



Community Living Skills

Snapshots

Housing

“A home isn’t just a place you live. It’s a place you love to live.”
—Mauro Family (from a story about a family getting an accessible home)

Introduction

The goal of the Housing session of the Community Living Skills workshop is to increase participants understanding about their current living situation or steps they will need to take in finding new housing. It includes strategies for increasing independence in their current living situation.

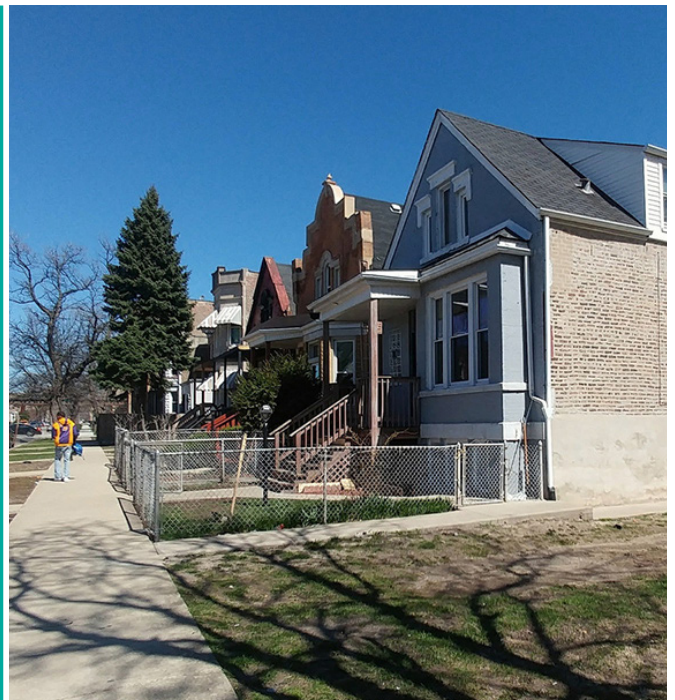
Content Summary

Introduction: Programs and resources to find housing and housing assistance as well as overview of session topics

Looking for Housing: Types of housing, steps and considerations to take before choosing a place, and moving in

Living in Your Home: Tips for being in a new place, modifications, maintaining good relations with other tenants and property management, and moving out

Disaster Preparation: Emergency planning, including disability-specific tips





Healthy Community Living is a program to support opportunities for people with disabilities to live well and participate fully in their communities.

It includes two peer-led independent living skills workshops, **Community Living Skills** and **Living Well in the Community**, which are each divided into ten specific content sessions.

RTC:Rural used an iterative participatory curriculum development (IPCD) process to involve key stakeholder engagement in the development, implementation, and evaluation of each workshop.

Each workshop has been developed through partnerships with people with disabilities with the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) and Centers for Independent Living (CILs).

The HCL Snapshots series explores how partner participation through the IPCD process was fundamental in shaping the HCL program to improve people's wellbeing by providing support, health promotion, education, and opportunities for people with disabilities to succeed in reaching personal goals.



Learning Objectives

Workshops participants will learn strategies for finding and attaining housing, tips for making their home environment fit their needs, strategies for communicating with landlords and roommates, and tips for preparing for an emergency.

Disability Community Partnership Shaped Content

The Housing session was shaped by HCL project partners through an iterative participatory curriculum development (IPCD) process. CIL staff shared modifications they had used in their own homes, as well as modifications they had helped consumers use. They also shared common issues consumers faced, which helped shape content areas.

The peer-led format of the Community Living Skills workshop led to discussions around Section 8 housing, experiences with staying in emergency shelters during Hurricane Sandy, roommate issues, qualities of safe neighborhoods and other topics during the pilot phase. These conversations gave participants both a chance to share their own stories and learn about local experiences that might impact their future housing choices.

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Rural Institute

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Research & Training Center
on Disability in Rural Communities

© 2018 RTC: Rural. This project is supported by grant #90DP0073 from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research within the Administration on Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents and opinions expressed reflect those of the author(s), are not necessarily those of the funding agency, and should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.