

**For Immediate Release: May 31, 2023**

## **Seniors Independent Living Collaborative Partners with Ameren Illinois to Pilot Smart Device Installation Service for Persons with Disabilities**

**PEORIA, ILLINOIS – May 31, 2023** – Seniors Independent Living Collaborative and Ameren Illinois are testing a new pilot service which will provide persons with disabilities complimentary installation of free smart speakers and smart thermostats. The program will also provide information on cost-savings through Ameren Illinois' Energy Efficiency programs. The Smart Self Reliance Pilot will employ staff from various Centers for Independent Living to deliver the service in six communities across central and southern Illinois during 2023. Google donated its voice-activated smart speakers, and the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation are co-funding the initiative along with Ameren Illinois. The program will empower the recipients to live more independently and provide savings on their monthly utility bills.

"Ameren Illinois' support for this pilot will enable the development of a replicable model for similar programs to serve persons with disabilities throughout Illinois and eventually, across the nation," said Doug Newman, Executive Director of the Seniors Independent Living Collaborative. "We're very grateful to Ameren Illinois and its Market Development Initiative (MDI) for their support of this promising effort."

"We are committed to empowering the communities we share by giving back to the places we call home," said Pat Justis, Director of Energy Efficiency for Ameren Illinois. "This pilot will positively impact persons with disabilities by providing them with technology to improve their quality of life."

Consumers will be targeted through direct and electronic mail notifying them of the pilot and their eligibility to participate. Service visits will be conducted under the pilot project between September and November 2023.

### **For More Information Contact:**

**Karly Combest**  
Communications Executive, Ameren  
Illinois  
[kcombest@ameren.com](mailto:kcombest@ameren.com)  
217-778-3726

**Doug Newman**  
Director, Smart Self Reliance Project  
[doug.newman@silcresearch.org](mailto:doug.newman@silcresearch.org)  
773-899-0801

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### **Project Sponsors:**



### **Service Provider:**

