



# Paralysis Resource Center State Pilot Program – Year One: Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

## Program Overview

The Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) seeks to better prepare individuals with paralysis and their families and caregivers for an emergency through education and access to resources and tools. Through this project, the Ohio SILC partners with community-based disability organizations to provide access to training and support for individuals with paralysis in the planning and preparation for emergencies to be better equipped for these situations. Goals of the project include:

- Create opportunity for community-based organizations to provide direct support to individuals with paralysis
- Provide individuals with paralysis access to the resources needed to prepare adequately for an emergency or disaster that could impact their continued community living
- Support families and caregivers by providing them the opportunity to better understand how an emergency or disaster may impact their family member
- Create a final sample planning tool for individuals with paralysis that can be replicated in the future and create continued outcomes after the completion of this project

In Year One of this project, the Ohio SILC awarded grants to four subawardees: the Center for Disability Empowerment (CDE); Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential (LEAP); Services for Independent Living (SIL); and the University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCCEDD) at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC). Subawardee projects include emergency preparedness training programs and helping individuals with paralysis get involved in their communities.

## Administrative Structure

Three core staff members lead the Emergency Preparedness Project:

- *Executive Director*, who provides operational support, oversight and leadership for the project, including review and approval of all quarterly reports and submission of quarterly progress reports to ACL and other stakeholders. The Executive Director is the primary person responsible for the dissemination of the award notices and solicitations.
- *Project Coordinator*, who works directly with the subawardees to evaluate and provide technical assistance for the project, including collection and evaluation of report data, monitoring of grant progress, and meeting with each subawardee.
- *Bookkeeper*, who provides and manages fiscal activities, including issuing funding to the subawardees.

Additionally, the Ohio SILC convened a review panel to assess applications and select subawardees. The review panel included a person with paralysis, a family member or caregiver of an individual with paralysis, and a person with an understanding of emergency management planning and processes.

## Technical Assistance Offered

- Monthly touch-base calls with subawardees to discuss proposal timelines, budget and reporting questions, and provide technical assistance as needed
- The creation of a resource guide that features information and resources used in subawardee projects, including tools to increase the skills and abilities of individuals with paralysis
- Additional technical assistance provided by subject matter experts/project partners on specific topics. Partners include representatives from FEMA, the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies, and the World Institute on Disability

## Outcomes

The Ohio SILC solicited applications and awarded three subawardees grants in Year One. The SILC also partnered with subject matter experts to provide additional support to subawardees.

While subawardees are still developing their project plans, the SILC developed materials for subawardees, including an instruction package and review tool. Thus far, subawardees indicated they were very satisfied with the application and awarding processes.