



Housing and Services
Resource Center

**Meeting People Where They Are:
Partnerships with Independent Living and Assistive
Technology Programs to Address Homelessness and Housing
Stability for People with Disabilities and Older Adults**

June 29, 2023
Webinar

Welcome



Housing and Services
Resource Center

This webinar is hosted by the
Housing and Services Resource Center (HSRC)

Facilitator

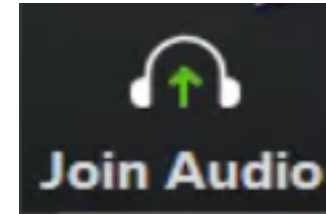
Erica McFadden, Director of the Office of Independent Living Programs (OILP), US Administration for Community Living (ACL)

This event is being recorded.

Instructions for Zoom

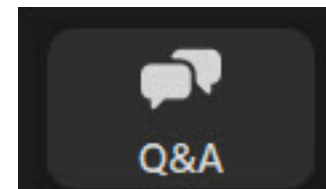
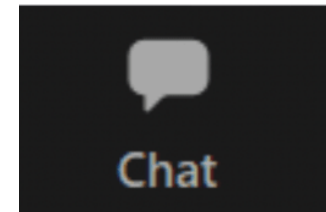
Audio Options

- Use your computer speakers, **OR** dial in using the phone number in your registration email.
- All participants are muted.



Questions and Comments

- Please actively use chat throughout the meeting, especially for your comments.
- To ask a presenter a question, please use the Q&A function.



Or, send your question or comment via email to HSRC@ACL.HHS.GOV

Accessibility

Maximizing view of ASL interpreters

- Enlarge view of ASL interpreter by “pinning” them:
Click on their video window and select the Pin icon.

Screen Reader Users: Reduce unwanted chatter

- Request speech on demand:
Insert, Spacebar, “S”

Poll

Does your program have a partnership with your state's assistive technology (AT) program?

- Formal partnership with.
- Provide information and referral.
- Do not currently partner but may in the future.
- Not applicable.



Housing and Services Resource Center

acl.gov/HousingAndServices [#HousingResources](https://twitter.com/HousingResources)



Poll Results

**Follow-Up Chat:
Please list the names of your agency and
your AT partner.**

Agenda

- Welcome and Housekeeping
- Setting the Stage
- The Value of Centers for Independent Living in Addressing Homelessness
- Assistive Technology Programs
- Featured Partnership: Continuum of Care – Center for Independent Living – Assistive Technology Programs based in New York
- Panel Discussion
- Q&A
- Closing

The Value of Centers for Independent Living in Addressing Homelessness

- Best suited to provide access to creative solutions, resources, supportive services for people with disabilities.
- Increase in serving people with disabilities and older adults experiencing homelessness.
- We all serve the same people.

What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology (AT) is any item or piece of equipment that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life, including at school, work, home, and in the community.



Assistive Technology Act Programs

What is the mission of the State and Territory AT Act Programs?

The mission of the 56 AT Act Programs is to serve people with all types of disabilities, of all ages, in all environments, and provide an array of services to meet functional needs.

What is the legislative authority for the Assistive Technology Programs?

The 21st Century Assistive Technology Act or the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as Amended.

How do AT Programs serve people throughout the lifespan to address needs in education, work and community living?

The overall goal of the AT Act is to increase access to and acquisition of AT devices and services through a comprehensive set of state level and state leadership activities.

Assistive Technology as a Component for Home Accessibility

- AT, DME, home mods increase accessibility of existing housing.
- AT enables people to live safely and stably in the community.
- AT for daily living activities, home safety, environmental controls, and smart home devices.
- AT device demonstrations, device loans and financing resources.



Find Your Assistive Technology Act Program



Find the AT Act Program in your state or territory:

<https://www.at3center.net/stateprogram>



Program Directory - Find Your State Program

Continuums of Care (CoC)

- Consist of a group of community-wide agencies committed to the goal of ending homelessness.
- Are funded by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which awards over \$2 billion each year to approximately 400 CoCs.
- Allocate funds to local nonprofits, state and local governments, and public housing authorities to fund specific projects designed to reduce homelessness.

CoC Program

Featured Partnership

John Zick, Chief Operating Officer, AIM Independent Living Center (CIL)

Melinda Dolezal, TRAID Director, NYS Justice Center (AT Program)

Kelsey Addy, MAP, Director of Planning, CARES of NY, Inc. (CoC grantee)



What is a CIL?

- CILs (Centers for Independent Living) are peer-run support centers for people with disabilities.
- CILs traditionally don't operate housing or residential services. Instead, they promote integrated, independent living opportunities in the community.
- However, finding accessible and affordable housing for CIL consumers has always been a challenge, and people with disabilities are at increased risk for homelessness. Because of this, AIM decided it needed to act and shift away from tradition in an innovative way.

AIM's Approach

- In 2017, AIM began to explore how it could create housing opportunities for people with disabilities most in need. We applied for a grant opportunity to provide permanent, supportive housing to people with disabilities who were homeless.
- AIM started a new 501(c)(3) to hold property (AIM Community Living), while AIM Independent Living Center would provide the onsite supportive services.

AIM Now

- Currently, AIM operates two permanent, supportive housing projects. They are independent and integrated in the community. A third is nearing the startup phase, and AIM has secured two additional PSH grants, with a target opening of 2025, pending capital support.

AIM's Partnerships

- Through the process, AIM had to work with the local CoC for support. AIM learned more about the local system of homeless services, and we provided our insight and expertise on disability.
- The partnership proved so fruitful that AIM was asked to join the CoC board, and later on, I was asked to consider running for co-chair. I've served in that capacity since 2021.
- As a representative of the CoC, AIM acts in the best interests of all people who are homeless, but we continue to ensure that the system considers disability in its strategies and planning.



AIM's Partners

- AIM works hand in hand with CARES of NY, the collaborative applicant and partner of the CoC. They act as the executive arm of the CoC through their paid staff.
- AIM worked to increase the supply of affordable, accessible housing in the state. AIM has sought assistance and expertise from the state's Assistive Technology (AT) program, Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID). This program provides short-term loans that, in part, allow people to access their homes.
- These partners are also working to provide solutions to homelessness and housing instability for the people of New York by making existing housing more accessible.

Partnership Best Practices

- Partnerships can help bridge the gaps in service delivery. Understanding the process and red tape of various regulations and programs allows for a greater understanding of how best to serve shared populations.
- Make a conscious decision to step outside of your comfort zone and use your voices to participate in more programs and expand the partnership network being built.
- If you ensure the right people are at the table and you lean upon their expertise, innovative solutions present themselves. Then it's all about making those solutions work within the confines of program regulations.

Success Story

A resident in AIM's permeant supportive housing said,

"Transitioning from a skilled nursing facility to this program gave me opportunities that I had not had nor would have had. It gave me the opportunity to transition to a nice, safe, and affordable unit. I had literally nothing and would not have had anything.

It is allowing me to be out in public – due to my disability, I thought I would always be stuck inside.

Meeting friends, having the support here has certainly helped my mental health."





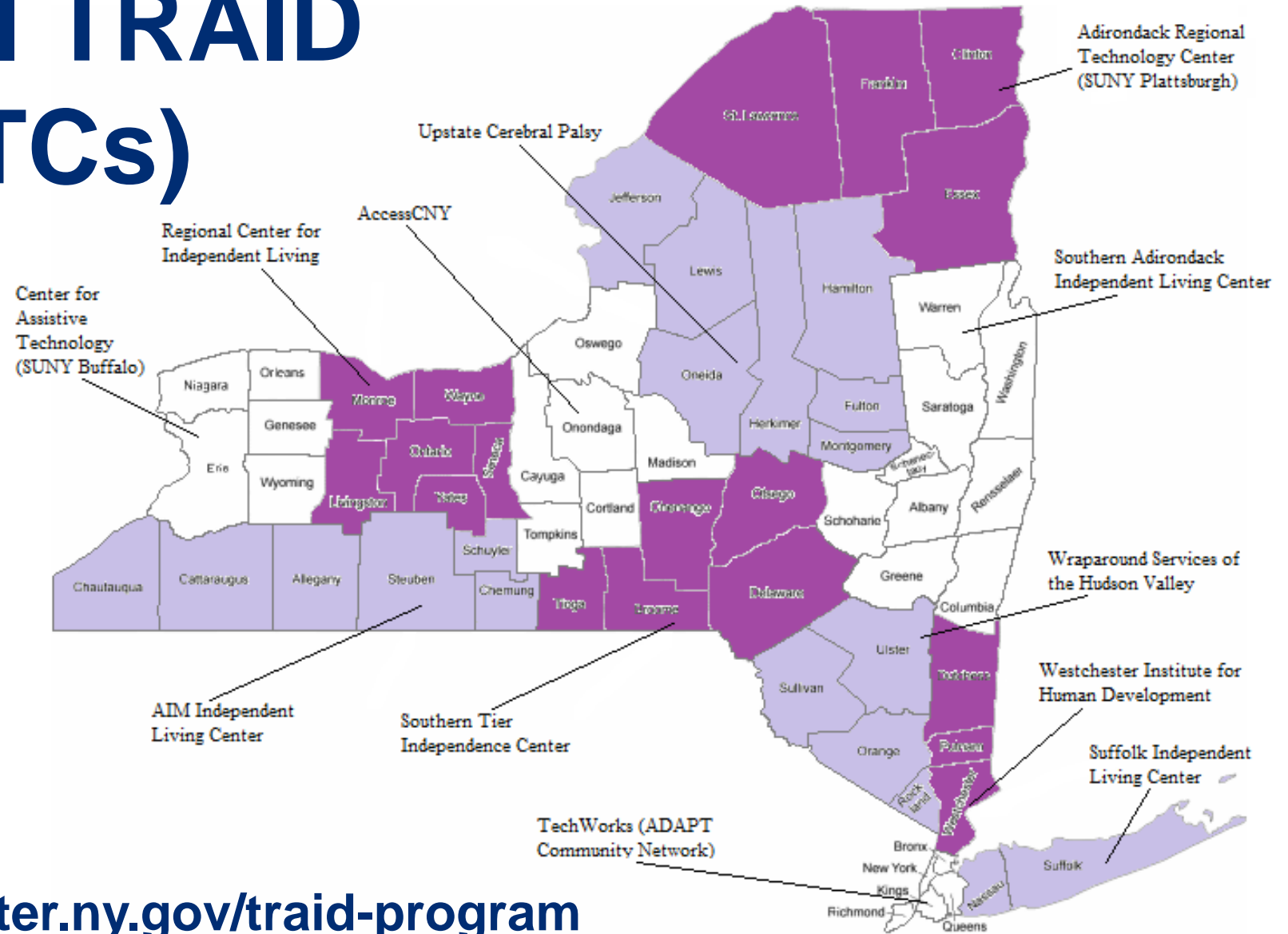
Justice Center for the
Protection of People
with Special Needs

Community Collaboration and the Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID) Program

June 29, 2023

TRAID Services

12 Regional TRAIID Centers (RTCs)



<https://www.justicecenter.ny.gov/traid-program>

Assistive Technology



TRAID Center Statistics

12 TRAIID Centers

- 7 Independent Living Centers
- 3 Human Services Agencies
- 2 State Universities
- 1 University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Assistive Technology and Housing

Housing and Community Transition

Help individuals move into independent living options

TRAID and Collaboration

Each of the 12 TRAIID Centers work with various community organizations in their region

Collaboration can turn into technical assistance

- Adirondack Regional Technology Center (Plattsburgh) working with the Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Center's Caregiver Support Initiative (CSI)
- Wraparound Services of the Hudson Valley: Project ACT, assists people being discharged from nursing homes, hospitals, rehab facilities, etc.

Home Modification

- TRAID provides temporary AT device loans
 - Individuals who utilize AT, family members, etc.
 - TRAID can loan some devices like temporary grab bars, door alarms, and ramps depending on what each center keeps in their inventory
- Other resources in New York for home modification include:
 - Waiver programs
 - Low interest assistive technology loan programs
 - Community organizations

Other Information

Contact Information

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Phone: 518-549-0220

www.justicecenter.ny.gov

CARES

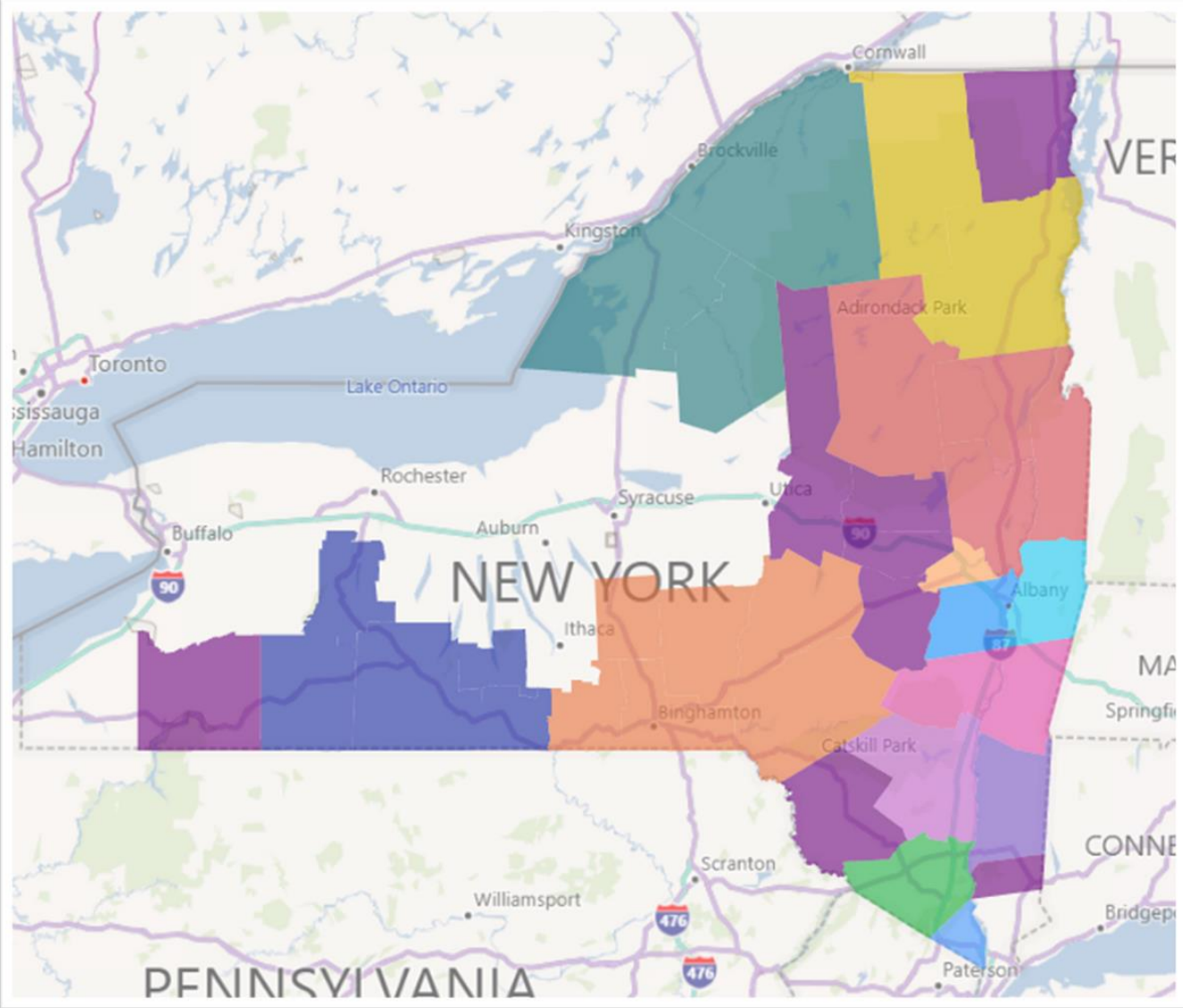
OF NY, INC

Engaging Centers for
Independent Living in
Continuums of Care



THE CARES MISSION

CARES of NY, Inc. is a non-profit organization that empowers communities to end homelessness through community planning, program data, supportive housing, and awareness-building.



the CARES Approach

Expertise within one organization

Coordinated Entry Lead & Support

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Collaborative Applicant / Planning Lead

Supportive Housing Provider

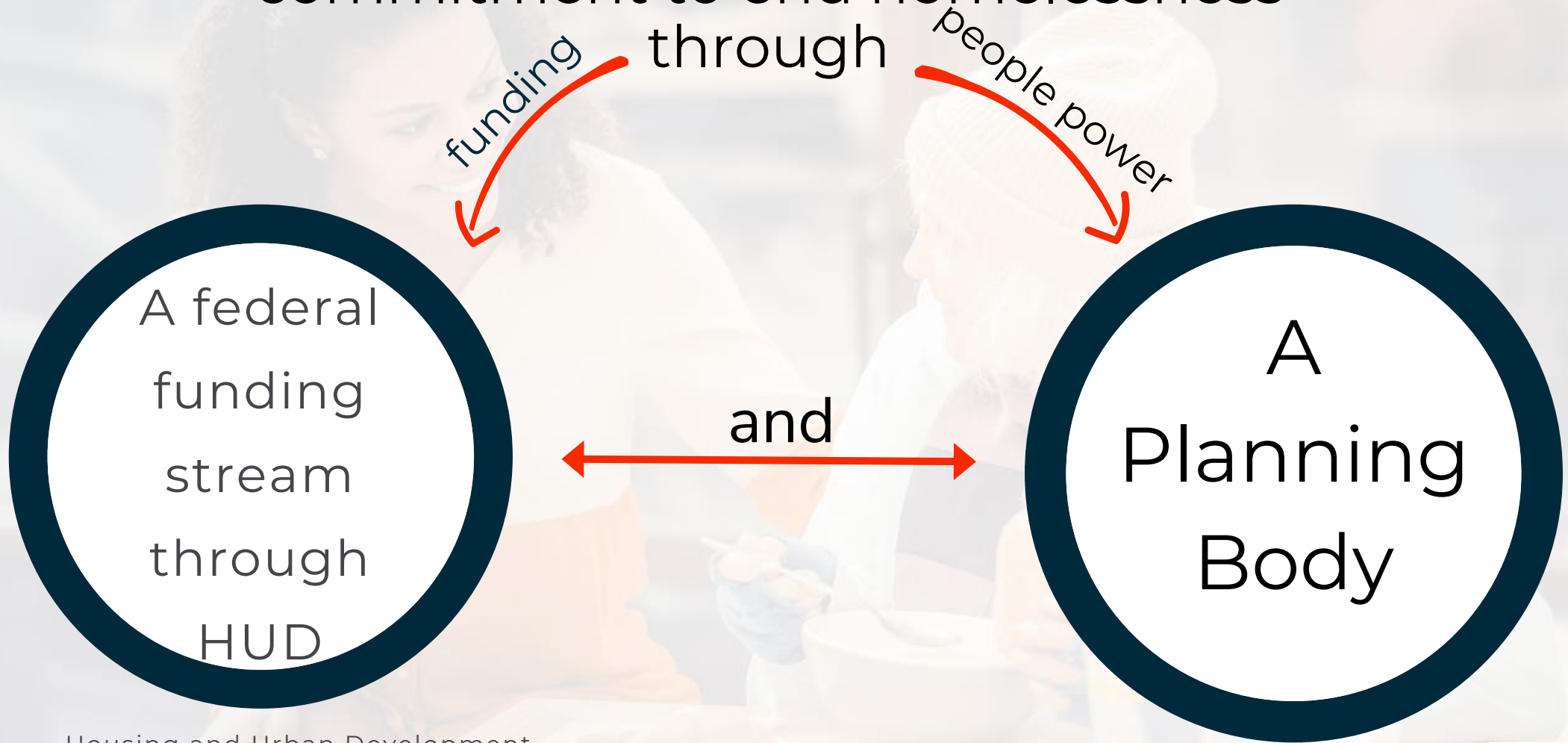
Unified Funding Agency Lead



What is a Continuum of Care (CoC)?



CoCs are designed to promote a community-wide commitment to end homelessness



Housing and Urban Development

A federal funding stream through HUD

Housing and Urban Development

what is it?

Program funding dedicated to homeless housing and services

who can apply?

Non-profits, states, Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities and local governments are encouraged to apply

Continuum of Care-Funded Programs

Permanent Supportive Housing

Transitional Housing

Rapid Re-housing

Support Services Only

Joint Transitional Housing & Rapid Rehousing Projects

- Members
 - Board
- Committees

The CoC Planning body is a set of community stakeholders who work collaboratively on a year-round basis to address homelessness for their area.

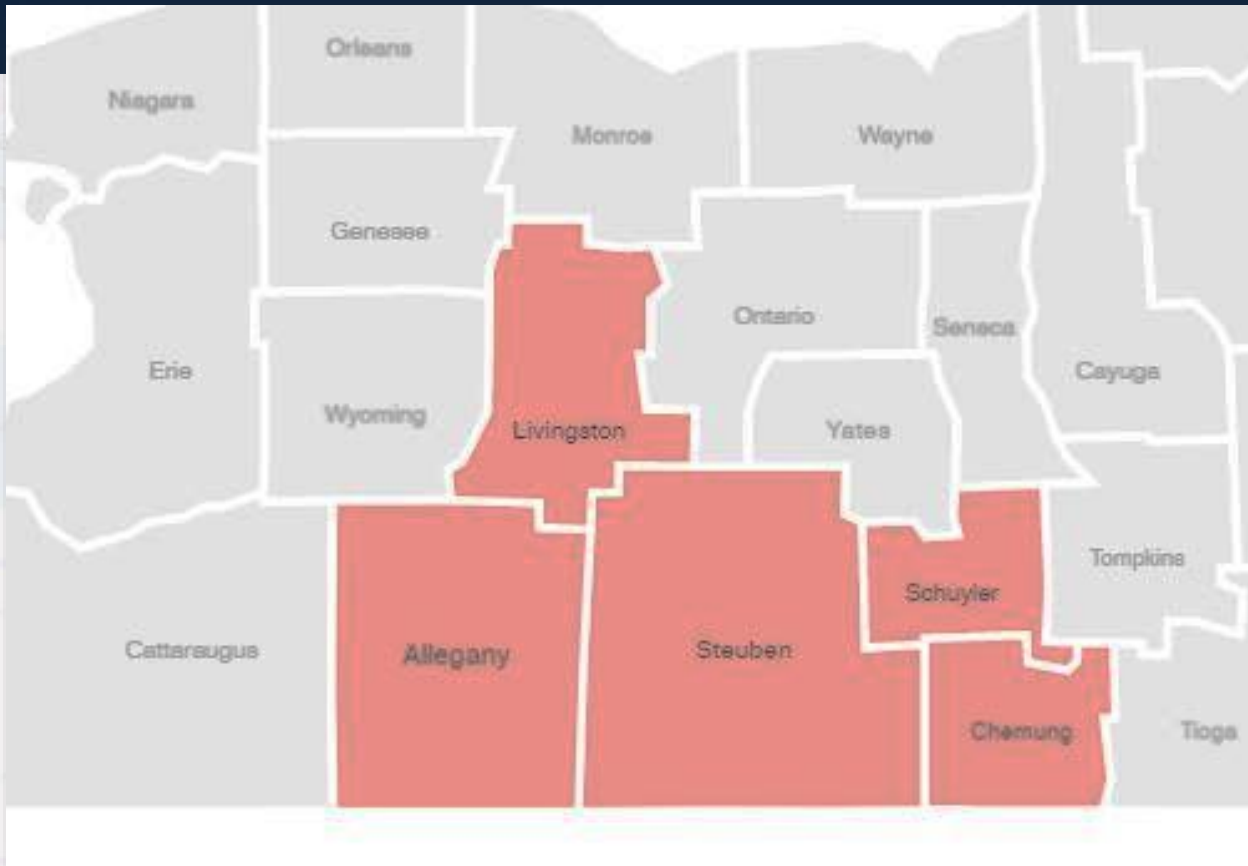
The CoC planning body makes decisions about local CoC funding for homeless programs

made up of

A
Planning
Body

NY 501 Continuum of Care

5 county region in the Southern Tier of New York State



Consists of:

- Board
- Homeless & Housing Task Forces
- Planning Committee
- Rank & Review Committee
- Coordinated Entry Committee
- Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee

Ensuring a **diverse board**
that is reflective of the community served

Housing and Urban
Development
Requires:

The CoC Board must be representative of relevant organizations and/or projects serving homeless populations and subpopulations within the Continuum of Care's geographic area.

An example of this:
NY 501 added AIM to its
Board

Ensuring a **diverse board** that is reflective of the community served

Benefits:

- 1** Fresh perspective = good level setting questions
- 2** Gain representative input on how to prioritize CoC funding
- 3** Expand collaboration to meet housing needs of those experiencing homelessness and with disabilities
- 4** Share best practices from different systems of care

Interested in learning more? Please contact:

Kelsey Addy: **kaddy@caresny.org**

Or call:
518-489-4130



caresny.org
caresny.org/steps/

Chat

How have you partnered with your state's Centers for Independent Living?

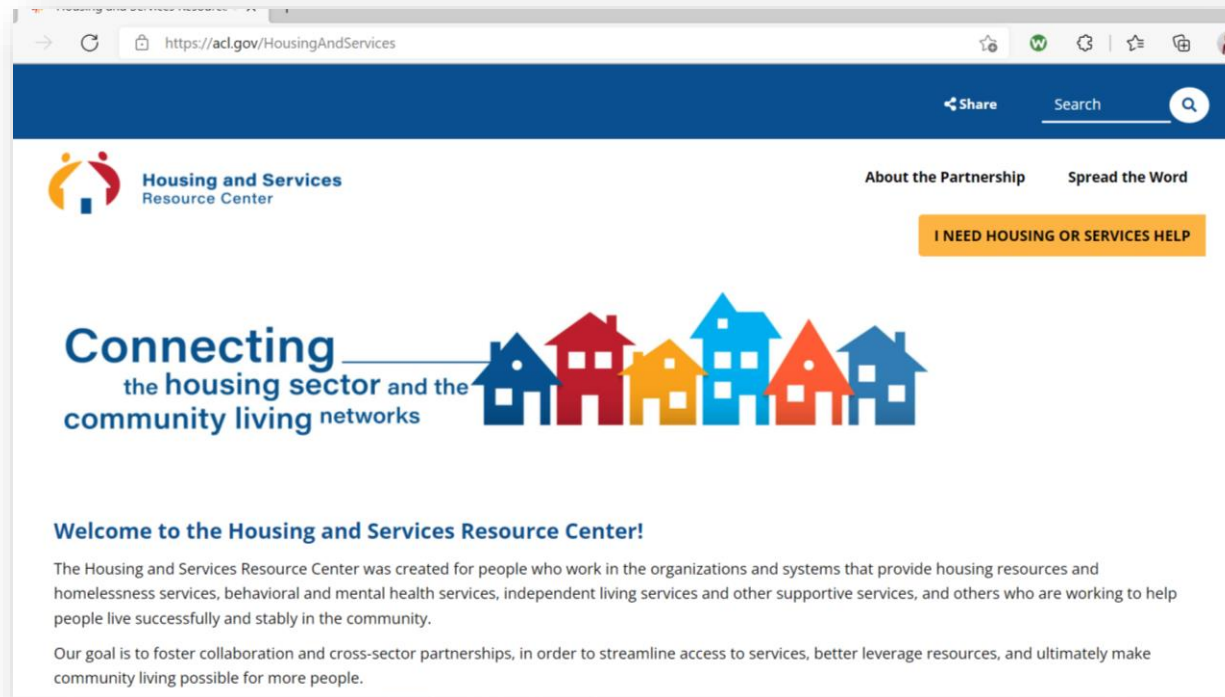
<https://acl.gov/programs/centers-independent-living/list-cils-and-spils>



Q&A



HSRC Website



acl.gov/HousingAndServices

August 7 HSRC Webinar

Topic: Accessibility is integral to housing stability, and partnerships make it happen

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/22z7rcya>

To receive HSRC updates and webinar announcements, send an email to: hsrc@acl.hhs.gov. We also welcome your ideas and success stories!

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Please complete our short feedback form:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMZX9FW>



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We want to hear from you!

Please email us at hsrc@acl.hhs.gov



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Acknowledgment



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Appendix

Centers for Independent Living (CIL)

- Also known as Independent Living Centers (ILCs)
- Provide independent living services for people with disabilities
- Support community living
- Core programs include peer support, independent living skills training, transition services and more
- Possible housing partners
- Designed and operated by individuals with disabilities
- Cross-disability focus

