



**West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council**  
P. O. Box 625 • Institute, West Virginia 25112-0625

## IL Stimulus Funding for West Virginia

West Virginia will receive 2 pots of **independent living** funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). ARRA Part B funds will be granted to the CILs (centers for independent living) for the Community Living Services Program (CLSP) a statewide program providing home modifications, vehicle modifications, adaptive equipment, assistive technology, etc. - **\$269,904**. The program currently has a waiting list and the ARRA funds will go a long way to getting people served and off the waiting list.

ARRA Part C funds will be provided directly to the CILs for two purposes:

1. A cost of living (COLA) for the CILs of 3.5% - **\$31,674** – this is significant because the CILs have never received a COLA or any funding increases since each was originally funded – the last one in 1987.
2. Funding to improve their infrastructures and to address underserved areas and needs in their federal service areas - **\$240,666**.

**Total ARRA IL funding for West Virginia is \$542,244.** Funding will be distributed among the four, federally funded CILs in West Virginia:

- Appalachian CIL in Charleston, WV
- Mountain State CIL in Huntington, WV
- Mountain State CIL in Beckley, WV
- Northern WV CIL in Morgantown, WV

To find out which CIL serves your county, go to [www.mtstcil.org](http://www.mtstcil.org)

## 2009 Walk for Independence



More than 150 people participated in the Sixth Annual Walk for Independence on Saturday, July 25, 2009. The Walk was sponsored by Mountain State Centers for Independent Living. Their strategic partner this year was the Tri-State Literacy Council. They share a common goal of “opening doors to greater individual independence.”

Over \$12,000.00 was raised to support the

Community Living Services Program of MTSTCIL. This program provides ramps, bathroom modifications, van lifts, grab bars, hearing aids, and other assistive technology to enable people with disabilities to remain in their homes, living independent lives in their community.

More than \$700,000.00 is needed for MTSTCIL to eliminate the waiting list of consumers in nineteen counties in West Virginia who are waiting to receive the services they need.

Continued on Pg. 2

## What's Inside

- IL Stimulus Funding for WV
- 2009 Walk for Independence [page 1](#)
- People First Conference
- Changes at Camp Virgil Tate [page 2](#)
- AARP Foundation Benefits QuickLINK
- Chairperson's Corner [page 3](#)
- Upcoming Events
- NCIL Conference [page 4](#)

For more information, contact **WVSILC**

P.O. Box 625  
Institute, WV 25112-0625  
[www.wvsilc.org](http://www.wvsilc.org)  
Phone: 304-766-4624  
Toll Free: 800-642-8207, ext. 4624  
Fax: 304-766-4721

### WVCILS:

**Appalachian CIL**  
Elk Office Center  
4710 Chimney Dr.  
Charleston, WV 25302  
1-800-642-3003

**Mountain State CIL**  
821 Fourth Ave.  
Huntington, WV 25701  
1-866-687-8245  
329 Prince St.  
Beckley, WV 25801  
304-255-0122

**Northern WV CIL**  
601-603 East Brockway Ave.  
Suite A & B  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
1-800-834-6408

## 16th Annual WV People First Conference HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS...NEW BEGINNINGS! September 9-11, 2009 Jackson's Mill, WV

This year's conference features two talented keynote speakers from North Carolina, Barton and Megan Cutter who have an interability relationship. The Cutters' sessions will include "Self-Determination...Taking Total Control of My Life" and "Real Relationships, Risks, and Responsibilities". Other sessions range from planning for the future, searching for a job, and computer skills to exercise, gardening, and meal planning.



Stipend funds are made available to people with developmental disabilities and family members of people with developmental disabilities through funds from the WV Developmental Disabilities Council. The registration fee is \$70 per person and lodging fees range from \$12.50 per night to \$34.00 per night per person.

For more information or to obtain a registration form, visit [www.peoplefirstwv.org](http://www.peoplefirstwv.org); call 304-422-3151 and ask for James McClain (ext 128), Christina Smith (ext 106), or Kevin Smith (ext. 129); e-mail [james.mcclain@arcwd.org](mailto:james.mcclain@arcwd.org), [christina.smith@arcwd.org](mailto:christina.smith@arcwd.org), or

[kevin.smith@peoplefirstwv.org](mailto:kevin.smith@peoplefirstwv.org).

### Changes at Camp Virgil Tate

Big changes are happening at Camp Virgil Tate in Kanawha County, WV. You may recall that the Division of Rehabilitation Services held a youth camp, Summer FUNDamentals, there last summer and we, in conjunction with that, had a Youth Caucus Reunion. During the events last summer, many accessibility barriers were encountered. The Youth Caucus Reunion delegates took this on as an issue and wrote a letter to Camp Virgil Tate, sending copies to all their funding sources, DRS, etc.

As a result, when DRS began planning for Summer FUNDamentals 2009, they developed and implemented a plan to help the camp address the accessibility issues. The July 27<sup>th</sup> issue of the Charleston Gazette boasted a front page article on these efforts, including color photos. Changes being made include accessible rest rooms in the Dining Hall, an accessible entrance and two accessible rooms in the Lodge, and an accessible gazebo for fishing at the pond.

While all the renovations have not been completed yet, we applaud DRS and Camp Virgil Tate for the progress being made. We look forward to an accessible camp experience for everyone attending functions at Camp Virgil Tate! Five stars to the Youth Caucus Delegates for getting the ball rolling!!!

### Walk Continued from Pg. 1

Money that was raised for the Literacy Council will go to purchase reading materials for students to use with their tutors for reading classes.

The "Prince Street Hoofers" team from Beckley won the award for the team that raised the most money - \$1,000.00 to install a ramp for a lady in Raleigh County who had been on the waiting list. This team was comprised of primarily consumers from the Beckley CIL. Tonya Harold, from Beckley won the award for the individual who raised the most money. Jeanne Daniels of Huntington, team captain of the Dream Catchers, won the award for having collected the most pledges. Charles Holley read a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Kim Wolfe, of Huntington, declaring July 25, 2009 as "Walk for Independence Day" and encouraged all city businesses to support the Walk.

Thanks to all the sponsors, teams, volunteers, organizations and people who helped make the Walk a success. We look forward to the Seventh Annual Walk for Independence next year to be held on July 17, 2010, and hope to see you there!



**AARP Foundation  
Benefits QuickLINK**

Benefits QuickLINK (BQL) helps West Virginians connect with federal and state benefits. BQL screenings take place via peer-to-peer telephone counseling and online. BQL connects many consumers with benefits to which they are entitled, but have not applied.

**Benefits QuickLINK screens for:**

**Assistance Paying for Health Care & Prescription Drugs**

- Medicare
- Medicare Savings Programs – QI, QMB, SLMB
- Medicare Rx Extra Help
- Medicaid
- West Virginia Golden Mountaineer Card

**Help With Your Home**

- State Property Tax Assistance
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program – LIEAP
- Telephone Assistance

**Help Buying Nutritious Food**

- Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program – SNAP (formerly food stamps)

**Cash Assistance**

- Social Security
- Supplemental Security Income – SSI

**Other Information**

- Eldercare Locator
- Senior Information Hotline – WV SHIP
- Legal Help – WV Senior Legal Aid

Since its launch in West Virginia in July 2008, Benefits QuickLINK has connected our state’s consumers with more than \$5 million in benefits.

Trained BQL counselors screen consumers over the phone. If a consumer qualifies for benefits, the counselor can also initiate the application process on behalf of the consumer and assist in completing the paperwork.

If you would like to complete a Benefits QuickLINK screening, or if you would like to make a referral, contact the AARP Foundation office toll free at:

**1-800-799-4638**

**Chairperson’s**



**Corner**

It is exciting that our newsletter is once again in circulation. From the time of first hearing a hopeful campaign note of “yes we can” to watching a historic moment for our nation in the transfer of leadership to the new Obama administration, we have begun to see change. Stimulus monies are flowing into our state and soon American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds will be distributed to existing centers for independent living to help meet the needs of underserved areas. Public forums are being held across the state by WVSILC.

What a great opportunity to join together to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities. Each one of us have a unique talent and can work together to bring about a change. For too long our brothers and sisters have been forced to live in institutions. Now is the time to “Free Our People.” Now is the time to promote the Independent Living philosophy. Now is the time to let our voices be heard. Let’s not wait for situations to change, let’s band together and change the situations. Let’s make a difference today.

Best,  
**Cindy Spinks**  
**SILC Chair**

## Fall 2009

### Upcoming Events

#### WVSILC Public Meetings

**September 9, 2009**, Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – **Keyser, WV** – Keyser Senior Center, 30 South Church Street

**September 10, 2009**, Thursday 10:00 a.m. – Noon – **Martinsburg, WV** –

Department of Health & Human Resources, 433 Mid Atlantic Parkway

**September 23, 2009**, Wednesday Noon – 2:00 p.m. – **Weirton, WV** – Hancock Savings Bank, 375 Three Springs Drive

**October 19, 2009**, Monday 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – **Institute, WV** – WVDRS Large Conference Room, F. Ray Power Building

#### WVSILC Meeting

**October 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Institute, WV** – WVDRS Large Conference Room, F. Ray Power Building

#### Fair Shake Network Meetings

**September 30, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Institute, WV** - WVDRS Large Conference Room, F. Ray Power Building

**October 28, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Institute, WV** - WVDRS Large Conference Room, F. Ray Power Building

**November 18, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Institute, WV** - WVDRS Large Conference Room, F. Ray Power Building

### SILC Reps Attend NCIL Conference

The SILC sent a delegation to the National Council on Independent Living's 2009 Annual Conference in Washington, DC June 5 – 8, 2009. Staff and board members participated in the conference attended by approximately 600 people with disabilities, CIL and SILC staff, and other advocates from across the country. The theme for the conference was "Believe We Are Better: Reenergize, Reorganize, Reauthorize!". The focus of the conference sessions and activities was to make change – to effectively promote Independent Living to policy makers and funding appropriators – and to give us the tools to do that.

From the opening session with Connie Garner from Senator Edward Kennedy's office talking about Reauthorization of the Rehab Act, Health Care Reform, the CLASS Act, and the Community Choice Act, to the Diversity Plenary, to the breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics to give us the tools we need, this conference was a hard working event that reenergized all the SILC folks who attended! We participated in everything from the annual business meeting to the annual closing social. The march to the Capitol, rally, and Hill Visits were the best ever. And the board meetings were productive as well!

The SILC delegation included Cindy Spinks, SILC Chairperson; Dave Sanders and Jack Mitchell, SILC members; and Kathi Young and Ann McDaniel, SILC staff.

