

Practical Ways to Include people with disabilities in design

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Liz has been a problem solver since birth. Her life with the disability experience offers a unique perspective on design. She's currently a UI/UX Designer in Chicago at SPR Consulting and this summer is completing a MS in Human Computer Interaction at DePaul University.

Inclusive Design!!!

*It's cool to be
inclusive!*

**You've heard everyone
talking about how we
should be inclusive!!**





**I HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT
I'M DOING**

But maybe you aren't sure how.

**The key is talking to
someone with a
disability.**



Quick History Lesson

The Disabilities Civil Rights Movement

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“Gang of 19” laid in front of buses in a busy Denver, CO intersection for two days in protest of a lack of bus access.

1978



Members of the Gang of 19 protesting inaccessible RTD buses on July 1978 in Denver. Photo courtesy of the *Denver Post* via Getty Images

1990

When the ADA stalled in the House Committee, 60 disabled protesters crawled, dragged, moved themselves up 78 marble stairs to the Capitol's West Front.

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1990



2017

**Stephanie
Woodward being
arrested in 2017
during a “die in”
outside Mitch
McConnell’s DC
office to protest cuts
to Medicaid and
repeal of ACA**

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2017

Capitol Police drag a blind protester out of a Senate Finance Committee hearing

(Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images) Capitol Police drag a blind protester out of a Senate Finance Committee hearing about the proposed Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill, Sept. 25, 2017, in Washington.

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Connecting with the Community

WHO definition: Disability is a complex phenomenon, reflecting the interaction between features of a person's body and features of the society in which he or she lives.

**~~Complex Phenomenon~~ -
Experience**

Every state has an office for Independent Living

Directory:

<https://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory>

Make personal connections with existing disability organizations in your area!

- **Independent Living Organizations**
- **Local Universities**
- **Active Disability Advocacy Groups**
- **Senior Centers**
- **Social Media Groups**

Specific Chicago Resources

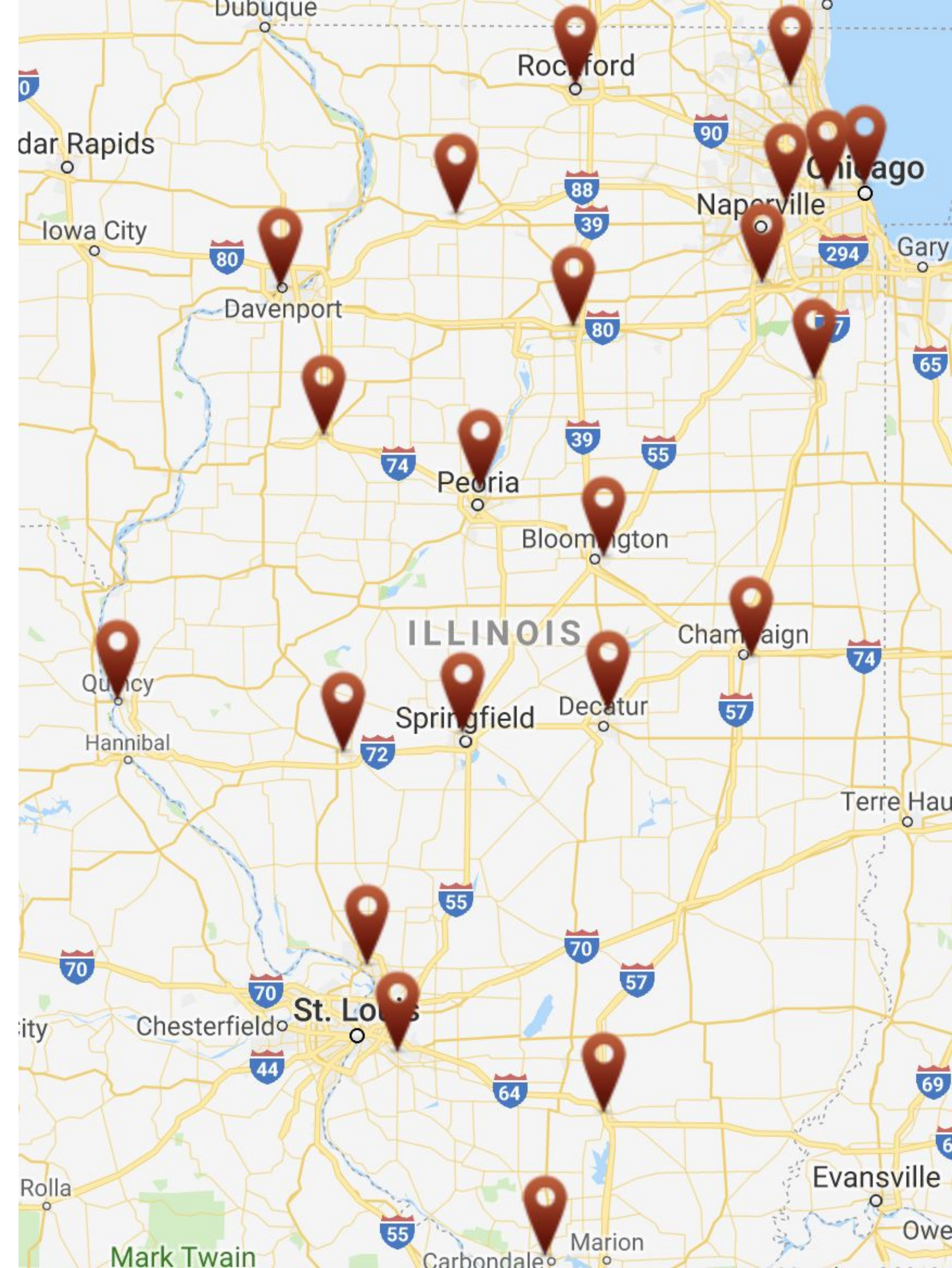
- **Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD)**
- **Access Living in Chicago**
- **The Chicago Lighthouse**
- **Great Lakes ADA**

Independent living centers in Illinois

Every county has one!

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<https://www.incil.org/locate/>



Independent Living Centers offer many resources

- **Advocacy**
- **Technical training or help**
- **Independent living skills training**
- **Information hub**
- **Community Support**
- **Staffed by people with disabilities**

University / College

Typically Universities have an office for students with disabilities

- **Students love to earn an extra buck**
- **Usually already have technology experience**

Social Media!

It's a whole new world...

- **Social Media has opened up a flood of support groups**
- **YouTube Channels**
- **Twitter Communities**
- **Gaming groups**
- **Blogs!**

Send a friendly email

**Talk about your project, and
other typical recruitment
screeners and information.**



Setting the Session

Location

- **Is it close to public transit or paratransit**
- **Accessibility of the building**
- **Parking nearby?**
- **Never assume it's 100% accessible!**

Timing

- **Paratransit can be unreliable at times, consider a good backup plan**
- **Be Flexible**

Consider Assistive Technology

- **Set aside extra time for technology setup, and troubleshooting**
- **If you are providing your own set up, be sure to give time to get familiar with the settings**
 - **Ideally, if you aren't testing with a new AT tech, don't use a unfamiliar set-up**

PAY PEOPLE!



Additional Access

You can't account for every single need, so ask what access you can provide.



Recap

- **Location**
- **Timing**
- **Assistant Technology**
- **PAYMENT**
- **Additional Access**

During Session



What if I say the wrong thing?

Teamwork!

- Be open to feedback
- Don't be afraid to be corrected
- Remember, we are just people...
- You won't be perfect



You did it!

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THANK YOU, QUESTIONS?

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