

### **APRIL Who We Are:**

- The Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) is a national grassroots, nonprofit membership organization consisting of over 260 members from centers for independent living, their satellites and branch offices, statewide independent living councils, other organizations and individuals concerned with the independent living issues of people with disabilities living in rural America.

### **Our Mission:**

- The Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL), a national disability-led organization, advances the equity of people with disabilities in rural communities through advocacy, collaboration, shared experience, leadership development, education, and training. APRIL is the unified voice of Independent Living in rural America.

### **APRIL Statement on Community:**

- The Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) is a membership organization dedicated to advancing the rights of people with disabilities living in rural America. We strive to cultivate a culture of inclusivity throughout our organization which reflects that of our membership. We believe that diversity is an asset to be valued and respected. APRIL recognizes the uniqueness of each individual and uplifts the characteristics and intersectionality of characteristics within the human experience.

### **Comment on Solidarity:**

Communities have cried out and demanded justice for George Floyd and black Americans murdered before him (Ahmaud Arbery, Brianna Taylor, Tony McDade, and countless more), as well as demanding dramatic change to prevent another needless death at the hands of police brutality and white supremacy. APRIL has heard this cry and we, as an organization, condemn the police violence and racism that has led to this moment. We are in solidarity with the Black community and demand justice for all the victims of police violence across the nation. We know that Black lives matter and we support social justice initiatives led by communities of color to help eradicate systemic racism.



- **Youth Coordinators Connect:** first Tuesday of the month at 2PM EST; 11AM Pacific
- Next Meeting is October 7, 2025
- [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvc-qoqjwjH9A3PV2dIJUJFHR1\\_ulbGz93#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvc-qoqjwjH9A3PV2dIJUJFHR1_ulbGz93#/registration)



- **Youth Peer Support calls:**  
4th Tuesday of the month 7PM  
EST; 4PM Pacific
- 
- Next Meeting is September  
23, 2025
- 
- [https://us02web.zoom.us/join?  
meeting/register/tZYtf--  
uqDstGN2LZqO7-  
PkkhrCP315lryrC#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join?pwd=ZU9lTGZkdjRldzVScWZMcDdFSGpYcEJnTm8yZW5lc0o6MTIwMDE1MDQxNDRkbnBxcjRvM0tXNDZkdz09)



- **Youth Steering Committee:** second Monday of the month at 7PM EST; 4PM Pacific
- Next Meeting is October 13, 2025
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>



- **Youth Lead Forward Series:** Every other Friday at 7:30PM EST; 4:30PM Pacific

Lead Forward is a new youth program through APRIL for youth ages 16-30 years. Youth will meet every other Friday and discuss a different topic that is connected to disability, and/or personal growth. This program also incorporates a mentorship program and Discord channel to continue growth and discussion in between meeting sessions.

- Next Meeting is September 19, 2025
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=786543210&pwd=1234567890>



- **Advocacy Committee:** first Wednesday of the month at 4PM EST; 1PM Pacific
- Next Meeting is October 1, 2025
- [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?z=ZMpc6vqDliGtR\\_zA0BFICKhj-DBXkLZX9E#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?z=ZMpc6vqDliGtR_zA0BFICKhj-DBXkLZX9E#/registration)



- **Transportation Advocacy Committee:**  
Third Thursday of every OTHER month at  
2PM EST; 11AM Pacific
- Next Meeting is September 18, 2025
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtduCgrzorGtCHUI1vG1mP2mqD8fWZf4PO#/registration>







With the generous help of the [FORD FOUNDATION](#), we launched the APRIL "Lead On" Collaborative in 2022, a leadership program designed for youth and young adults with disabilities who want to take the next step in their journey. Youth complete a 6-8 week course that culminates in them being supported financially to attend the APRIL Conference to experience a National conference on disability with their peers as well as seasoned advocates from Independent Living.

### **Applications will reopen mid-year 2026**

For more information contact:  
Harm Tarrant, Coordinator of Youth Services  
[htarrant@april-rural.org](mailto:htarrant@april-rural.org)



## APRIL MEMBERSHIP

- Join together with over 260 CILs, SILCs, other organizations and individuals who share your rural independent living concerns.
- Gain opportunities to learn about and shape how Independent Living affects Rural America.
- Participate with your colleagues at the annual National Conference on Rural Independent Living held at different locations every year.
- Receive discounts on Registrations for our Annual Conference
- Have access to information, resources (free or at discounted rates), and contracts from our partners at the top research and training centers on independent living and rural issues: Univ. of Montana's RTC: Rural, Rural Institute on Disabilities
- Eligible to join our Advocacy Committee, Transportation Committee, Emergency Prep Committee, Youth Steering Committee, or Youth Advocacy Committees.
- Access to action alerts/ list serv which give you priority access to information such as grant and contract opportunities, mentoring and training opportunities, our free IL conversation series and other upcoming events, news, job openings, and important advocacy updates.
- Access to our information dissemination portals to get out your events, job openings, and other important announcements to our other members.
- Membership certificates for members or an optional organizational plaque (at cost)

<https://www.april-rural.org/index.php/en/become-a-member>



## GENERAL APRIL SERVICES:

- APRIL provides technical assistance and connects our peers with resources and trainings for organizations as needed
- APRIL provides TA to members on conducting virtual events, building IL skills training, starting or expanding youth programs and finding resources to better serve their communities

APRIL

P. O. Box 203

Plumerville, AR 72127

501-753-3400 (text capable)

<https://www.april-rural.org/index.php/en/>



## **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

Last but definitely not least: the **Annual APRIL Conference!**

This year the APRIL Conference will be in Portland, Oregon the “City of Roses”

Conference Dates:

**October 17-19, 2025**

Theme: Empower your inner ROSE

Resilient; Outspoken; Steadfast;  
Engaged

<https://www.april-rural.org/index.php/en/conferences/2025-conference-information>

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**QUESTIONS??**



**[www.april-rural.org](http://www.april-rural.org)**