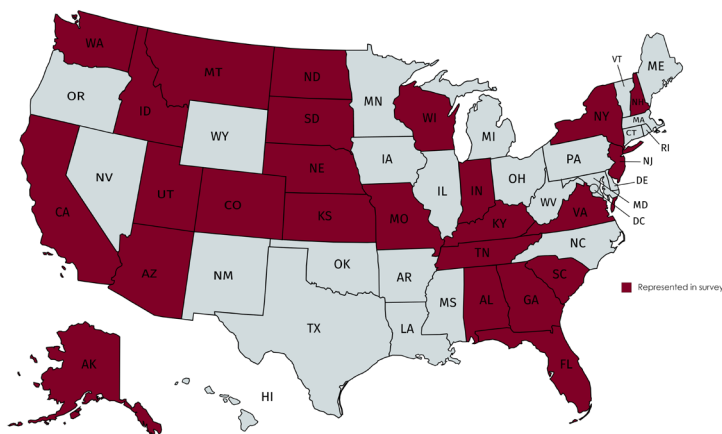


APRIL Members Input Survey

Summarized Results

During and after the 2018 APRIL conference, we asked APRIL members to complete a survey so we could gather their input on some of RTC:Rural’s research projects. Here is what they shared with us.

Who took our survey?



- 56 survey respondents in 25 states:
AL, AK, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, ID, IN, KS, KY, MO, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NY, ND, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, WA, WI
- 85% work at a CIL or similar service agency
- Number of counties served range from one to entire state; majority serve at least two counties.

Partnering Agencies

We asked:
Approximately how many organizations does your organization partner with on projects across your service area?

- Responses ranged from 2 to “too many to count,” with over half partnering with 2 to 20.

What is the top barrier your organization faces when partnering with other organizations in your service area?

- Lack of funding
- Lack of other resources, including time and staff (both at CILs and partner organizations)
- Transportation
- Staff turnover
- Lack of organizations to partner with
- Communication
- Lack of understanding of Independent Living

“Creating effective and efficient working partnerships is key to increasing independence for people with disabilities. The issue is always funding and time.”

“When I go to community stakeholders to talk about specific initiatives of our Center, I first have to explain who we are and who we aren’t (assisted living, residential services) before I can talk about what we are doing.”

Rural Hospitals

We asked:

In what ways do you think CILs and community hospitals or healthcare providers could work together to support and improve community living for people with disabilities?

- Improve discharge planning
- Better collaboration and communication
- More outreach and information-sharing
- Streamline referrals
- Independent Living education

Transportation

We asked:

What types of transportation options (besides private vehicles) are available in your area?

(transportation option— % of respondents who selected each option)

- Public Bus/Shuttle – 19%
- Taxicabs – 16%
- Ride Share (Uber, Lyft) –14%
- Paratransit – 14%
- Non-emergency medical travel (MediCab) – 11%
- Agency-based transportation – 10%
- Volunteer drivers – 7%
- Voucher program – 5%
- Vanpool – 5%
- Other – <1%

“While there are a couple of transportation options for people in the immediate area, they are extremely busy and difficult to get a ride with.”

Personal Assistance Services

We asked:

How satisfied are you with how personal assistance services work in your area?



“There is a shortage of good providers. Many people have unmet needs.”

When asked to rank their satisfaction with PAS services in their area where 1 is strongly dissatisfied and 5 is strongly satisfied, 10% selected 1 (strongly dissatisfied); 27% selected 2; 49% selected 3; 10% selected 4, and 4% selected 5 (strongly satisfied).

Advocacy

We asked:

Which topic do you feel is the **most important** for you or your CIL's advocacy efforts for the coming year?
(top 3, ranked)

1. Housing affordability
2. Service availability
3. Housing modification funding

Which topic do you feel is the **second most important** for you or your CIL's advocacy efforts for the coming year?
(top 3, ranked)

1. Public transit options
2. Health care access
3. Housing affordability; personal assistance services (tied)

“In the two rural counties I serve, (ADA accessible) affordable housing is a primary barrier to independent living. Metropolitan market issues pump up rental prices and wipe out local developers’/planners’ interest in building new affordable housing. The second most pressing problem is finding personal aides for seniors and people with disabilities because the pay scale is so low.”

“Affordable housing options are almost non-existent.”

“Affordable transportation and housing are a huge need in all of our counties.”

“Rural remote areas often have peer social services. People with chemical and electrical hypersensitivities are likely to have to live in rural areas. This is not working out very well.”

“Our biggest challenges are housing and rural transportation, however, we also have difficulty meeting the needs of those who seek housing because they have difficulty qualifying for long term care services.”

Next Steps

The results from this survey will help inform all RTC:Rural research projects, including:

- [Rural Resource Analysis](#)
- [Personal Assistant Services \(PAS\) in Rural America](#)
- [Rural Transportation Options](#)
- [Building Networks to Expand Living Well Delivery](#)

Learn more about RTC:Rural on our website, where you can sign up for our [#RuralDisability eNewsletter](#) to receive research updates, new resources, and news in the fields of disability, rural studies, vocational rehabilitation and employment, independent living, and health and wellness.

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