

# **CIL Housing Forum Guidelines**

## **Deadline: March 24, 2003**

- ❖ **Determine the organization of your forum, including the following touchstones:**
  - 1) Brief history of the Olmstead Act (available on the MO SILC ([www.mosilc.org](http://www.mosilc.org)) and MO Department of Labor websites)
  - 2) Availability of affordable, accessible housing in your area
  - 3) Statistics on housing waiting lists in the counties that you serve
  - 4) Information on individuals living in substandard and inaccessible housing
  - 5) Statistics on the relative low-cost to make housing units accessible, but how it is even cheaper and more feasible to build units accessible in the first place
  - 6) Many resources are available on the MO SILC website under Resources.
  
- ❖ **Advertisements and personal invitations:**
  - 1) Determine prospective city officials, real estate developers, landlords, housing agencies, social service agencies, consumers and other community members to invite to the forum. Mail invitations to appropriate individuals and request CIL staff to invite their consumers. Stress the importance of this initiative.
  - 2) Send media releases to local TV and print news. Example media releases are available on the MO SILC website ([www.mosilc.org](http://www.mosilc.org)) under Media.
  - 3) Place posters and notices in your offices and other social service agencies and on your website (if available).
  
- ❖ Invite local officials and consumers to speak about their own insights into the need for affordable/accessible housing. It is important to have testimonials from the disabled community and the housing community. Whoever is feeling the housing crunch.
  
- ❖ Hold the forums, making sure to videotape or record testimonials for future use for the MO SILC Housing Committee to educate legislators and to make a position paper on the need for increased affordable/accessible housing in our communities.
  
- ❖ Send the written or videotaped testimonials to the MO SILC Housing Committee no later than MARCH 24, 2003 in care of Tamra Schlote, SILC Administrative Assistant, 3024 Dupont Circle, Jefferson City, MO 65109.