



# Ohio SILC

Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

## Community Advancement and Advocacy Committee

May 19, 2021

3:00-5:00

[Meeting Link](#)

### Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Housing Work Group
  - Housing Authority Survey
  - Letter to HUD
  - Letter to Senator Brown
- Transportation Survey – Ohio DD Council
- Budget Updates
- Open Advocacy Issue Discussion
- Public Comment

Committee Chairs: Rajai Saleh & Gina Wilt

Committee Members: Renee Wood, John Ballard, Gwen Harshaw, Mirta Reyes-Chapman, Paul Jarvis, Pam Drake, Katie Hunt Thomas, Kara Ayers, Maria Matzik

*Promoting Independence, Empowerment, and Inclusion in Ohio.*

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**Ohio SILC Community  
PHA Survey Draft**

**Intro**

The Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council is a federally mandated organization dedicated to promoting the independence and inclusion of individuals with disabilities across Ohio. As part of our advocacy efforts, we are looking at ways to improve the access to affordable and accessible housing across Ohio. While we know many communities are underfunded in their housing resources, we are attempting to collect data that can support the need for more housing resources for individuals with disabilities. Your participation in this survey will give us access to valuable information that can be shared with policymakers as we work on expanding access to affordable and accessible housing for people with disabilities.

**Questions**

1. Please identify what county you are representing: \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many total housing units does your PHA currently manage: \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many accessible units are in your current portfolio: \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many are 504 accessible units: \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many are Fair Housing Act accessible units: \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. In your administrative plan, are individuals with a disability a priority group? (Yes/No)
7. In your administrative plan, are individuals exiting institutional care settings such as a nursing home or ICF a priority group? (Yes/No)
8. Is your voucher waiting list currently open? (Yes/No)
9. How many individuals are currently on your waiting list? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many NED2 vouchers does your county have in use? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Can you think of any ways that the disability community can better support your work in getting more individuals with disabilities access to affordable and accessible housing? (Open ended)
12. Would you be willing to meet with a group from the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council to discuss innovative approaches your county has taken to better work with the disability community? (yes/no)

If yes, please provide the best contact information below



**Ohio SILC**

Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

Secretary Marcia Fudge  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street S.W.,  
Washington, DC 20410

5/20/2021

Dear Secretary Fudge:

On behalf of the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, we appreciate your commitment to increasing housing access for individuals in Ohio. As we continue to work on our advocacy efforts to expand access to affordable and accessible housing across the state, we have determined that more information and data is needed to effectively advocate around this issue. We ask today for your assistance in obtaining as much of the data as possible through a request to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Data Requested:

1. Number of 504 accessible units managed by the Public Housing Authorities in Ohio
2. Number of Fair Housing Act accessible units managed by the Public Housing Authorities in Ohio
3. The number of individuals currently on waiting lists for an accessible unit managed by the Public Housing Authorities in Ohio
4. Total number of individuals on waiting list for housing managed by the Public Housing Authorities in Ohio
5. Number of current Non-Elderly Disabled Category 2 (NED2) Housing Choice Vouchers in Ohio that are in use
6. Number of current Non-Elderly Disabled Category 2 (NED2) Housing Choice Vouchers in Ohio that are available

The Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council is committed to promoting the advancement and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the community. We know there is a major need for increases in affordable and accessible housing across the state to assist in achieving this goal. With this data, we can begin to more effectively inform policymakers in the state about the needs relating to housing for people with disabilities.

If you have any questions about the data being requested, or need any further information, please contact us at any time. You can reach our Executive Director, Jeremy Morris, at [jmorris@ohiosilc.org](mailto:jmorris@ohiosilc.org) or by phone at 614-800-0123.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Kevin Flynn  
Chairperson  
Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

*Promoting Independence, Empowerment, and Inclusion in Ohio.*



**Ohio SILC**

Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

Senator Sherrod Brown  
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

5/20/2021

Dear Senator Brown:

On behalf of the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, we appreciate your commitment to increasing housing access for individuals in Ohio. As we continue to work on our advocacy efforts to expand access to affordable and accessible housing across the state, we have determined that more information and data is needed to effectively advocate around this issue. We ask today for your assistance in obtaining as much of the data as possible through a request to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Kevin Flynn  
Chairperson  
Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

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**THE ABILITY CENTER**  
5605 MONROE STREET  
SYLVANIA, OH 43560  
419.885.5733

**BRYAN SATELLITE OFFICE**  
1425 EAST HIGH STREET  
SUITE 108  
BRYAN, OH 43506  
419.633.1400

[abilitycenter.org](http://abilitycenter.org)

RE: Stimulus Funding Recommendations

April 1, 2021

Dear Local Governments,

An unprecedented investment in local communities has been made possible thanks to the recent \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package signed by President Biden. The legislation includes \$350 billion for state and local governments, and unlike earlier coronavirus aid and relief packages, Toledo and other small and medium-sized cities will receive the money directly, and the money will not be restricted to coronavirus-related expenses.<sup>1</sup>

As a Center for Independent Living serving seven counties in northwest Ohio, The Ability Center of Greater Toledo would like to share some tips for how you can use stimulus funds to benefit people with disabilities in your community.

Because of the one-time investment, we recommend that the money be spent on accessibility improvements in your jurisdiction that can be completed in the short-term. Examples of some accessibility improvements that can be made include:

- Automatic doors on municipal/administrative buildings;
- Making playgrounds and parks in your area more accessible;
- Ensuring that sidewalks in your jurisdiction are flat and free from sidewalk lips or paving gravel sidewalks;
- Ensuring that municipal parking lots and garages are accessible and that accessible parking spots meet ADA specifications;
- Installing clear signage that meets ADA specifications in public municipal buildings to assist people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, blind and visually impaired, and who have other disabilities with wayfinding around buildings;

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<sup>1</sup> Skalka, Liz. "Local Government Stimulus Is Biggest Investment since the New Deal." *The Blade*, The Blade, 11 Mar. 2021, [www.toledoblade.com/local/politics/2021/03/11/toledo-ohio-biden-local-government-stimulus-biggest-investment-since-new-deal/stories/20210310107](http://www.toledoblade.com/local/politics/2021/03/11/toledo-ohio-biden-local-government-stimulus-biggest-investment-since-new-deal/stories/20210310107).

- Updating your municipal website to ensure it is accessible to people who are blind and/ or vision-impaired;
- Ensuring that there are curb cuts at all crosswalks in your jurisdiction and ensuring lights at those crosswalks are timed correctly to allow pedestrians with disabilities to cross the street;
- Purchasing clear signage that assists people with disabilities in understanding curbside voting at voting locations.

We suggest that you refer to your jurisdiction's Americans with Disabilities Act Transition plan in order ascertain priority projects regarding accessibility in your community. We encourage you use a portion of the stimulus funding to make these accessibility improvements, as they benefit citizens with disabilities and promote greater ease for all citizens. If your jurisdiction does not have a Transition Plan, or if you have questions and would like discuss how to use the stimulus money to help make improvements for people with disabilities in your community, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. You can reach me, Katie Shelley, Disability Rights Advocate at [kshelley@abilitycenter.org](mailto:kshelley@abilitycenter.org) or at (419) 885-5733 x 120; you can also reach out to Katherine Hunt Thomas, Director of Advocacy and Disability Rights Attorney at The Ability Center at [kthomas@abilitycenter.org](mailto:kthomas@abilitycenter.org) or at (419) 885-5733 x 254.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to helping to make Northwest Ohio the most disability-friendly area in the country!

Katie Shelley