



Smart Technology Mentors Project

Overview for Participating CILs

Description: The Smart Technology Mentors Project (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 2021, this innovative model of service delivery 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 that participate in the project will receive training to serve as technology mentors and a stipend for every 1-hour in-home installation visit they conduct. The visits are free of charge to the recipients.

Participants & Funders: The project is being conducted by the Seniors Independent Living Collaborative (SILC) in conjunction with the Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (INCIL), and the Progress Center for Independent Living (PCIL). Technical support is provided by the Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP). Funding for the project is provided by the Illinois Science & Energy Innovation Foundation, Google and the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. Upon successful completion, the project will be scaled-up for operation as an ongoing program in communities across Illinois.

CIL Role: Three CILs will participate in the project through a designated Coordinator responsible for:

1. Recruiting high school students (10 students total from 2 schools in the CIL service area);
2. Scheduling and supervising afternoon installation visits from September to December;
3. Participating in an end-of-project evaluation led by SILC.

SILC will provide all of the information materials and registration forms necessary for all three tasks and will be available to brief school administrators by phone should that be desirable. SILC will also train the CIL Coordinators and the students to perform their roles and all Coordinators will be paid for each hour they support the project. The approximate time commitment for a CIL Coordinator is estimated to be 54-hours.

Pilot Project Timing:

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| 1. August & September | School & student recruitment |
| 2. September | Student training via Zoom |
| 3. September to December | In-home installation visits |

For More Information, contact: Doug Newman, Project Director at: 773-899-0801