**Smart Technology Mentors Program**

 **Pilot Overview for Participating CILs**

**Description:** The Smart Technology Mentors Program (STMP) matches seniors and people with disabilities with local students ready to assist them in installing, operating and troubleshooting smart home devices, and enrolling in cost-saving utility programs.

During 2020, the program will be pilot tested across a diverse set of Illinois communities through Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and area high schools. Students with and without disabilities participating in the program will receive hands-on training to serve as technology mentors and a stipend for every home assistance visit they conduct. The home visits are free of charge to assistance recipients.

**Participants & Funders:** The pilot program is being conducted by the Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living, the Progress Center for Independent Living and the Smart Self Reliance Collaborative (formerly Seniors Independent Living Collaborative). Technical support is provided by the Illinois Assistive Technology Program. Funding for the pilot program is provided by the Illinois Science & Energy Innovation Foundation and the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. Upon completion, the program will be scaled-up for operation in communities across Illinois.

**Role of the Centers for Independent Living:**

Six CILs will participate in the program through a designated Coordinator responsible for:

1. Recruiting high school and student participants (2 schools/5-10 students per school);
2. Receiving instructor training and training prospective student mentors in their schools;
3. Promoting and supervising home assistance visits to seniors and people with disabilities.

The pilot team will support the Coordinators in these activities with all required recruitment and training materials, equipment and compensation for their time. The approximate time commitment for a CIL Coordinator is estimated to be 49-hours.

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**Pilot Project Timing:**

1. March & April School & Student Recruitment
2. June & July Instructor & Student Training
3. August to December Delivery of Home Assistance Visits

**For More Information**, contact: Doug Newman, Pilot Program Director at: 773-899-0801