Texas State Independent Living Council Receives Federal Grant to Serve Texans Living with Paralysis in Rural Areas

Austin, Texas (December 14, 2018)—The Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC) has received a three-year cooperative agreement from the Administration on Community Living to assist the needs of over three million Texans living with disabilities. The Virtual Independent Living Services Project is a Paralysis Resource Center State Pilot program with the goal to build supports and services to Texans with disabilities living with paralysis in unserved or underserved areas of the State.

February, 1, 2019, Texas SILC will award up to five Virtual Independent Living Services grants of up to $40,000 to community-based disability organizations to leverage a tele-health platform to provide Independent Living Services to Texans living with paralysis. Community grant applications are available on Texas SILC’s website at: https://www.txsilc.org/projects/vils.html

An estimated 5.4 million individuals live with paralysis in the United States. The leading cause of paralysis is stroke, spinal cord injury, and multiple sclerosis. The purpose of the project is to bring Independent Living Services to Texans living in rural or underserved areas of the State. Texas SILC is looking forward to building community partnerships and will be accepting applications for the project until 5:00pm Central Standard Time, Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

Texas SILC is a nonprofit organization federally authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and reauthorized by Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) to provide a strategic framework for Independent Living Services in Texas. WIOA provided the SILC resource development authority to support the State Plan for Independent Living. The Texas SILC is led by a Governor-appointed Council. More information about the Texas SILC and its initiatives may be found on its website at: www.txsilc.org

“The Virtual Independent Living Services Project is an innovative project that further unites Independent Living Services to Texans living with paralysis in unserved and underserved areas of our vast Lone Star State. The Administration on Community Living through this cooperative agreement will build upon a coalition of direct service providers that will construct a virtual bridge that unites Texans living with paralysis across Texas,” said Texas SILC Chairman Colton Read.

Inquiries regarding the Virtual Independent Living Services Project may be directed to: VILS@txsilc.org