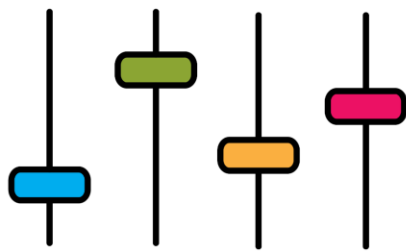


>> SLIDE 1

# LEVEL

# UP



**BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER**



**2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
ON INDEPENDENT LIVING**

2025 Annual Conference on Independent Living

LEVEL UP: Building Tomorrow Together

Presented by the National Council on Independent Living

>> SLIDE 2

# CILs as Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Resiliency Hubs

Thursday, July 24, 2025 10:30-11:45 AM: Independence A

**Moderator:** Russell Dawson Rawlings, CFILC

**Panelists:** Serra Rea, CFILC; Jennifer Griffin, ACC;  
Vance Taylor, Cal OES; Tom Smith, PG&E

# >> SLIDE 3: Panel Introduction

- Panelists:

- Serra Rea, Disability Disaster Access and Resources (DDAR) Manager, CFILC
- Jennifer Griffin, Executive Director, Access Central Coast
- Vance Taylor, Chief Access and Functional Needs, Cal OES
- Tom Smith, Customer Strategy Officer Emergency Operations Center, PG&E

# >> SLIDE 4: Emergencies and Disasters

- Not all emergencies are disasters
- All emergencies are small, may escalate into disasters
- Four steps of emergencies
  - Prepare
  - Respond
  - Recover
  - Mitigate

# >> SLIDE 5: It all begins with Prepare

- Assist community members with preparing an emergency plan
- Understanding what goes in a Go-Bag
- Locating resources before the emergency
- Limiting the fear of the emergency

## >> SLIDE 6: California Model

- Goal: A CIL should be involved in any emergency that affects the community
- California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC)
- Disability Disaster Access and Resources (DDAR) Program
  - Collaborating with government, utility companies and other partners

# >> SLIDE 7: CILs Response to Emergency

- Ensure people with disabilities are supported before, during, and after disasters
- Holistic, person-centered services rooted in the Independent Living philosophy
- Peer-led, community-integrated, cross-trained teams ready to respond

# >> SLIDE 8: Emergency Response

- Sheltering support (Transition Service)
- Temporary food and basic needs (I&R)
- Meeting Assistive Technology (AT) needs
  - Temporary loans or replacement

## >> SLIDE 9: Recovery

- Information & referral to local and national resources
- Peer Support — Trauma-informed, disability-competent support from those with shared lived experience
- Employment services — working with Department of Rehabilitation

# >> SLIDE 10: Training CIL Staff in Community

- VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster): Collaboration and coordination
- FAST (Functional Assessment Service Teams): Disability-competent shelter assessments
- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team): Local disaster response certification

# >> SLIDE 11: Network Collaboration

- CFILC and CILs collaborate with state and local government
- Coordinating information about weather, community needs and resources during emergencies

# >> SLIDE 12: Office of Access and Functional Needs

- About Cal OES Office of Access and Functional Needs
- Individuals with access and functional needs face additional barriers to remaining safe and secure before, during, and after disasters

# >> SLIDE 13: Personal Safety and Security

- Plan as though no one is coming
- Individuals in the community need to have personal plans
- Work together in partnership

# >> SLIDE 14: Emergency Management process

- Disaster-related information
- Accessible transportation resources
- Shelters

# >> SLIDE 15: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)

- CFILC Collaboration with utility on AFN support
- History of our partnership: Creation of DDAR Program

# >> SLIDE 16: Who PG&E Serves By Numbers

- 16 Million people served
- 70,000 Square mile service area
- More than 50% of our service area is in high fire-risk areas

# >> SLIDE 17: Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

- High winds can cause tree branches and debris to contact energized electric lines and potentially lead to a wildfire.
- As a result, we may need to turn off power during severe weather as a last resort.

# >> SLIDE 18: Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) [continued]

## Conditions that may lead to a PSPS:

- Low humidity levels of less than ~30%
- Forecasted high winds above 19 mph with gusts above 25-40 mph
- Red Flag Warning declared by the National Weather Service
- Condition and moisture content of dry material and vegetation on the ground
- Real-time ground observation

# >> SLIDE 19: Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Identification

The AFN population are individuals who have the following conditions:

- Developmental or intellectual disabilities
- Physical disabilities, chronic conditions, injuries
- Limited English proficiency or non-English speaking
- Low income
- Homeless
- Transportation disadvantaged, dependent on public transit
- Pregnant

# >> SLIDE 20: Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Identification [continued]

The AFN population are individuals who have the following conditions:

- Older adults
- Children
- People living in institutionalized settings

# >> SLIDE 21: Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Community Support

- It is estimated that over 80% of the PG&E population is considered people with Access and Functional Needs
- Individuals with AFN are eligible for extra support and assistance during PSPS
- If a loss of power at the customer's home creates a health or safety risk for their household, a customer may qualify for PG&E's accommodations and support services during a PSPS

# >> SLIDE 22: Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Program Website

- For more information, visit:
  - <https://pge.com/afn>



## >> SLIDE 23: Partnering with CFILC

We partner with the CFILC to administer the Disability Disaster Access and Resources (DDAR) Program to support people with disabilities and chronic conditions.

Resources Provided:

- Emergency planning assistance
- Portable backup batteries
- Accessible hotel accommodations and transportation
- Food vouchers
- Fuel cards for generators

## >> SLIDE 24: Partnering with CFILC

- For more information, visit:
  - <https://pge.com/ddar>



# >> SLIDE 25: Framework for AFN Support

The Framework for AFN Support was developed in partnership with AFN leaders to reduce risk and ensure safety for electric dependent customers with AFN during PSPS.

Key components include:

- PSPS background and overview
- Developing an AFN support team within a utility
- Identifying customers with AFN
- Collaboration with community partners
- Programs to support customers with AFN during PSPS

# >> SLIDE 26: Framework for AFN Support Website

- For more information, visit:
  - <https://prepareforpowerdown.com/>



## >> SLIDE 27: Panel Discussion

- Is there something unique in your CIL or SILC that is working or needs more collaboration?
- As a resource to you, what have we missed or what can we look at for future collaborations?
- Any other questions?

>> SLIDE 28

Thank you for attending!

Stay in touch: [info@cfilc.org](mailto:info@cfilc.org)