MARY-KATE WELLS:   
One moment, just assigning the captioner. Just going to give them a moment, if you could give me a thumbs up we are good? OK, awesome. OK, hi everyone! Thank you for being patient with us, this afternoon. I wanted to welcome everyone today for joining our kickoff for the home usability peer network.   
  
I'm really excited to have you all join. My name is Mary Kate Wells. I am the Program Director at the National Council on Independent Living. Or NCIL. I will be facilitating today's webinar. Today we will be introducing the home usability peer network which is a partnership with the research and training center on promoting interventional community living, or PICL.   
  
Will be talk about usability and how you can participate in the peer network that is starting in January to share resources and you know, get tools for developing a home usability program or home modification program at your center.   
  
So first, some housekeeping details. For a visual description of myself I use she/her pronouns, I am a white female, with short reddish hair wearing a black sweater. Captioning are available today which we've got those up and going, so if you click "show subtitle" in your zoom menu you can turn them on.   
  
We also have captions running through Ai-Media. Which I'm actually going to put in the chat right now, because... Alright, there we go. So, if you click on the link in the chat you will be able to enlarge the font, change color and contrast for the captioning.   
  
We will also have ASL interpreters present today, and they should always be visible on your screen. If you cannot see the interpreters, please let us know and we will pause and make sure that you are able to see that.   
  
You don't need zoom video, your video on today, we will read all the contents on the webinar slides. And so that if you are calling in you will be able to participate. We do have public chat on, so we just ask you remain polite and aware of what you are putting in the chat and we have a zero tolerance policy for any discriminatory or offensive chat posts.   
  
Today we are using a webinar style format, but going forward in our peer network calls we will be using a traditional meeting style for zoom, so that there will be plenty of opportunities to engage with your peers. Today, to engage there's a couple ways you can do that. You can use a Q&A feature at the bottom of your screen. You can use the chat, then you could also email me questions if you have any. My email is mary-kate@ncil.org, and I will put that in the chat as well.   
  
If you are on the phone today, you may also press star nine to indicate that you have a question and star six to unmute yourself. We ask that if you are going to be asking a question that you limit your question to no more than 30 seconds.   
  
At the end of the presentation we will have up to 20 minutes of discussion and this is really where in true IL style, we want to hear from you and what you will find beneficial for this, right? It's kind of our goal.   
  
At the end of the webinar there will be a server that pops up, that really is just an opportunity if you want to participate in the peer network, please fill that out. Or if you want updates on Windows are happening, just fill that out and that will let us know you are interested in any of that information.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Mary Kate, real quick, this is Kelsey. There was a Q&A chat from Mackenzie Martin that says the chat is disabled. I wanted to mention that in case...   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
Thank you for that, I appreciate that. So, when our first presenter is speaking I will work to get the chat working. Just mindful of time, and if not for right now you can also use the Q&A in the meantime. OK, so we have a packed agenda so I'm going to hand it off to Gloria Nichols, cochair of the housing advocacy subcommittee, really to connect why this program and how this program can really help support a lot of the housing issues and priorities that I know many of your communities and consumers are facing day-to-day in this housing environment. So without further redo, Gloria? You are ready to go, go ahead.   
  
GLORIA GARTON:   
Thank you Mary Kate, as Mary Kate mentioned I'm one of the cochairs of housing advocacy subcommittee. Debbie Fidler who is in Oklahoma is also my cochair, and we host monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month.   
  
And let me go back to, I'm actually an Executive Director of the SI LC in both Carolina and my pronouns are she and her. I am a white female in my mid-50s and have been working at IL for over 15 years. Housing has always been an issue, I was first a center direct their and from day one that I stepped into my office, we were a new Center for Independent Living in Bloomington, housing was at the forefront of many of the challenges that consumers are having to be able to live independently and stay housed. In that situation unfortunately has only worsened over time.   
  
The housing advocacy subcommittee is addressing two main areas this year, as you can imagine, there are so many aspects of housing that we can't quite tackle all of the problems that exist. So, we have narrowed it down to two areas for this year.   
  
We will change priorities or readjust priorities after the NCIL conference, that's when we usually look at, in October, September or October, what we want to focus on for the coming year. Currently our focus is looking at the housing standards in the Section 504.   
  
As you know, they are looking at 504 and other aspects, housing I am told is on the radar, but for the housing advocacy committee, what we are asking committee members to do is to talk with their local public housing authorities and gather information on how they are enforcing those standards, especially when it comes to if someone is applying for a rental unit in the need an accessible unit, and one is not available, what is their process and are they following the regulations?   
  
Or secondly if they have moved into one of the units and later find that they need an accessible unit, how they are handling the wait list and are they enforcing-- are they following the process required by Section 504? And of course we know across the board, there are some enforcement issues.   
  
The other issue that we are looking at is the definition of homelessness. And how that definition is interpreted not only by local continuum of carers and prioritizing individuals to get on your local continuum of care waitlist, especially for individuals who can't access a homeless shelter for various health reasons or maybe the homeless shelter is not even accessible, which we all know that happens.   
  
But I just want to say those of the two issues that we are looking at a long with having them look at the definition of homelessness to include somebody who is living in a nursing home. So that is our focus along with any legislative topics that come into the NCIL office related to housing. Jessica will submit to us and talk about it and provide feedback, when requested.   
  
So, the importance of the housing advocacy subcommittee in relation to this new peer network to talk about home usability is to hear firsthand what Centers for Independent Living and even SILCs because a lot of SILCs have estate plan for living in one's working on their State Plan for Independent Living so please keep that in mind as you are working towards your new plans. But I just wanted to say that this home usability peer network can be valuable for helping the housing advocacy subcommittee to kind of define what our overarching he legislative advocacy issues should be. Moving forward. And what we can be doing to talk to our elected officials not only on a national level but also within your own states and local level.   
  
So if you are interested in joining the NCIL housing subcommittee, you will go to the membership portal on the NCIL website and make a request to join the subcommittee, and we will follow up with you and answer any additional questions you might have and talk about the committee itself and expectations and then you will receive an invitation to join the committee.   
  
So if anybody has any questions, feel free to put those in the child or question and answer, and I am really looking forward to this new home usability network. I think we are going to hear not only where the challenges are but some of the other great things that Centers for Independent Living are doing across the country, which I know we will hear more about shortly. So thank you.   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
Thank you so much, Gloria. And we will be answering questions at the end. And I love that we are talking about these big system advocacy issues, so something we hope with this peer network is also to see what we can do on the day today at our centers and how we can help consumers right now as we are working on these larger systems issues.   
  
So I'm going to hand it off to Kelsey Goddard and she will be introducing what home usability is for those that don't know, so let me share my screen. Alright. Go ahead, Kelsey.   
  
KELSEY GODDARD:   
And actually Mary Kate, I think this is on presenter view, if you could maybe swap displays.   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
I will work on that.   
  
KELSEY GODDARD:   
That's fine, I will introduce myself. So I am Kelsey Goddard, I'm a white woman I use she/her pronouns, I have long brown hair, I am in my 30s and I am wearing a yellow comfy sweater today. So I kind of want to introduce a little bit of who I am too, I'm a researcher at the University of Kansas and I've been doing home usability work for the last 10 years now.   
  
I started as a graduate student and really doing research looking at the effect of home modification program that was implemented at a Center for Independent Living, and studying effects that it had on consumers lives.   
  
And really, through that work I've gotten to where we are today, which is we've talked to CILs after we've done this research and we've been hearing from CILs is that they want to peer network where they can learn from each other about different funding opportunities for home usability solutions in their areas, about different strategies that they can work with with consumers to implement home usability solutions with consumers. So that's kind of how I've gotten here today and why we are here today and I did want to acknowledge support. We do have a funder, the national Institute on disability, independent living in Rehabilitation Research or NIDILRR, who has funded the work we have done with the home usability program that I will be talking about in just a little bit.   
  
And also this initiative today, that's the one fully funding this webinar series, so we can start to talk with each other, so thank you very much to NIDILRR! Next slide, please. So I want to start with the fundamental question. What does home mean to you? For many it is a sanctuary. A place of comfort and security. Home is where everything starts, our health, our employment, social connections, a home is not just the physical space, it's about people, it's about place, it's about experiences, yet for others it can be a source of struggle. Especially when the home environment doesn't align with individual needs. It's important to recognize that homes can also be places of trauma, violence neglect and suffering.   
  
The house provides shelter but home is so much more. It is where memories are created in stories are told. It's about feeling safe and nurtured, as advocates for housing and Disability Rights are committed to ensuring that housing is more than just a shelter. It should be a part of a broader social system that allows people to thrive in their homes. Next slide, please.   
  
For people with disabilities, the concept of home usability takes on an even greater significance. Imagine facing barriers in your own home every day, be it steps that are hard to navigate, doors that are too narrow or bathrooms that are not safe. I myself am a wheelchair user and I experience these things daily.   
  
Many people with disability face challenges in their homes that are not designed for their needs, leading to injury, indignity and neglect. These challenges can lead to a lack of dignity. Next slide please. When we talked about making homes more livable we often hear about accessibility and usability. While these terms are related they are not the same.   
  
Accessibility is the universal standard for creating spaces suitable for a wide range of needs, think wheelchair ramps, grab bars and lever handles. Usability on the other hand focuses on individual needs and personalized access solutions. What is usable for one may not be usable for another. We advocate for accessible housing as well as usable homes. Next slide, please.   
  
The heart of home usability is choice and control. Imagine having the freedom to cook in your own kitchen, bathe independently, move around your home without assistance. These are fundamental rights, not luxuries. They represent the center of independence privacy and respect. Dignity at home can be lost or gained based on built environment and interactions within the home. Through thoughtful design and mindful modifications we can help individuals reclaim these basic but essential aspects of life. Next slide, please.   
  
Home usability is relevant across various programs and services. This includes modifying homes to make them more navigable, integrating assistive technologies for greater economy and providing personal assistance services for daily tasks. Through broad usability assessments we can determine needs and appropriate programs, focusing on where people's independence, dignity and choice are being constrained are limited. Next slide, please.   
  
So through the NIDILRR funded project I described we developed a home usability program is an online resource for CIL staff to support people with disabilities in identifying and addressing their homes usability needs. The home usability program was developed and tested in collaboration with Centers for Independent Living across the country.   
  
The resources available through the program include home assessment worksheets, funding resources and examples for identifying home usability problems and solutions. It also provides resources and strategies for CIL staff to support the home usability needs of their supporters. Next slide, please.   
  
If you're interested in learning more about the home usability program is a resource visit usable home.com, this website is a treasure trove of information and resources that can guide you and support people in making their homes more accessible and useful. Now I want to hand things over to my colleague, Lily who will be leading a discussion about establishing a peer network for CILs across the country to further support our housing and home usability.   
  
LILY:   
hi everyone, thanks Kelsey, I'm so happy to be able to work with you on this project. My name is Lily Greimen I use she/her pronouns, and Kelsey and I are twinning with matching sweaters on today.   
  
I wanted to transition to talk a bit about what we've learned from centers of the years of doing this project. I want to say like Kelsey I started as a graduate student and was able to come up to working on this project and she and I have essentially been working on this together for almost 10 years. Which is kind of mind blowing to me.   
  
So, I'm so excited to get this project to this state and really be bringing it to the community and continuing to learn. And that's something that I think is important for me to say too, is the develop of this project over the last decade has been really participatory, has involve the work of and been influenced by centers, I think we've counted something like 15 different Centers for Independent Living over the course, maybe more, between developing the program, implementing it and testing it and I think some folks are on the call today which is really exciting. So let's go to the next slide.   
  
I'm at the University of Montana, this is a collaboration, a massive collaboration with Centers for Independent Living all over the place with the University of Kansas, PICL project with the University of Montana, and it's been really really fun. So I wanted to talk a little bit about the project we worked with with NCIL a couple of years ago now where we surveyed CILs across the country to understand what our Centers for Independent Living doing regarding in their housing work, so we really wanted to gain data about how many CILs have whole modification programs across the United States, and I'm going to put the link to this, hopefully if I find it amongst my millions of tabs. I'm going to put the link to- oh my gosh, maybe I'm not.   
  
Someone will find it probably and put the link in, oh no, I found it. I'm going to share the link in the chat so you can download the fact sheet that came out as this. But really the aim of the study was to understand how many CILs have home modification programs and learn about the services they provide. We have about 59 centers that responded, a decent sample we have 41 or about 70% reported having a formal home modification with 30% not having a formal home modification program so we were really able to understand what does that look like. Next slide.   
  
And really a lot of the focus on that is cost and funding and I imagine that's going to be a lot of the conversations that we have in our peer network as well. But we ask also about the time, the amount of money, where the funding comes from, so really we learned that of all the centers that reported, 98% reported that it took less than six months or so to complete a home modification. Which is a lot shorter than it takes to get housing if you are on a housing waitlist, so there is that to think about. This is a tool and a strategy you can use to help support people while they are perhaps waiting to get into a more appropriate, fully accessible home.   
  
CILs also reported a wide range of cost for modifications, so we had projects that range from under $500 up to $20,000, people were reporting. But really what you see in the data is there's a substantial amount, nearly 50% or so, or slightly, 40%, are reporting that costs are under $1000, which is kind of not the standard I think when people think home modifications, often you think of bathroom remodel lower you know, a full â€“ some of these things that can be really costly but what we've discovered in part of this project is identifying that there are kind of lower costs, more accessible solutions for people that you could start working on that can make a substantial difference right now. While you are working towards maybe making changes.   
  
So some typical funding sources, we saw a lot centers are using their own funds, are using government funding, block grant funding, Medicaid waivers, money from the VA, rural housing loans, and then a variety of other funding. I think the fact sheet goes into a couple of those sources and we have these resources as well on the home usability website which we really really encourage everyone to visit and check out. Let's go to the next slide.   
  
Alright, so we also as was mentioned, there were 30% of the CILs reported not having a formal home modification. But I think we are interested potentially in learning how, and that's one of our goals and thoughts with the home usability program is that this is a way - of potential entry point - into doing more different types of housing work at your center. So of those 30%, 73% were interested in developing a home modification, but were concerned, right? How do we fund this? How do we staff it? How do you begin?   
  
So, these are really big questions and questions we hope the peer network and start to work together to ask and learn from each other about how you started it, where did the funds come from, how much staff time did this take? And so, NCIL conducted some follow-up interviews with CIL staff to document and understand their programs in more detail and kind of put together this test practice guide, and again that is the link that is in the chat that I recommend everyone check out.   
  
I also wanted to say some of the slides that Kelsey was going through earlier around the meaning of home are really diving into what is home usability and why does it matter, those are also available on the usable home website. And I can direct folks, we can direct folks may be to where that is, put it in the chat when we are having a discussion.   
  
Because some of that might be a good way to start talking about and thinking about home usability users in your center, that is not necessarily just to grab bar or bathroom remodel, we are trying to take a more holistic approach on how to improve people's homes in living spaces. Next slide.   
  
And oh I set myself up. That we are really viewing home usability is a framework for providing services and this is what we are starting to hear from centers we've been talking to more and more is that home usability really allows you to take a holistic approach, that it really intersects with personal care assistance, you know, there may be something that while you are also waiting to find or struggling to find a personal care attendant, you can access a bit of assistive technology or make changes within your homes you could either reprioritize what assistance you need or make could do better while you are waiting.   
  
Additionally, credibly important for transition and diversion transitioning into a home that suits your needs is critical to prevent a return to an institution, then of course understanding as you age in your home or as you are living in a space what needs to happen to prevent you from going to an institution, to keep you staying at home and healthy and happy.   
  
And in addition it intersects really well with IL skills of element, specifically talking about cooking, cleaning, kind of those daily self-care tasks and things like that. And really the origin of this, for all of it is this understanding that community starts at home.   
  
Community inclusion and participation starts at home, you have to in order to fully participate and be a member of your community, you need a place to return to that is safe and secure for you, and really building off of these housing first models we are talking about, we are talking about folks who are on house for example, that you need housing before you can find a job, for example. Or, get healthy. So really, home usability, we've talked to some centers who are really exporting this idea of performing some sort of home usability assessments, we hope to learn more to the network on intake of a new consumer, of asking questions about someone's home as part of a general intake process and understanding how that may interface and interact with the other services that they may be seeking. Next slide.   
  
And then I want to give just a little plug and we will hear more about this I think in our network calls, but currently there's kind of a new grant through a different grant, a new phase of home usability where we are conduct thing and evaluation of centers who are implement in home usability programs, and its really focused on how can centers evaluate their own work.   
  
How do you, with the long-term goal of funding, how do you fund this? How do you convince a community that home usability matters? How do you convince funders that this something consumers really need? One way to do this is to start gathering data on your own programs and the impact that those programs are having on people's lives. So we've developed-- we are working right now with a couple of CILs we are hoping to work with a total of seven over the next few years to help set and measure your own home usability outcomes and develop communication plans and strategies for communicating that issue out. To your local community, to grant funders, and really hopefully keep the program sustainable over time. So stay tuned on that we will definitely be talking about that more in our peer network calls that we will have coming up.   
  
So I'm super excited about continuing-- having the opportunity to continue this work and sharing these stories. We've really heard as part of the-- here, let's go to the next slide before go down a rabbit hole but I think I know what it is. Yeah, we really have heard through some of the evaluation and share some of the research papers that we have done in some of the other presentations, they are also available on the home usability website about the impact that the program has had, so we were able to test the program across four Centers for Independent Living, we interviewed 70 consumers total and learn from them about what the impact was.   
  
In every home usability program that we worked on for that was under $300 or $350 and below and it was really life-changing for some folks. And to be able to share the stories and say it doesn't cost a lot of money when you ask people what they need and help support them to get what they need it really can make a difference and change someone's life. And so we have some other information on that and again encourage everyone to go to the website.   
  
Yeah, I think I see some stuff in the chat, we will put our contact up and we will have opportunities for everyone to get involved in the peer network, this is how you are going to be able to do it, so we are here to talk about home usability peer network and like Kelsey said that's really what we've been hearing from folks, we've been on some other projects were really the most amazing thing is bringing CIL staff together, bringing everyone together to hear about what works and how does it work.   
  
You know, so many centers are doing housing work it often when you are in an organization and you are doing, you know, you are in your lane, right? You are working, you do this, you XYZ and everyone else that your center is doing all sorts of other wonderful amazing work that they are in their lanes, sometimes it can start to feel a little isolating.   
  
But you are not isolated, you are working in the same lane as a ton of other people at centers across the country. So for a few different areas we've scene this bringing people together around this shared projects has been incredibly valuable, and we really want to bring people together, hear what they are doing, have some focused topical conversations about what y'all are doing and hopefully be able to integrate some of that into the home usability website, thinking the home usability website is definitely alive, it is a living thing, things are falling off and coming back on all the time, so we want to encourage that and bring more resources and encourage people to get together. So with that I think we have 20 minutes, which is wonderful, to hear from you all about how you think this might work.   
  
So I want to say we are proposing to maybe have a monthly call focused on home usability, it would be facilitated, coordinated with Kelsey and I and Mary Kate and others at NCIL and we really want to hear from you.   
  
Not necessarily right now about home usability or the housing programs that you work with because we're going to have a ton of opportunities to discuss that more, but we are hoping to know right now is how can we make a network, a peer network, work for you? What are examples that have worked for you in the past? In terms of coming together, in terms of, you know, even meeting structure. What topics specifically would you like to learn more about? Or would you like focused conversations on specific topics? And that will be in the survey that Mary Kate posts in the chat, and we are going to send it out to everyone who registered to do because I know not everyone who registered is able always to be on the call. So we will have an opportunity to learn from you too about what she would like that to look like.   
  
I'm hoping maybe we can just posit here and see. I would love to hear from folks about their experiences have been in coming together, yeah, to do this. I don't know what the protocols are for muting and on muting so I'm going to turn it back to Mary Kate for that.   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
I'm also going to stop recording at this point so we can have this peer discussion. OK, yes, like Lillie was saying we want to hear from you. So if you have questions or ideas on how this might be useful to you or what you want out of this, you can put that in the chat or Q&A. Or you can also raise your hand by clicking the raise hand button at the bottom and I will unmute you. I see Michael has a hand up so I'm going to... Give me one second, Michael. I'm going to allow you to talk, so you can unmute.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Hello, my name is Michael Astley from disability network capital area from Lansing Michigan, can you hear me?   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
Yes, we can hear you.   
  
SPEAKER:   
I thrive particularly on the support of others who have gone through similar experiences within the housing fields and desire to modify for clients. I like really sharing ideas. I certainly don't have any of the best ideas, I would really like my peers to help me out trying to create a good network, you know, at our CIL here in our community.   
  
LILLIE GREIMAN:   
That is-- this is Lillie, do you have more, I will pause?   
  
SPEAKER:   
No.   
  
LILLIE GREIMAN:   
I don't see the interpreter anymore. But that is really great to hear.   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
We are going to continue with interpreting if possible   
  
LILLIE GREIMAN:   
I got it.   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
Sorry, multitasking.   
  
LILLIE GREIMAN:   
Thank you, thank you so much. Michael that is exactly what we are hoping that we can get. That we can build a community of folks who are doing some similar work and want to both share their experiences, share their successes and also share maybe some of the challenges that you've experienced in implementing a program.   
  
And specifically in, I think what we've heard a lot and some of the feedback we received already is challenges in identifying funding. I think I will just say a thought I think that's going to be core focus of probably a couple of calls, so would really invite folks who have examples of successes that they've had in alternative for novel sources of funding, particularly around some of the barriers folks can see in finding and being eligible for certain services, which I did see there was a question about that in the Q&A.   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
Yeah, and I would just like to add, and we hope that both centers that are newer or maybe don't have a ton of existing home modification or home usability services and those with established programs, because I think there's a lot of value to having both of you in whatever, wherever you are in the stage of housing programming, we think definitely it would be important that everyone join.   
  
So I'm going to take a look at the-- we have two questions, two in the chat one in the Q&A, in the chat there is a question, thank you for initiating this venture, may I ask, Lily, how did you define formal home modification programs in the survey reference, and are there examples of how that looked at different centers?   
  
We will be after this webinar, sending out all the resources mentioned. I don't know if you want to address this quickly, or?   
  
LILLIE GREIMAN:   
I think that - this is Lillie - this is a potentially good topic to jump into with our peer sessions because the survey was designed by NCIL with input from us, and I haven't looked at it in a while, I just kind of revisited some of the data, so I it was pretty loose though, I think this was a self-report, it wasn't strict, is just around, I think the question was housing services, right? So that could've been advocacy, we had a couple options for that, so I absolutely share that information and I will put my email also in the chat. And I think we have contact information may be a slide we could bring back up and I could turn-- I don't know what I should do for my video.   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
I would stay on, we can pull that up in a second.   
  
LILLIE GREIMAN:   
I wanted to also mention I already see a bit of peer network happening in the chat, thanks Hank for reaching out and suggesting. I was thinking the Michiganders can get together to talk about this and we would love also to hear, this is something too from the SILC level or state coordination levels are there programs or ways that CILs are connecting across the state to reach more consumers through this kind of housing work.   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
I see Jeremy you have your hand up, do you want to just address the question in the chat â€“ sorry, Q&A? In this question might be a topic or something to table for the peer network, but Lori asked, can a person who lives in a home that is held in an your revocable trust qualify for home modification program? I think that would be a great peer question.   
  
I don't know if we have too much knowledge on that to provide info for now but if anyone else wants to put in the chat, if they are able to answer Lori's question. If not we will definitely take that question back to our peer call.   
  
LILLIE GREIMAN:   
I will just quickly say as a response to that, this is Lillie, I think that's an excellent question at its one of the things, yes and no is probably the answer, it would depend on the program. So for our home usability program it's just something you can take and implement and utilize the resources however it works for you. Generally those kind of eligibility requirements are set by a funding source, so where is that money coming from? And that is something that I think understanding, we have encountered this in the past which is mismatching where you live in one community because of geographic location you may not be eligible because of XYZ.   
  
And we are thinking for home usability specifically we are talking about a small amount of money and really removing eligibility, like you are eligible if you need this, if this is something you say you need in your home, so that's what our ultimate goal is and communicating the value and importance of choice and control and letting people share what it is that they need in their home, so hopefully we can start having some of those kinds of conversations.   
  
And we've got lots of good emails for folks to reach out to in the chat will stop appreciate that.   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
So, Jeremy has his hand up-- their hand up, I will allow them to talk. Jeremy, you can unmute.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Can you hear me?   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
Yes we can hear you.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Jeremy Maxand, from the Boise Center for Independence living, we work with a little nonprofit, statewide nonprofit called the Idaho Access project which gives a tool for center staff and consumers around the state to engage statewide on some of these issues like accessible neighborhoods, housing, all that sort of stuff, and this might be a bit of an ambitious goal, but in terms of home modification, it would also be good-- home modifications are good, they are important especially with older housing stock, but it would be super helpful for us to also discuss kind of the next step beyond home mods, which I'm assuming is like universal design or visit ability.   
  
We've been trying for four years trying to increase the number of homes being built, single-family homes, and track housing develop ones. There's a lot of housing develop is happening in Idaho and every day we see new homes built in those homes are going to last for 100 years, roughly, and none of them are built with a zero step entry or 32 inch wide doors.   
  
So, the amount of housing stock now and in the future that is accessible is getting smaller and smaller and smaller, and the cost to modify homes is just going to go up. So it would be helpful for us to not have to re-create every tool in the toolbox, you know, to know what studies have been out there, what case examples, what states have passed what laws, in Idaho we can't really pass laws that can tell a builder what they have to do in the local level of the state, the state believes-- wildly embraces local control and passes every possible while they can to take away local control from local committees and this is one of the things that commuters have been stripped from doing.   
  
That doesn't prevent us from all trying to collaborate with builders to voluntarily incorporate some of these designs, although they seem really risk-averse and resistant to change, so I think something that also gets to this, because you know, home modifications are great but we should talk about those also in the terms of "hey, let's not build homes that need to be modified. Let's build homes we can all get into." And not just homes but neighborhoods.   
  
I live in a beautiful home we were able to build it in Universal Design, but I can't get into any of my neighbors homes, so I'm still kind of isolated, so starting to talk of doubt communities, not homes, visit ability, not just modifications. So we can get in front of the problem.   
  
I think that's what we should be doing. So if there's any way to weave that into the conversations, we would support that and be appreciative of that.   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
And that's why-- sorry, Kelsey.   
  
KELSEY GODDARD:   
I was going to say Jeremy I think those are great things and as we build up your network those things that can be discussed in terms of what strategies for advocacy have been successful with getting visit ability requirements in areas. I don't think anyone is an expert on everything, so I think part of this is learning from each other, and as Mary Kate mentioned we are setting up these - I'm probably doing a spoiler right now - but we are setting up these peer network calls starting in January, January 10 is our kick up and we hope this will be a really informal activity for CILs to communicate with each other.   
  
But our kick off of these will be January 1 at 2 PM Eastern time. We hope this will go for a while and help CILs connect with each other we are doing this strategy for visit ability, and we're doing this strategy for intake, assessing homesite intake and this is what this process looks like. Really learning from each other about strategies that work and supporting consumers in their home usability goals.   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
And that's why we invited NCIL's housing usability group, how can we make the big picture systems change, right? I see some great ideas and discussion in the chat, do want to address that we are coming up to time, we have about four more minutes. On the screen right now is a slide that says "what's next?".   
  
When we close out this webinar a survey is going to pop up and I will also be sending a follow-up email with all the resources mentioned including the recording. And like Lillie and Kelsey said we will be starting some of these conversations starting in January, and we really want you all to shape what we are doing. I see your hand, I am in your chat too, how do we join the 2 PM call?   
  
Do our quick survey, it will ask you for your email, and once we get the information I will be sending out all the information about joining the January call.   
  
LILLIE GREIMAN:   
This is Lily, I do want to say, I think our intention-- please share the survey and any thoughts you have about how this might work best for you, I don't-- by signing up and attending the call you are not necessarily committing to a call every single month, I do anticipate that we will have targeted focus areas, this is what we've heard from folks in the past, so if that seems valuable to you we may have a session focused on visit ability and maybe local level housing advocacy, we may have a call on home assessment opportunities, options, may have a call on you know, working with fair housing organizations.   
  
There's a variety of focus areas so the survey is hoping to try to understand what are those areas that folks want to see and want to talk about and then we will be figuring out how to communicate what those are to everyone ahead of the call and this is going to be pretty casual I think and informal so we are all going to be peers coming together to talk about this. So yeah, thank you, I will turn it back to every Kate for the end of it but really appreciate all of you being here.   
  
MARY-KATE WELLS:   
I'm excited to see that you all are excited, because this is definitely something that is important. Thank you Jessica for answering the last question in the Q&A. "Can consumers be involved in NCIL's Advocacy committee?" Absolutely. Anyone who is a member of NCIL can join. We have memberships as low as $35 a year.   
  
And with that, I thank you so much, we are excited to hear from you, please, if you have more questions or you just want to be on the peer network email chain when these are coming, please do so. So thank you have one and we hope to see you in January. Alright.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | **NCIL-Introducing a Home Usability Peer Network-(A (USXHNC1712A - Ai-Live Premium)** | |  | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | | | Page of | Downloaded on: 07 Dec 2023 1:12 PM |  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | **NCIL-Introducing a Home Usability Peer Network-(A (USXHNC1712A - Ai-Live Premium)** | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | | | Page of | Downloaded on: 07 Dec 2023 1:12 PM | |