



APRIL Advocacy Priorities 2012

Stand Alone Issues

- IL Funding
- Reauthorization of the 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. Implementation of Affordable Care Act/funding affecting rural people with disabilities.
2. Put the "D" in ADRCs - a potential portal of entry and building effective collaborations.
3. Stop implementation of harmful policies (i.e., competitive bidding for durable medical equipment, supplies, prosthetics and supplies (DMEPOS)).

Community-based services:

1. Eliminate the institutional bias once and for all.
2. Revise Medicaid rules to mandate a national buy-in program that allows greater flexibility for states to widen eligibility and raise asset limits and asset exemptions.

- **Transportation:**

Reauthorization of the Federal Highway Bill to:

1. Increase funding/flexibility for rural transit systems,
2. Increase access to and availability of transportation options for rural veterans, and
3. Bring it in line with APRIL's Policy Paper and membership feedback

The following issues were identified by APRIL membership as important systems change initiatives and will be addressed through cooperative efforts with other national partners and stakeholders.

- **Employment:**

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

- **Mental Health:**

1. Implement parity.
2. Develop, support and deliver rural, consumer-controlled, recovery peer models.

- **Violence and abuse against PWD:**

1. Increase access and services for women with disabilities.

- **Housing:**

1. Support and implement Visitability and universal design regulations.
2. Improve fair housing amendments.
3. Advocate increase in inventory of accessible and affordable housing options in rural America.