

# **Final Project Report**

## **Project ABLE/Extended**

### **May 5, 2017**

#### **1. Primary Goal of the Grant:**

The Project ABLE/Extended initiative builds on the successful original effort that provided training and materials to over 300 Virginia building inspections officials and over 200 private sector building professionals. As a result of that effort, an additional need was identified: the creation of a focused training on the 2010 ADA guidelines directed at these same building professionals that would allow self-paced, online learning of the relevant material and that would also offer CEU opportunities for these Virginia professionals.

This project builds on the previous Project ABLE's "*Accessibility Reference Manual for Virginia Building Professionals*" by providing an interactive, immersive, computer-based learning environment that includes video, audio, graphic, and game engine-based technologies (in an accessible format) designed to acquaint the student with selected 2010 ADA Guidelines to provide "real life" relevance for Virginia's building professionals and to provide CEU opportunities for those professionals.

#### **2. Program Performance Assessment:**

**Objective #: 1:** Ensure Continuing Education Credit (CEU) for the Training Program

**Activity 1-a:** Convene a CEU Task Force to determine the requirements to meet CEU certification

**Activity Timeline:** 4/15/2016 – 5/5/2016

**Outcome/Performance Measure Target:** Task Force will develop a check list for certification.

The CEU Task Force has completed this objective and Activity 1-a is complete.

Over the course of the grant period the CEU Task Force met regularly. Four Executive Directors of the Centers for Independent Living were members of the task force. Two directors are people with disabilities.

No consumer participation was applicable to this objective. No barriers were encountered for this objective. The format of the task force regular conference calls was particularly effective for this objective.

**Activity 1-b:** Obtain CEU certification

**Activity Timeline:** 11/1/2016 – 1/31/2017

**Outcome/Performance Measure Target:** Task Force will present training module for CEU approval and ensure adoption.

The CEU Task Force has established a procedure through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to provide CEU credit to Virginia building professionals who successfully complete the training module and who submit necessary documentation. Activity 1-b is complete.

No consumer participation was applicable to this objective. No barriers were encountered for this objective.

A sub-committee of Virginia building inspections officials assisted the CEU task force in refining the criteria for CEU submission. A certificate of completion is provided to each student at the conclusion of the successful completion of the training module and the certificate can then be submitted to the CEU certification entity.

**Objective #2:** Design and development a minimum of 12 e-learning modules, including at least four game-based scenarios.

**Activity 2-a:** Convene design team and identify needed components and content for the training product.

**Activity Timeline:** 5/1/2016 – 5/20/2016

**Outcome/Performance Measure Target:** Development of appropriate scripts and story boards.

The design team is in place and has completed this activity. Activity 2-a is complete.

No consumer participation was applicable to this objective. No barriers were encountered for this objective.

**Activity 2-b:** Production of training product

**Activity Timeline:** 5/15/2016 - 10/15/2016

**Outcome/Performance Measure Target:** Production of the e-learning training product.

The design team has completed work on the training module and the interactive computer programs. Professionals who successfully complete the training module can apply for up to 4 CEU hours. This objective is complete.

500 flash drives containing the training module and electronic versions (PDF) of the “Accessibility Reference Manual for Virginia Building Professionals”, ICC 1111.1-2009, the Fair Housing Design Manual, and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The initial distribution of the flash drives and explanatory information included 138 flash drives sent to building inspections offices throughout the Commonwealth, 35 sent to the VACIL network, and 53 sent to private building professionals in the Commonwealth.

The training module and the reference manual is available online at <http://www.vacil.org>  
No particular barriers were encountered for this objective. No consumer participation was applicable to this objective, although VACIL consumer advocates participated.

Project ABLE advocates were especially effective in approaching building inspections officials by presenting the training module as an opportunity “to make the job easier” for the building inspectors.

**Activity 2-c:** Adherence to Section 508 guidelines.

**Activity Timeline:** 10/1/15 to 11/15/16

**Outcome/Performance Measure Target:** Training product will meet Section 508 accessibility guidelines.

This objective has been completed. In total VACIL-ABLE collaborated with 8 entities to ensure that the developed virtual interactive training simulation and associated components were section 508 compliant: Crossplatform Designs LLC, SSB BART Group, Braille Works, the County of Albemarle, Virginia, and the City of Charlottesville, Virginia. VACIL also collaborated with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the County of Warren, Virginia, the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, and the City of Emporia, Virginia regarding CEU guidelines and implementation.

Performance Measures	Number	Clarification
SC 1.5.1: Collaboration: The number of Council supported systems change activities with organizations actively involved.	3	The ABLE-Extended project has collaborated with the following entities regarding Section 508 guidelines and implementation: Crossplatform Designs LLC, SSB BART Group, Braille Works, the County of Albemarle, Virginia, and the City of Charlottesville, Virginia. The ABLE-Extended project has also collaborated with the following entities

		regarding CEU guidelines and implementation: Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the County of Warren, Virginia, the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, and the City of Emporia, Virginia.
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**Objective #3:** Market Training Product Statewide

**Activity 3-a:** Convene VACIL advocates for introduction and explanation of the training product.

**Activity Timeline:** 1/1/2017 – 1/15/2017

**Outcome/Performance Measure Target:** All VACIL advocates will understand the training product and will identify the building code officials in their region to be contacted.

This activity has been completed but will remain ongoing as needed. During the ABLE continuation project, a total of 133 VACIL Advocates within 17 CILs were trained to utilize and explain each of the training modules. No consumer participation was applicable to this objective, although VACIL consumer advocates participated. No barriers were encountered for this objective.

VACIL advocates continue to be engaged in implementing the dissemination of the product.

Performance Measures	Number	Clarification
SC 1.4.1: Training/Education: The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives.	133	133 VACIL advocates in 17 CILs have been trained to use and explain the training module.

**Activity 3-b:** Outreach to Virginia building inspections officials

**Activity Timeline:** 1/15/2017 – 4/14/2017

**Outcome/Performance Measure Target:** VACIL advocates will meet with building code officials in all 138 Virginia jurisdictions to present the training product and encourage its use.

This activity has been completed but VACIL advocates continue to maintain contact with building code officials about this project.

Performance Measures	Number	Clarification
SC 1.4.1: Training/Education: The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives.	168	168 building code officials in the Commonwealth have been provided with the training module materials and the related reference materials.

The “choke-point advocacy” element of Project ABLE/Extended was extremely effective and successful. Throughout this project, over 133 consumer advocates have participated in contacting 168 Virginia building inspections officials in 138 Virginia jurisdictions.

The Project ABLE advocates introduced the training/reference material to the building inspections officials as an opportunity “to make their job easier” and have been very gratified by the positive response. More importantly, the VACIL/Project ABLE/Extended advocates were able to re-establish and enhance on-going relationships with the building inspections operations throughout the Commonwealth—positioning the CILs as a primary technical resource on accessibility issues for the building inspectors.

No consumer participation was applicable to this objective, although VACIL consumer advocates participated. No barriers were encountered for this objective.

**Activity 3-c:** Outreach to Virginia private sector building professionals

**Activity Timeline:** 2/1/2017 – 3/15/2017

**Outcome/Performance Measure Target:** VACIL advocates will contact and meet with private sector building professionals in their regions to present the training product and encourage its use.

This activity has been completed but will remain ongoing as needed. In total, 57 private sector building professionals participated in the ABLE interactive training program. VACIL advocates continue to be engaged in implementing the dissemination of the product.

Performance Measures	Number	Clarification
SC 1.4.1: Training/Education: The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives.	57	57 private sector building professionals have been provided with the training module materials in the Commonwealth.

### **3. Assessment of Systemic Impact of Grant:**

The primary purpose of this effort was to increase the active knowledge and implementation of the 2010 ADA Guidelines among Virginia building professionals, and especially among Virginia's building code officials. The development of the training module and the associated reference materials for the building inspections officials (and other building professionals) throughout the Commonwealth promises a great benefit to all Virginians with disabilities. By targeting the "choke-point" operations of building construction and review (the building inspections operations), the Project ABLE/Extended initiative significantly increased the potential enforcement and application of accessibility standards to building construction in Virginia. In addition, the increased linkage between the building inspections offices and the VACIL advocates statewide offers great promise for more active enforcement and application of accessibility standards as well.

### **4. Sustainability Plan:**

VACIL plans to continue the expansion of the training module and the distribution of the related reference materials developed from Project ABLE/Extended to building professionals in Virginia. The training module and the "Accessibility Reference Manual for Building Professionals in Virginia" has been posted online and will remain available in the future. The training module and the reference manual are perceived to be only a "beginning" effort and also regarded as a "dynamic" entity—one that can be amended and expanded over time as needed.

### **5. Future Actions:**

As noted, Project ABLE/Extended has provided a beginning point for an on-going and dynamic initiative. The training module and the related reference manual will continue to exist electronically online and direct distribution of the materials will continue to maximum extent possible. The training module is intentionally not copywrited to encourage the widest distribution possible. 500 flash drive copies of the training module and the related reference materials have been produced.

A need for an instructional curriculum directed at building inspections officials that would emphasize ADA standards was revealed during the span of the first Project ABLE grant and that need was addressed by Project ABLE/Extended. However, VACIL continues to receive numerous comments from building inspections officials that a more extensive course of study on ADA requirements would be welcomed by them. VACIL believes that if future additional funds

were available that additional “chapters” could be added to the existing training module and perhaps a more comprehensive interactive component could be developed.

VACIL advocates intend to explore the promotion of legislative/administrative action that would further empower building inspections officials to enforce accessibility guidelines.

Finally, the heart of Project ABLE/Extended, the “choke-point advocacy”, will be continued by the members of VACIL. The grant permitted an unprecedented, systematic implementation of that effort on a statewide basis and is providing a terrific platform to expand that advocacy and interaction between the CILs and the building inspections offices.