

TACIL 2010-11 Project Initiatives

The Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living (TACIL) has received two grants from the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DARS), both of which meet our Guiding Principles:

AACE Project: This initiative focuses on emphasizing the value and increasing the visibility of TX CILs. This will be accomplished by:

- Developing a consistent message that conveys the CILs' unique approach to providing services to people with disabilities;
- Creating a dynamic strategy for educating legislators, state agencies and the general public about disability related issues on an ongoing basis and;
- Forming statewide collaborations with consumers and other disability advocates to ensure the AACE initiative is a success.

TACIL anticipates that consumers, community stakeholders, state agencies, and legislators will begin to consistently identify each CIL as:

- **A** reliable community resource
- **A** responsible steward of public and private funds
- **C**aring and responsive to the needs of Texans with disabilities; and;
- **E**ffective and efficient in its mission

TACIL's Project Open House Summary

The purpose of Project Open House is continuing to expand long-term housing options for Texans with disabilities by:

- Advocating for the availability of housing alternatives through the establishment of state-wide collaborations and partnerships;
- Promoting homeownership and rental opportunities that are integrated, affordable and accessible; and;
- Advocating for state-wide policy, program, and regulatory changes that will increase the development of integrated, affordable and accessible housing.

Through its "Project Open House", TACIL will continue to advocate for sufficient housing options that will allow people with disabilities to sustain their choice of living in the community. In its continued administration of Project Open House, TACIL plans to:

- **Advocate for the availability of housing alternatives through the establishment of community collaborations and partnerships:** Each CIL will be encouraged to maintain a Housing Advocacy Plan that addresses housing options for people with disabilities through individual and systems advocacy. The TACIL Director and CILs will collaborate with any existing housing coalitions and will encourage partnerships with people with disabilities, representatives from the SILC, Public Housing Authorities, Builders' Associations, architects, HUD, etc.

- **Promote Consumer and community awareness of the need for homeownership and rental opportunities that are affordable and accessible:** Project Open House will employ strategies that will increase Consumer participation in housing issues that directly impact the Consumers, themselves. This includes challenging local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to comply with the “New Freedom Initiative”, which calls for the full integration of people with disabilities into all aspects of daily life.
- **Advocate for local and statewide policy, program, and regulatory changes that will increase the development of accessible, affordable and integrated housing projects:** Utilizing the existing models of Austin, Houston, and Amarillo, the TACIL DDAO and CILs will work diligently to promote passage of “Visitability” ordinances in cities throughout the state.