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THE IL EDGE
 WINTER 2021 - WVSILC - PO Box 625 - Institute, WV 25112



SILC UPDATE

The new State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for fiscal years 2021-2023 was approved and became effective October 1, 2020. The primary focus of the plan is expanding the statewide network of centers for independent living so that every West Virginian with a disability will have access to a center. This will involve a lot of outreach and education – to people with disabilities, the public, and policymakers. The approved SPIL can be found on the SILC website at <http://www.wvsilc.org/docs/WV%20SPIL%202021-2023.pdf> or by calling the SILC office. I urge you to take a look and get involved in spreading the news about IL and the need for more centers!

As we continue to battle COVID-19, it is important to continue to stay distanced from others, wear a mask whenever you leave your house, and wash your hands! I carry hand sanitizer and keep alcohol cleaning wipes in my car – that way I can clean my hands and wipe down anything I touch outside my home to ensure I keep the chances of getting the virus as low as possible. That being said – you can still be an advocate, even without leaving your home! The Fair Shake Network has advocacy “tip sheets” for how to advocate when you can’t go to the Capitol – you will get these when you register for Fair Shake Training Day, which will be virtual this year. FSN weekly meetings will also be virtual – you will be able to participate with your smart phone or computer using Zoom (contact Paul for details). Not only will we not be having weekly meetings at the Capitol, we probably won’t even be able to go to the Capitol this year due to restrictions to keep the virus from spreading. That makes it even more important to communicate with each other and with our legislators! Be sure to participate in the weekly meetings and communicate with each other and your local CIL – let’s make our voices heard!

MISSION

“To ensure persons who have disabilities have access to community-based resources that promote personal choice and facilitate the achievement of their independent living goals.”

From the desk of:

Ann McDaniel
 Executive Director

IN THIS EDITION:



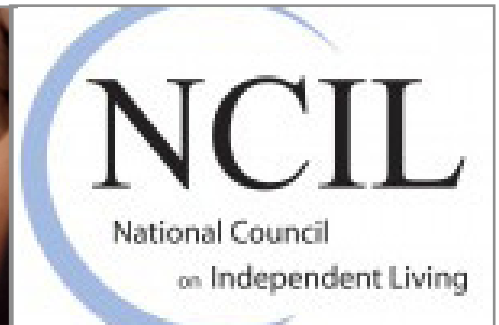
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WV Centers for Independent Living

Appalachian CIL
 Elk Office Center
 4710 Chimney Dr.
 Charleston, WV 25302
 1-800-642-3003

Northern WV CIL
 601-603 East Brockway Ave.
 Suite A & B
 Morgantown, WV 26505
 1-800-834-6408

109 Randolph Ave.
 Elkins, WV 26241
 304-636-0143

Mountain State CIL
 821 Fourth Ave.
 Huntington, WV 25701
 1-866-687-8245

329 Prince St.
 Beckley, WV 25801
 304-255-0122





Evan’s Personal Story

Source: <http://mtstcil.org/>

We love to tell stories and share stories about people who have used Mountain State Centers for Independent Living services. Please enjoy and share.

Evan, an adult who lives with Asperger’s Syndrome, walked into the Beckley office in 2019 looking for help. He needed a place to live. Evan came from Huntington and had been living in Beckley. He has never married and has no children.

Unfortunately, most employers are not open to hiring someone with Asperger’s Syndrome or even someone on the autism spectrum. He could only find minimum wage jobs, and it is hard to live on minimum wage. He wanted to make something more of himself and his life. Because of his financial status, he had no means of transportation, walked everywhere, and couldn’t earn enough to keep an apartment.

We helped find him an apartment and continued to provide information for local resources, like transportation. When he got laid off from one job, we were able to find help with rent assistance.

In his free time, Evan sang with a local Southern Gospel band.

We taught Evan how to advocate for his own needs with employers and others.

Evan decided he wanted to go back to school, which led him to Valley Training College for a medical assistant degree. We would receive messages that he aced a class or test, had perfect attendance, and graduated on the Dean’s List.

Valley Training helps their students find employment, and they were able to place him in an urgent care facility in Nashville, TN. He has been given resources to Empower Tennessee, a Center for Independent Living near his soon to be a new home, where he will continue living independently. We will be sad to see him go, and we wish him all the best in his future.

Here in Mountain State Centers, we will

2020 Living the Dream Awards Announced

Source: [Minority Affairs](#)

CHARLESTON, WV – The Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission has announced the keynote speaker of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Ecumenical Service and winners of the 2020 Living the Dream Awards.

The winners, nominated by members of the public, will be recognized during the Ecumenical Service on Monday, Jan. 18, 2021. In compliance with public health measures during the pandemic, the Ecumenical Service will be virtual and accessible from HHOMA’s Facebook page. Further details will be released at a later date.

“We are thrilled to announce the exceptional keynote speaker and Living the Dream award recipients. These awards are very well-deserved, and we are honored to recognize each recipient,” said Commission Chair and HHOMA Executive Director Jill Upson. “We’d also like to share that The King Center in Atlanta has set the 2021 King Holiday theme: The Fierce Urgency of Building the Beloved Community. This theme will be showcased throughout the 2021 commemoration.

The keynote speaker selected for this year’s commemoration is Dr. Chiquita Howard-Bostic. She is the Associate Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity and department chair of Sociology, Criminology, and Criminal Justice at Shepherd University (SU) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. She is also a certified life coach, Girl Scout and 4-H leader, and founder of a program called “Help Bridge,” providing leadership and social justice education in the community.

Dr. Howard-Bostic educates the community about anti-human trafficking, multicultural justice, dating violence prevention, and financial/environmental sustainability. Thousands of school-aged youth and community stakeholders



benefit from her workshops, justice trainings, intervention projects, events, food drives, service projects, and community workshops.

Additionally, Dr. Howard-Bostic was the first recipient of Shepherd’s Storer College Award, which recognizes faculty members who incorporate diversity and social justice into their classroom, research, scholarship, and interaction with students.

The annual Living the Dream Awards are given to individuals who exemplify, through action or personal traits, the principles and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his pursuit of social change. The Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission will recognize the following recipients on Jan. 18, 2021:

- **Sharing of Self Award:** Edna Green
- **Scholarship Award:** Cheryl Plear
- **Human and Civil Rights Award:** Anne Weeks
- **Advocate of Peace Award:** Dr. LaRee Naviaux
- **Service Organization Honor Roll:** Safe Haven, Mt. Hope
- **The Governor’s Living the Dream Award:** Dr. Chiquita Howard-Bostic

Online COVID-19 Vaccine Pre-Registration System Launches

Source: [WV Governor's Office](#)

During Monday's briefing, Gov. Justice announced that, this morning, West Virginia became the first state in the nation to launch an online COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration system, available to the public through [vaccinate.wv.gov](#).

The new digital tool allows West Virginians to add themselves to a statewide list of people who are interested in being vaccinated, and will notify those who sign up about the availability of vaccine doses to help streamline vaccination efforts.

As of 6 p.m. Monday, more than 62,000 West Virginians had already signed up to be added to the pre-registration list.

"Once again, we're doing an outstanding job and leading the nation in our approach to get this vaccine rolled out," Gov. Justice said. "I am excited to get this system in place and I truly hope it will be a big benefit to West Virginians so you're not sitting there, dialing and dialing, which is ridiculous, and I hate like crazy you've had to do that, so that we can continue to lead the nation in getting vaccines in arms."



West Virginians who currently qualify to be vaccinated and who are interested in doing so can pre-register online or call the COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line (1-833-734-0965) to get help pre-registering.

"It's important to remember, this is just a pre-registration," Gov. Justice said. "It's a way to make it more convenient, so you're not having to call on the phone over and over and you can't get through. I hate that like crazy. That's why we've done this; to make it more simple and more convenient, because we don't want people on the phone for forever and a day."

Users will get a message after registering to confirm they are in the system, and will be sent updates regularly. The system sends texts, email, and phone calls. ■

For more information, see *COVID-19 Pre-Registration* on page 4.



WVSILC Recruiting Board Members

Are you a person with a disability who wants to get involved and make a difference? Do you have a family member with a disability or do you work to improve life for people with disabilities? The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (the Council) is recruiting new members to fill vacancies for terms beginning July 1, 2021 and you should apply!

This federally mandated Council works closely with the Centers for Independent Living and monitors, reviews, and evaluates the implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living.

The Council seeks to maintain diversity of representation including disability, age, ethnicity, and life experiences. If you or someone you know would like to apply for membership on the Council, please return a completed application form by February 14, 2021.

Please feel free to duplicate this notice and the application form and share them with as many individuals as you wish. This information is available on the SILC Web site and you may complete and submit your application online at: [www.wvsilc.org/wvsilcapp.htm](#) or download a printable copy at [http://www.wvsilc.org/join.htm](#). Please review the responsibilities carefully and apply only if you are willing to fulfill them.

All applications will be reviewed and considered. Nominations selected by the Council will be nominated for appointment by Governor Jim Justice. This process can be lengthy and new members are not always appointed before the terms begin in July. We appreciate your patience.

If you have questions or need further information or assistance, please feel free to contact the SILC office at 304-766-4624 or wvsilc@wvsilc.org. ■



COVID-19 Vaccination Pre-Registration

Currently, all West Virginians are encouraged to pre-register through the DHHR pre-registration system. Vaccine supplies are limited, so pre-registration does not mean immediate access to vaccination. Pre-registration offers West Virginians the opportunity to receive real-time updates on vaccine availability and facilitate appointment scheduling when available for you as supplies allow.

Vaccination scheduling will begin through the DHHR pre-registration system as we distribute our limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines. The overlapping approach is based on the state's driving principles to build community immunity in West Virginia by protecting our most vulnerable, reducing deaths, reducing hospitalizations, and maintaining our critical services such as acute care.

Please note that the question "Have you met the pre-vaccine requirements" may be left blank on the registration form.

Please go to <https://member.everbridge.net/747122446041089/login> to input your information for pre-registration.*

Please do not use the online registration system if:

- You have already received your first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. You will receive information about your second dose from the healthcare entity that administered the first dose and/or the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS).
- You have already been placed on a waitlist through your local health department or other healthcare provider. You will be integrated into this new system and do not need to register again.

West Virginians who need assistance with registration for any reason should call our COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line for help at 1-833-734-0965. The call center is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thank you for your interest in COVID-19 vaccination to protect yourselves, your family, and our community. ■

Governor Allocates CARE Act Funding for CLSP

Source: [Office of the Governor](#)

The SILC and the West Virginia Centers for Independent Living wrote a joint letter in November to Governor Justice requesting CARES Act funding to address the waiting list for the Community Living Services Program (CLSP). Marijane Waldron, Director of the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services, and Cabinet Secretary Ed Gaunch of the WV Department of Commerce signed on in support of the request and in December, Governor Justice announced that he was providing \$350,000 of the State's CARES Act funds for CLSP services, and that he hoped to be able to provide more! On June 30, 2020, there were 448 individuals on the waiting list. By mid-December 2020, that number had risen to 572. The CLSP provides services to individuals with disabilities including accessibility modifications (such as ramps, lifts, bathroom modifications), vehicle modifications, equipment and other services to keep people in their own homes and communities – not in nursing homes or other group settings, where people are most at risk of getting COVID-19. This funding will go a long way to addressing the waiting list – be sure to thank Governor Justice. If you are in need of CLSP services, call 304-543-9331 or 1-855-855-9743 to find the center for independent living that serves your county. And if you have already received CLSP services – be sure to let Governor Justice know what a difference these services have made in your life!



Save the Date

We are going "VIRTUAL"
One4All Disability Expo 2021
March 26-27, 2021
Free for Vendors and Attendees to participate.

Ensuring all individuals receive the information and resources they need and deserve to reach their fullest potential regardless of age, diagnosis, or prognosis.

Register at:
<https://sites.google.com/view/one4alldisabilityexpo/home>



2021 WV Legislative Session

Sources: BallotPedia.com; WVLegislature.com

In 2021, the West Virginia State Legislature is scheduled to convene on February 10 and adjourn on April 10.

The legislators serving in this session took office following the 2020 elections. Republicans won a 23-11 majority in the Senate and a 76-24 majority in the House. The party also controlled the governorship, creating a Republican state government trifecta. At the start of the 2021 session, West Virginia is one of 22 state legislatures where one party had a veto-proof supermajority in both chambers.

The West Virginia State Legislature is responsible for redistricting following each census. Legislators are expected to address redistricting as part of the 2021 legislative session. As of the 2020 Census, West Virginia was one of 37 states where legislators were responsible for redistricting. For more on WV redistricting visit the WV Legislature website at <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/redistricting.cfm>

2021 WV Legislative Calendar

Opening Day - January 13, 2021: Assemble to organize by election of officers and open and publish election returns. (WV Const. Art. VI, §18)

First Day - February 10, 2021: First day of session. (WV Const. Art. VI, §18)

Twentieth Day - March 1, 2021: Submission of Legislative Rule-Making Review bills due. (WV Code §29A-3-12)

Thirty-fifth Day - March 16, 2021: Last day to introduce bills in the House. House Rule 91a does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills, and does not apply to Senate or House resolutions or concurrent resolutions.

Forty-first Day - March 22, 2021: Last day to introduce bills in the Senate. Senate Rule 14 does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills, and does not apply to Senate or House resolutions or concurrent resolutions.

Forty-seventh Day - March 28, 2021: Bills due out of committees in house of origin to ensure three full days for readings.

Fiftieth Day - March 31, 2021: Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin. Does not include budget or supplementary appropriation bills. (Joint Rule 5, paragraph b)

Sixtieth Day - April 10, 2021: Adjournment at Midnight. (WV Const. Art. VI, §22) ■

(Dream continued from p2)

The Governor's Living the Dream Award is the highest honor that is presented to an individual by the Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission.

For more information contact the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs at 304-356-2023 ■

Evan continued from p2)

continue to advocate for people with Asperger's or who are on the Spectrum. To let employers know what great employees they make and why. Maybe the next person won't have to leave Beckley to find a job. ■



A new, free service aims to help West Virginians with COVID-19 related stress. Help304, WV's Emotional Strengthline, offers support through a hotline, 1-877-HELP-304. This service is available 24/7. Callers will speak immediately with a professional crisis counselor who can help them move forward with new stress management strategies. The phone number is also textable, and online chat is available at Help304.com. ■



Creating an Ergonomic Home Office

Source: [WVATS](#)

As offices have closed, people have moved into the new normal of working from home. Like all situations, there are pros and cons to this move. Many people quickly put together workstations at their dining room tables or any available space for a temporary fix. Now that this has been identified as a much longer term situation, workers need to create a more permanent space in their homes. Here are some things to consider as you look at the next steps for your new work environment.

Stay focused

- Find a space where you can keep your
- 'office' set up and organized. Removing your office every night to eat dinner can lead to disorganization.
- Noise canceling headphones or white
- noise can help block out noises from family members and appliances.
- Identify the type of lighting that is best for you. You may need to bring a lamp into your home office.

Seating and back support

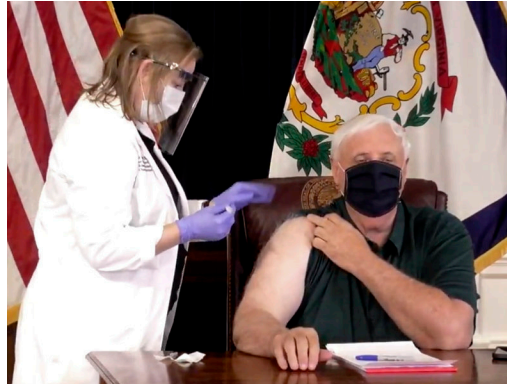
- A cushion, pillow or towel behind your lower back can provide extra comfort and back support.
- Seat cushions can create a more comfortable ergonomic position.
- A footrest can help people who are short achieve a better posture.
- Make sure the seat is not hitting the back of your knees. These can reduce blood flow to your feet and ankles.

Office technology setup

- Laptop monitors are often small. Attaching an external monitor will give you dual monitors and reduce vision strain.
- Laptop or monitor risers raise the height of the devices to eye level. This reduces neck and back strain caused by looking down for long periods of time.
- External keyboard and mouse options allow you to adjust positioning to meet your needs. If your laptop is on a riser to help with neck strain, it will not be easy to type on. Set your mouse and keyboard so you can access them from a natural position.

Why West Virginia's Winning The Race To Get COVID-19 Vaccine Into Arms

Source: [NPR](#)



On Dec. 14, West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice was one of the first U.S. elected officials to get immunized against COVID-19. The state has since completed a first round of shots in all long-term care facilities as well as with front-line health workers. State of West Virginia/Via AP

Nearly two weeks before most states started vaccinating anyone in nursing homes, pharmacist Gretchen Garofoli went to a long-term care facility in Morgantown, W.Va., on Dec. 15 and administered one of the first COVID-19 vaccinations in the state.

"Psychologically, yes, it was a beacon of hope," she says.

So far, West Virginia is outpacing the rest of the country. Having delivered vaccine to health workers and completed a first round of shots at all its long-term care facilities, the state is now administering second doses and moving on to other populations, including people age 80 and over, and teachers who are 50 and older.

Meanwhile, many other states are still struggling with the complex logistics of distributing the lifesaving medicines.

"A lot of people are looking to us as a state, because after the first week we had, I believe, something like 90% of doses allocated to our state in arms — which was really unheard of elsewhere," says Garofoli, who is also a clinical associate professor of pharmacy at West Virginia University.

She and other health officials say there is likely a number of reasons behind their early success.

For one thing, West Virginia has been charting its own path to vaccine distribution. All 49 other states signed on with a federal program partnering with CVS and Walgreens to vaccinate long-term care and assisted living facilities. But those chain stores are less common in West Virginia, so the state instead took charge of delivering its vaccine supply to 250 pharmacies — most of them small, independent stores.

The federal plan to rely on big chains to get the shots to long-term care facilities wasn't going to work for her state, Garofoli says.

"We have a lot of independent pharmacies or smaller pharmacies that are in the more rural communities, so in order to get the vaccine out to some of those areas, we needed to follow something a little bit different," she says.

Many long-term care sites in the state already use local pharmacies for other vaccines and medicines as well as twice-weekly coronavirus testing of residents and staff. The state decided to piggyback off those existing relationships. Because those pharmacies already had data on many patients, it was easier to begin scheduling appointments in early December, securing consent forms and matching doses to eligible patients — logistics that are



NCIL Executive Director Kelly Buckland to Retire in 2021

Source: [The Advocacy Monitor](#)

Dear NCIL Members, Staff & Friends,

First I hope that you are all well in these very trying and turbulent times. This is one of the hardest statements I've ever had to write. I am writing to share the news of my intention to retire as Executive Director of the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) on May 14, 2021. While I am looking forward to a new chapter in my life, I am going to miss my work as Executive Director very much! Especially, working with the hard working and dedicated NCIL employee family! Working as the Executive Director of NCIL has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I want to thank all of you humbly for allowing me this honor and for all of your support throughout the years!

This is a very important transition for NCIL and me. I have already shared my plans with NCIL's Governing Board and staff and we have already begun implementing NCIL's succession plan. I am confident that NCIL's Governing Board and Executive Committee will ensure that the transition is smooth and that my replacement will be an exceptional leader and advocate for people with disabilities and independent living. We will be releasing the NCIL Executive Director position announcement and instructions on how to apply very soon.

Again, I am thankful for the time I have been able to serve NCIL, but also very proud of what we have accomplished together. Before I joined NCIL as Executive Director in May of 2009, I served on NCIL's Governing Board as President, Vice-President and before that Regional Representative for Region X. NCIL and the Independent Living movement are very dear to me and I have spent most of my adult life working in and trying to grow our movement and make it better. I would like to highlight some of the accomplishments we have achieved together while I've been Executive Director:

- Nearly doubled NCIL's budget to a \$2 million per year organization that is in a sound financial position.
- Reauthorized the Rehab Act and established the Independent Living Administration, an accomplishment many thought we could not achieve.
- Passed-through nearly 1 million dollars from NCIL's grants and projects to member CILs and SILCs in grants and subcontract work.
- Played a major and decisive role in defeating the efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.
- Established the Fifth Core Service of transition and diversion.
- Increased the Independent Living Annual Federal Budget by approximately 15 million dollars.
- Obtained 85 million dollars in COVID-19 relief funding for CILs.
- Established an internship program and substantially increased the participation of youth in NCIL.
- Obtained prominent office space and established a major presence in the nation's capital.
- Increased staff benefits and brought a high turnover rate down to almost zero.

(See Buckland next column)

(Buckland continued from previous column)

We have accomplished much, but we still have substantial challenges ahead of us. We need to address the systemic racism in our movement and I know we can. We need to do this work together and stay committed. We need to demand that people have a right to live in the community, eliminate the institutional bias and keep people from being sent to congregate settings in the first place. We also need to restore the damage that has been done to our movement by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and continue to work on increasing our presence and our prominence within the administration. And many other very important issues affecting the rights and independence of people with disabilities.

I know that NCIL will continue to do great things and continue to be a leader in the future. I am excited to see what the future holds for NCIL and my retirement does not mean that I'm leaving independent living. I look forward to remaining involved as an individual member of NCIL and will continue to support NCIL to the best of my ability. Again, I thank you all for your support in our work together and I hope you will also remain involved and support NCIL going forward.

THANKS!

Sincerely,

Kelly Buckland





Justice Department Reaches Agreement with St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners to Ensure Polling Place Accessibility

Source: [US Justice Dept.](#)

The Department of Justice today reached a settlement under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of St. Louis, to ensure that St. Louis polling places are accessible during elections to individuals with mobility and vision impairments

The Department reviewed the St. Louis Board's voting program for compliance with the ADA. The Department identified architectural barriers at St. Louis polling places, including inaccessible parking, ramps that were too steep, stairs at the only entrance or route to the voting area, and doorways with thresholds that were too high. The Department also identified that the St. Louis Board fails to provide accessible curbside voting and auxiliary aids and services, including headphones for some accessible voting machines, and also fails to provide voters with disabilities the same amount of privacy and independence while voting as voters without disabilities.

Under the agreement, the St. Louis Board will begin remediating its voting program. To make its selected polling places accessible, the St. Louis Board will employ temporary measures, such as portable ramps, signage, and propped open doors. In addition, the St. Louis Board will train its poll workers and other elections staff on the requirements of the ADA and how to use temporary measures to ensure each polling place is accessible during elections. The St. Louis Board will also survey polling locations for accessibility and maintain the accessibility of each polling place it uses on election days. When selecting future polling places, the agreement requires the St. Louis Board to select locations that will be accessible during elections.

For more information on the ADA or this settlement agreement, please visit [ADA.gov](#) or call the toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (TTY 800-514-0383). ■

(COVID continued from p6)

confounding efforts in many other states.

This scheme gave the state an early jump on most other states, says Krista Capehart, director of regulation for the state's Board of Pharmacy and chief architect of West Virginia's distribution plan. When vaccines finally arrived, pharmacists were ready, and knew the number of doses they'd need.

"When it got here, we already had pharmacies matched with long-term care facilities, so we were already ready to have vaccinators and pharmacists ready to go into those facilities and start providing first doses," Capehart says.

Delays in advance paperwork and the logistics of distributing these particular vaccines have tripped up the pace of immunization in some other states, says Claire Hannan, executive director of the Association of Immunization Managers.



State and local officials in other places may not have been able to coordinate as smoothly, she says. "They're trying to get CVS and Walgreens to come to their facilities, and CVS and Walgreens are moving at the pace they're moving."

In contrast, Hannan says, West Virginia is more directly in control of the flow of vaccines to long-term care facilities. It's a smaller operation that can adapt and switch gears, while other states

must navigate the bureaucracy of huge national chains. "They're not as flexible, they're not as nimble as public health to make adjustments" to move people and vaccine supplies around, she says.

There also have been some missteps in West Virginia. Most notably Boone County health officials injected 42 people with an antibody cocktail instead of vaccine, though were no adverse consequences reported as a result of that error.

CVS and Walgreens dispute the assertion that their rollout is falling behind.

"We remain on schedule, and the number of vaccines we administer will continue to rise as more facilities are activated by the states," CVS CEO Larry J. Merlo said in an update posted Wednesday on the company's website.

Both chains say their immunization schedule is on track, and that they will complete initial doses for all long-term care facilities by Jan 25 — about a month after West Virginia hit its milestone.

States eager to speed up the process should take note of the gubernatorial leadership in states such as West Virginia and Connecticut that are doing relatively well, says Mark Parkinson, CEO of the American Health Care Association, a long-term care trade group and a former governor of Kansas.

"What I would be doing if I was governor is I would be on speed dial with the CEOs of CVS and Walgreens every single day," he says. ■

Job Announcement: National Council on Independent Living Executive Director

Source: [NCIL](#)

The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) is currently seeking an Executive Director to succeed [Kelly Buckland upon his retirement](#) in May of 2021. NCIL encourages all qualified applicants to apply for this exciting opportunity to lead one of the nation's premiere organizations for disability rights and independent living.



NCIL is the longest-running, national, cross-disability, grassroots organization run by and for people with disabilities. Founded in 1982, NCIL represents thousands of organizations and individuals including: individuals with disabilities, Centers for Independent Living (CILs), Statewide

Independent Living Councils (SILCs), and other organizations that advocate for the human and civil rights of people with disabilities throughout the United States.

The Executive Director will lead a complex grassroots organization that is led by its membership and Governing Board. The ability to work with a mission-driven board, members, and grassroots stakeholders is key. The Executive Director will also direct a dedicated, passionate staff of ten and administer an annual budget of nearly \$2M. NCIL's revenue comes from a variety of sources, including membership dues, donations, and grants and contracts. Ensuring NCIL's continued success with advocacy and policy, resource development, and operating high-quality, accessible programs and events will be critical.

NCIL approaches disability rights through the Independent Living perspective, that disability is a natural aspect of human life and that the barriers people with disabilities face are rooted in ableism and discrimination. NCIL is also committed to becoming an anti-racist organization, intent on confronting and undoing the harm of racism and injustice entrenched in disability rights, IL, and society-at-large. The next Executive Director must be committed to these same priorities to continue NCIL's path towards justice and equity. We also believe that a diverse staff enables us to better understand and serve our members, audience, and community.

NCIL has a tremendous amount of momentum and excitement thanks to its current leadership and years of successful advocacy. This is an outstanding opportunity for the right leader as NCIL approaches a new strategic plan and its 40th anniversary in 2022. We hope you will consider applying and share this announcement with qualified candidates that you know.

The [full job announcement is available at ncil.org](#) and details the responsibilities and required qualifications for the position, as well as instructions to apply. Applications must be received by the close of the business day, March 1, 2021. ■

(Ergonomic continued from p6)

- Make sure the things you use the most are easy to reach.

For more information on ergonomics or to try out a device for your home office, contact WVATS at 800-841-8436 or wvats@hsc.wvu.edu. ■



Healthy Dried Mushroom and Barley Soup

Source: [Food Network](#)

If you're looking for a hearty and healthful meal, consider this dried mushroom and barley soup. The barley adds nuttiness, a sprinkle of flour lends viscosity to the broth and the dried mushrooms provide meatiness and umami. If you have fresh mushrooms on hand, you can add them, too. The result is a deliciously nourishing, vegetarian dish that everyone will love.

Cook Time: 1 Hour Servings 4

Ingredients

- 1 ounce dried porcini mushrooms
- 3 cups boiling water
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 medium carrots, finely diced
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 8 ounces cremini mushrooms, thinly sliced, optional
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons sherry vinegar
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 cup pearl barley
- 4 cups low-sodium vegetable or mushroom broth
- 1/4 cup sour cream, for serving
- Chopped fresh parsley, for serving
- 4 slices hearty white or sourdough bread, for serving

(See Soup p10)

(Soup continued from p9)

Directions:

1. Place the dried mushrooms in a medium bowl and cover with the boiling water. Let soak until well hydrated and softened, about 15 minutes. Strain through a fine-mesh sieve, reserving the liquid. Roughly chop the porcini and set aside.
2. Heat the olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add the carrots, onion, cremini mushrooms if using, 1/4 teaspoon salt and several grinds of pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until all vegetables are tender and mushrooms are golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes.
3. Add the garlic, 1 tablespoon of the vinegar and the tomato paste to the pot, then continue to cook, scraping up any brown bits from the bottom of the pan with a wooden spoon. Sprinkle the flour and thyme evenly over the vegetables and cook, stirring, until flour is dissolved and no longer raw, about 1 minute. Stir in the barley, broth, reserved mushroom liquid and porcini, 1/2 teaspoon salt and several grinds of pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer, cover slightly and cook until the barley is tender and the soup has thickened and reduced slightly, 30 to 35 minutes.
4. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in the remaining 1 tablespoon vinegar and ladle into 4 bowls. Dollop with sour cream, sprinkle with parsley and serve with a slice of bread, for dipping. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

**WV Virtual Traumatic Brain
Injury Conference
March 30 & 31, 2021
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

This conference is open to survivors of TBI, their family members, and professionals. We are pleased to bring in several national-level presenters from across the country in addition to our own state-level experts. Topics will include concussion management, return to learn, creative therapy, rehabilitative approaches for TBI, and so much more!

For more information, visit the 2021 TBI Conference website at <http://tbi.cedwvu.org/2021-conference/> or email tbi@hsc.wvu.edu

WVSILC Meetings

February 3, 2021
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Location TBA

April 7, 2021
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Location TBA

August 4, 2021
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Location TBA

**WVSILC
Executive Committee
Meetings**

January 6, 2021
1:00 PM
Location TBD

March 3, 2021
1:00 PM
Location TBD

May 5, 2021
1:00 PM
Location TBD



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