtmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_00qoUg4XeCbEpRY](https://uthtmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_00qoUg4XeCbEpRY)

## **References**

### CIL service demographics

- ACL Annual Program Performance Report (2018). Retrieved from <https://agid.acl.gov/DataFiles/>

### Transition age youth population estimates

- Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, Erin Meyer, Jose Pacas and Matthew Sobek. IPUMS USA: Version 10.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V10.0>