



The Research and Training Center on
Promoting Interventions for Community Living

Introducing Home Usability Peer Network

Home Usability

Life starts at home.



The Research and Training Center on
Promoting Interventions for Community Living



The Meaning of Home

- Everything starts at home
 - Health
 - Employment
 - Social connection
- A home is not just a home
 - Home is about people
 - Home is about place
 - Home is an experience
- Homes can be places of trauma
 - Violence, neglect, pain/suffering



A House vs. A home

- A house is a form of shelter. A house is not necessarily a home.
- Housing is part of a broader a social policy system. We advocate for housing so that people can have homes.



Disability and Home Usability

- People with disabilities often have complex, often negative, experiences in homes that are not designed to suit their needs/abilities.
 - Injury
 - Indignity
 - Neglect
- Home Usability is about the interaction between an individual and their home environment.
 - Perceptions of self, identity, and home can change as experiences change.
 - Your ability to do the things you enjoy in your home impacts your feelings about yourself and your home.

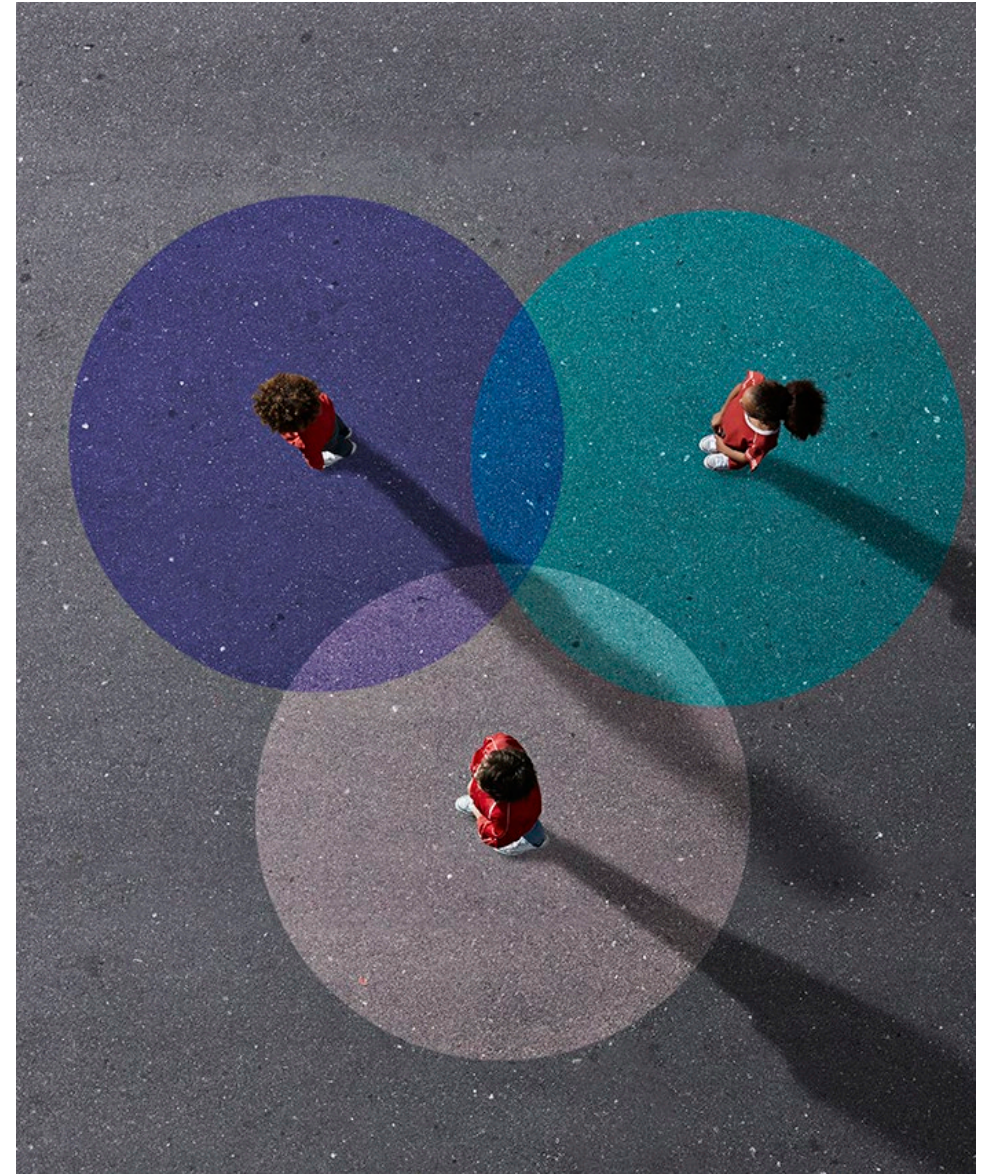


Usability vs. Accessibility

- Accessibility is a universal standard aimed at creating spaces that are suitable to a wide range of access needs.
 - Accessibility is a social policy focused on creating social change.
- Usability is about individual needs focused on personalized access solutions.
 - What is usable for one person may not be usable for another.
 - Something that is “accessible” may not be usable.
- Revisit the distinction between housing and home – both matter!
 - Accessibility is to housing as usability is to home...
 - We need to advocate for accessible housing (a systems level problem) as well as usable homes (at the individual level).

It's about choice and control

- Independence
 - Decision making/agency
- Dignity
 - Privacy
 - Quality and safety
 - Dignity at home can be lost and gained based on the built environment as well as interactions within the home
- Identity
 - Things – our stuff matters!
 - Activities – what we do (or can do) and with whom

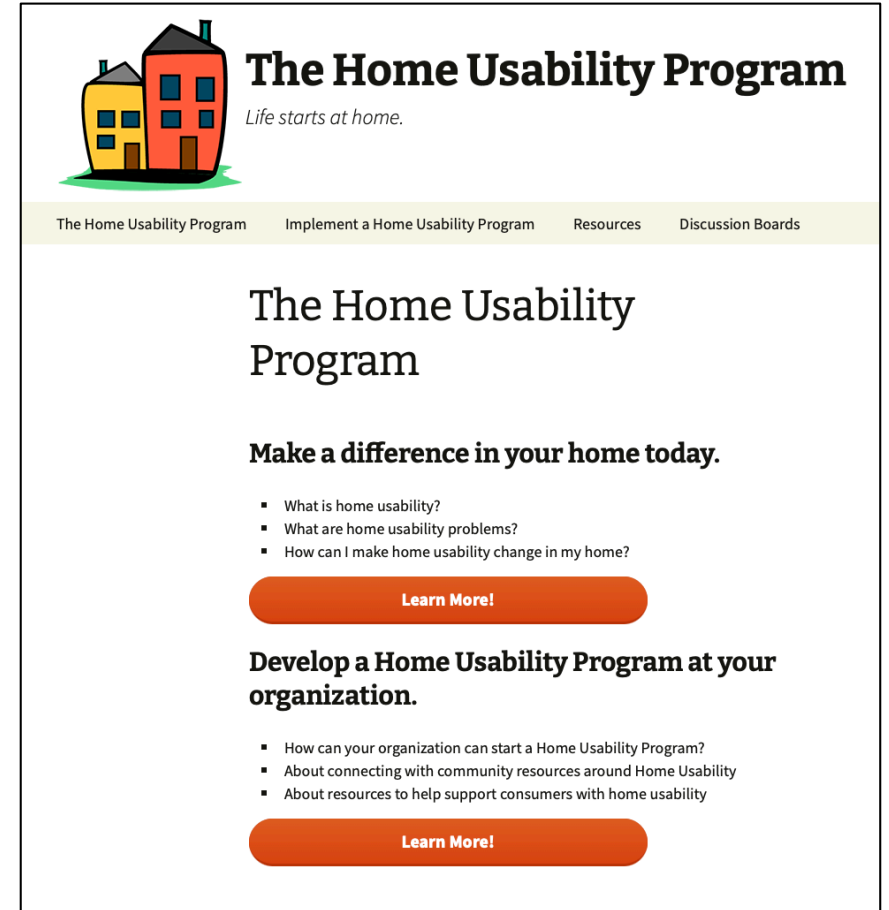


Home Usability in Action

- Home usability is relevant across programs and services
- Home usability issues can be addressed from different directions
 - Home modification
 - Assistive technology and Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
 - Personal Assistance Services
- Home Assessments
 - Broad usability assessments to determine needs and appropriate programs
 - Assessments to determine where people's independence, dignity and choice is being constrained/limited
 - The value of a home visit

The Home Usability Program (HUP)

- Program designed to support people with disabilities to identify and address their home usability needs.
- Program has been developed with and tested at Centers for Independent Living across the county.
- Contains assessments, resources and examples for identifying home usability problems and solutions.
- Contains resources and information for CIL staff trying to support the home usability needs of their consumers as well as strategies for supporting a home usability program at their center.



The screenshot shows the homepage of 'The Home Usability Program'. At the top left is a logo of two houses, one yellow and one red. To the right of the logo is the title 'The Home Usability Program' and the tagline 'Life starts at home.' Below this is a navigation bar with four items: 'The Home Usability Program', 'Implement a Home Usability Program', 'Resources', and 'Discussion Boards'. The main content area features the title 'The Home Usability Program' in a large font, followed by the heading 'Make a difference in your home today.' Below this is a list of three bullet points: 'What is home usability?', 'What are home usability problems?', and 'How can I make home usability change in my home?'. A red button labeled 'Learn More!' is positioned below the list. Further down is another heading: 'Develop a Home Usability Program at your organization.' followed by a list of three bullet points: 'How can your organization can start a Home Usability Program?', 'About connecting with community resources around Home Usability', and 'About resources to help support consumers with home usability'. A second red button labeled 'Learn More!' is located at the bottom of this section.



www.useablehome.com



Housing and Home Usability at CILs

NCIL Housing Program Survey

- Aims of the Survey:
 - Gain data about how many CILs have home modification programs across the United States
- Of the 59 CILs that responded to the survey:
 - 41 (70%) reported having a formal home modification program
 - 18 (30%) reported **NOT** having a formal home modification program

Costs and funding

- 98% of CILs reported that an average home modification takes 6 months or less to complete
- CILs also reported the average cost of home modifications:
 - \$1,000 - \$5,000 (36%)
 - \$500 - \$1,000 (21%)
 - Under \$500 (19%)
 - \$5,000 - \$10,000 (19%)
 - \$10,000 - \$20,000 (5%)
- Typical funding sources:
 - Other nonprofit funds (47%)
 - CIL funds (45%)
 - Local government funding (45%)
 - Community Development Block Grants (42%)
 - Medicaid Waiver (34%)
 - Veterans Affairs (16%)
 - Rural Housing Repair Loan (5%)
 - Other (9%)

Barriers and factsheet

- Of the CILs that reported NOT having a home modification program:
 - 73% were interested in developing a home modification program, but identified barriers to beginning:
 - Lack of funding (53%)
 - Lack of staffing (20%)
 - Unsure how to begin program (13%)
- Conducted follow-up interviews with CIL staff
 - Documented home modification programs in greater detail
 - [Developed “best practices guide”](#)

Home Usability as a framework for services

- Home usability as a holistic approach to IL services
 - Personal care assistance
 - Transition and diversion
 - IL Skills development
- Life starts at home
 - Community inclusion/participation starts at home
 - Housing first models
- Home Usability on intake, integrated into IL planning and referral services

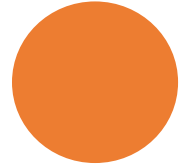




Home Usability Evaluation Capacity Building

- How to measure and communicate the outcomes and impacts of home usability
- To support CILs in developing strategies for program sustainability
- Stay tuned!

A Home Usability Peer Network



- Let's learn from each other!
 - Proposing a monthly peer network call focused on Home Usability coordinated by NCIL and PICL!
- What strategies have worked for you in cross-CIL networking?
- What tools do you need to do the work?
- What specific topics would you like to learn more about?





So, what is
next!?