



APRIL Advocacy Priorities 2015

Stand Alone Issues

- IL Funding
- Implementation of the reauthorized Rehab Act

Advocacy Policy Priorities

- **Reauthorization of Farm Bill:** recommend amendments to impact rural development; transportation; housing, etc.
- **Complete Community Care (C3):**

Integrated Health Services:

1. Continue implementation of Affordable Care Act funding affecting rural people with disabilities, and inclusion as a population experiencing “health disparities.”
2. Putting the “D” in ADRCs, as the potential portal of entry and building effective collaborations.
3. Stop implementation of harmful policies like competitive bidding for durable medical equipment, supplies, prosthetics and supplies (DMEPOS).

Community-based services:

Eliminate the institutional bias once and for all; revise Medicaid rules to mandate a national buy-in program and allow greater flexibility for states to widen eligibility and raise asset limits and asset exemptions.

- **Transportation:**

Full multi-year reauthorization of a federal Highway bill to increase funding/flexibility for rural transit systems in line with APRILs Policy Paper and feedback during conference sessions; and impacting access to and availability of transportation options for rural veterans.

- **Veterans:**

Explore with APRIL members the roles centers can play in impacting the lives of veterans in our communities; Educate members and continue to emphasize the historical opportunity created by the MOU between the Veterans Administration and APRIL and NCIL.

- **Housing:**

Support and implement visitability/universal design regulations; improve fair housing amendments and advocate for an increase in inventory of accessible and affordable housing options in rural America.

The issues below identified by members as important systems change initiatives will be addressed through task forces, and cooperative efforts with other national partners and stakeholders.

- **Employment:**

Fight to eliminate the “special” or sub-minimum wage in federal law; work to revise the Social Security Act to permanently eliminate work disincentives and “cash cliff” for those employed.

- **Mental Health:**

Implement parity, develop, support and deliver rural consumer-controlled, recovery peer models.

- **Violence and abuse against PWD:**

Increase access and services for women with disabilities.