



NEVADA SILC DATA

Independent Living Data for Informed Decisions

INCLUSIVE OUTREACH

At its most basic level, public participation is a way of ensuring those who make decisions that affect people's lives have a dialogue with that public before making those decisions. (James Creighton)

For a SILC, the ability to reach out to unserved or underserved populations means that every effort needs to be taken to ensure all communications are as accessible as possible. The following is a brief introduction to strategies for engagement, it is not an exhaustive list.

Ensuring ADA compliance is essential for all interactions. Accessibility and equal access are an important component for independent living organizations as it removes barriers to accessing services and activities while it demonstrates a commitment to equality and inclusion. Inaccessible materials such as websites, paper-based forms or facilities send an undesirable message to individuals looking to maintain or regain independence.

Basic Accessibility Resources

The planning guide was developed as an initiative of the the ADA National Network to promote accessibility and opportunity for people with disabilities. Regional ADA services can be obtained through Pacific ADA Center or with ADA Nevada.

- Accessible Events | [Section508.gov](https://www.section508.gov)

- A Guide to Planning Accessible Meetings

Effective Inclusive Practises

Strategies for inclusion are not static. There is no single answer to the issue of accessibility, nor for inclusion. It is an ongoing process. Exploring and utilizing other approaches beyond mandatory requirements should be considered. For example, encouraging SILC board members or staff to become somewhat fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) allows personal engagement with members of the public beyond the transcribed sessions. Looking beyond local expectations encourages fresh perspectives—Government of Canada and the Council of Ontario Campuses has some excellent materials that some may find useful.

Careful planning for all public events, with an agreed upon and consistently applied events checklist will help the SILC and the CILs develop the necessary personel and logistic supports required.

- Guide to Planning Inclusive Meetings
- Advancing Equity and Inclusion A Guide for Municipalities
- COU's Accessibility Resources Website
- A Checklist for planning accessible conferences

Outreach to target populations

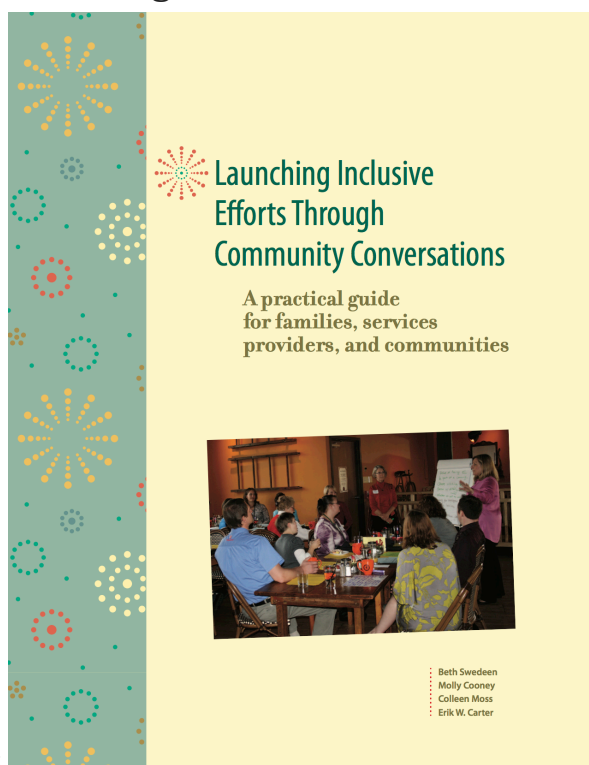
Strategies for specific demographics such as Developmental Disabilities, Blind and low vision etc., may be required for targeted outreach efforts to under/unserved populations. This does not mean reducing inclusivity in the general sense, instead it encourages the incorporation of additional strategies.

Developmental Disabilities

Effectively engaging people with developmental disabilities has been viewed as a difficult task. The UCEDD Resource Center offers a variety of approaches. The importance of building long-term relationships through ongoing dialog and relevant activities is emphasized over one-off “focus” groups or survey flooding.

Leveraging the Nevada’s DD Act partners is the most effective use of existing resources as the strategies listed below have been developed by them or their national

organizations.



- Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD)
- Nevada Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (NCED)
- Nevada Disability Advocacy Law Center (NDALC)
- Strategies to Incorporate the Voices of People with Significant Disabilities in UCEDD Information Gathering and Operations. (PDF)
- Launching Inclusive Efforts Through Community Conversations: A practical guide for families, services providers, and communities. (A PDF by the Waisman Center publication)
- Getting Involved in Research and Training: A Guide for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

- The NGCDD has Accessible and Inclusive Tool Guide links.

An excellent example of using alternate methods of engagement is the “Overview NGCDD December 2016 Meeting” video produced to support council members participate.

Overview NGCDD December 2016 Meeting



Please note: Some reports are in PDF format and may have accessibility issues.