

Texas Survey on Disability Priorities

Findings will inform Texas' State Independent Living Plan (SPIL), a three-year plan supporting Texans with disabilities to make their own life choices.

All survey participants will be invited to help develop the plan.

All meetings will be open to the public.

Special thanks!

For sharing and promoting TXSILC's first consumer survey!

The Centers for Independent Living across Texas

The Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

Texas Health & Human Services Commission

For participating in the survey!

People with Disabilities

Individuals close to People with Disabilities

Disability professionals



image: A man using a wheelchair works on a laptop while a woman looks on.

Survey basics:

694 respondents	People **with** disabilities- **26% (lowest participation rate)**	Individuals **close** to a person with a disability (highest rate) - **49%**
Professionals who work with people with disabilities (Professionals)-**24%**	From the Greater **Austin**, **Houston**, & **San Antonio** region **70%.**	Reside in areas with **small response** rates -**18%**
Reside in or near **Fort Worth**, **Plano**, & the **Rio Grande** Area-**17%**	Nearly all reside in a community **with** a CIL	Data collection timeframe- **April - August 2026**

No data captured on disability **type** or **demographics**	Percentages may not add up to 100

Rights, affordable community living and service access are recurring concerns

Key findings from respondents with disabilities

Rights and benefits

- 95% were very/somewhat concerned about threats to services and benefits.
- 88% were concerned about losing rights.

Housing and transportation

- 62% identified affordable, accessible housing as a community issue.
- 61% identified public transit.

Service access and agency coordination

- 11% reported mostly good service access.
- 60% said agencies do not work well together.
- 88% considered cooperation very important.

This data comes from different survey questions. They do not form a single numerical ranking.

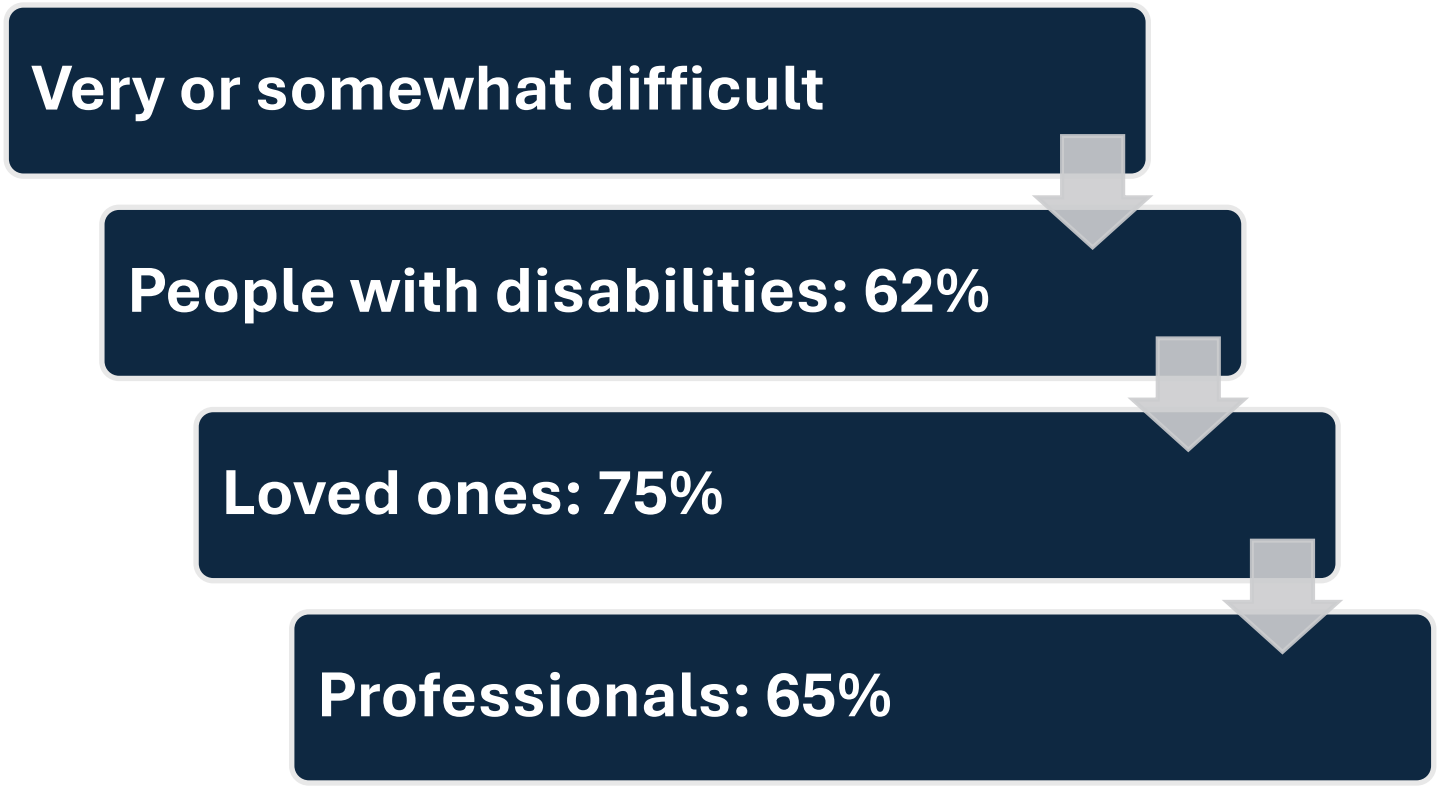
Financial security, accessibility and a voice in decisions also matter

Key findings from respondents with disabilities

Financial security and employment	52% identified employment as a community issue. Comments described living costs, insufficient benefits, & income limits that can constrain employment.
Accessibility and connection	60% identified providers' lack of disability knowledge. 57% identified isolation. 55% identified inaccessible sidewalks and buildings. 73% wanted support groups.
Self-advocacy and participation	71% wanted self-advocacy skills. 87% were very or somewhat interested in educating lawmakers.

Different survey questions. These findings do not form a single numerical ranking.

70% of **all** find it very or somewhat difficult to obtain information about local **disability services**.



Self-advocacy leads the skills respondents want help building

Learning priorities of respondents with disabilities

71%

Selected self-advocacy skills.

Other leading learning priorities

52%	Technology or assistive devices
49%	Finding or keeping housing
48%	Job skills / workplace readiness
48%	Budgeting or money management

Professionals most often selected job skills / workplace readiness (79%).

These responses describe requested learning support, not measured ability.

Support groups lead respondents' peer support preferences

Peer support preferences of respondents with disabilities

73%

Selected support groups, the most frequently selected option

Other leading peer support preferences

59%	Social activities
51%	One-on-one mentoring
50%	Issue-specific support groups
46%	Online groups

Respondents selected several forms of peer support across the survey.

These percentages describe preferences, not participation or importance.

Source: Texas SILC Needs Assessment Survey, April 14–August 31, 2026.

Question: How would you describe your experience in getting services?

Among people with disabilities: 42% report mixed experiences, 38% mostly difficult and 11% mostly good.

Respondent group	Mostly good	Mixed	Mostly difficult	No experience
People with disabilities	**11%**	**42%**	**38%**	**8%**
All respondents	5%	40%	50%	4%
Close to someone with a disability	5%	40%	52%	3%
Works with people with disabilities	2%	36%	59%	3%

Percent within each group. “All respondents” includes the groups shown.
Displayed percentages may not total 100%.

88% of people with disabilities say agency cooperation is very important

How important is it that disability agencies work together?

Level of importance	People with disabilities	All respondents	Close to someone with a disability	Professionals
Very important	**88%**	91%	90%	98%
Important	**11%**	8%	9%	2%
Not important	**1%**	1%	1%	Not shown

99% of people with disabilities say cooperation is important or very important.

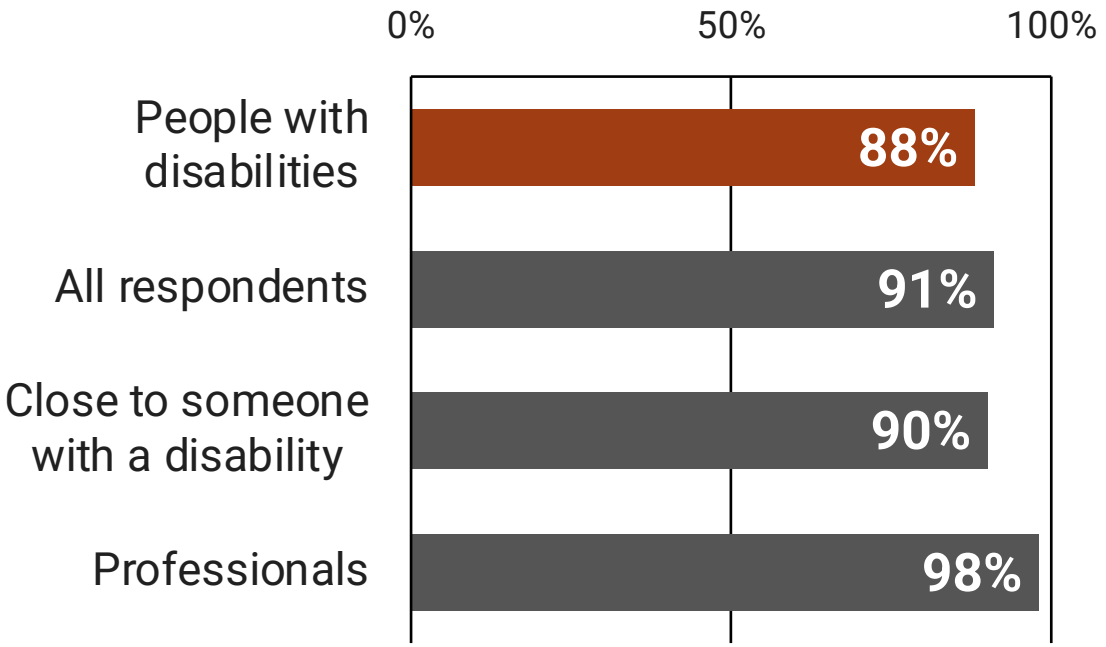
Percent within each group. “All respondents” includes the groups shown.
Professionals work with people with disabilities. “Not shown” means no value in the source chart.

Source: Texas SILC Needs Assessment Survey, April 14–August 31, 2026. Overall sample: 694 adults.

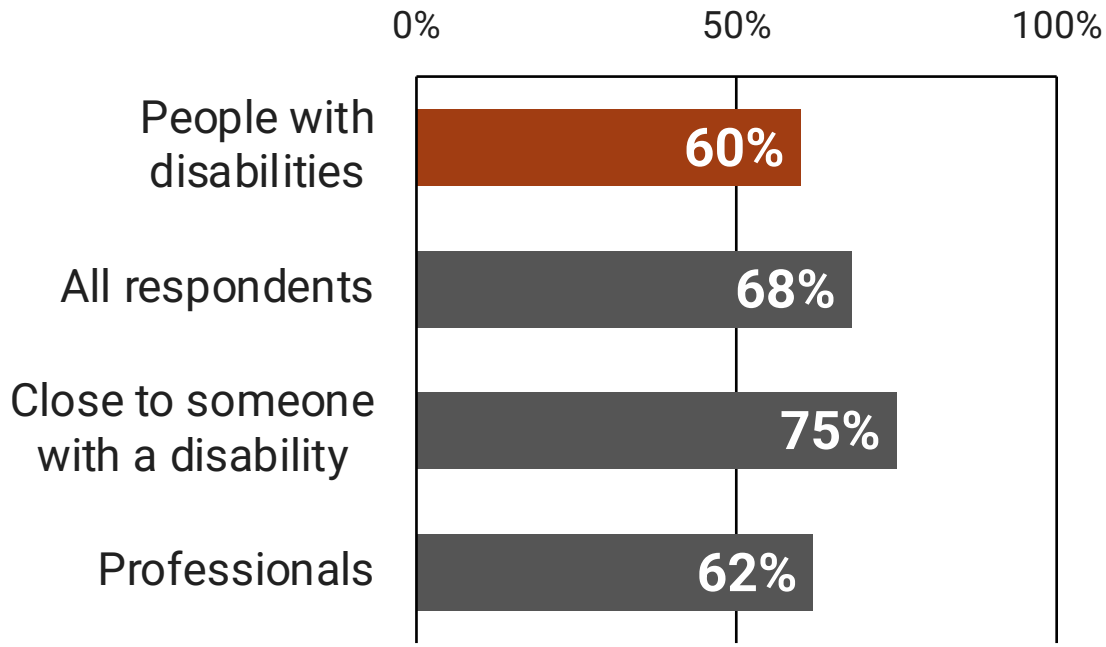
People with disabilities want agencies to work together

88% say cooperation is very important. 60% say agencies do not work well together now.

Cooperation is very important



Agencies do not work well together



Percent within each group. These are separate survey questions.
“All respondents” includes the groups shown. Professionals work with people with disabilities.

Source: Texas SILC Needs Assessment Survey, April 14–August 31, 2026. Overall sample: 694 adults.

Community concerns span basic access, rights and inclusion

Community issues selected by respondents with disabilities

Housing and transportation	62% Affordable, accessible housing 61% Affordable, accessible public transit
Rights and provider understanding	61% Disability rights being ignored 60% Providers lacking disability knowledge
Connection and participation	57% Isolation 55% each: physical accessibility, negative perceptions of disability, and full health care access

Less frequently selected issues may still be critical for those affected.

Accessible housing leads reported needs among people with disabilities

Question: Do you or someone you know need help with any of the following?

Need	Percent
Finding accessible housing	**46%**
Staying in the community instead of entering an institution	**39%**
Getting community support after moving	**32%**
Youth transition from school to adult life	**19%**
Moving after disasters	**12%**
Leaving the armed forces	**8%**
Moving home after being in prison	**8%**
Moving out of a nursing home or long-term care facility	**6%**
Leaving foster care	**5%**

Reports may refer to the respondent or someone they know.

74% of people with disabilities are very concerned about losing their rights

Concern about the rights of people with disabilities being eliminated

Level of concern	People with disabilities	All respondents	Close to someone with a disability	Professionals
Very concerned	**74%**	71%	71%	66%
Somewhat concerned	**14%**	18%	18%	22%
Slightly concerned	**5%**	5%	5%	5%
Not at all concerned	**6%**	5%	4%	7%

88% of people with disabilities are very or somewhat concerned.

Percent within each group. “All respondents” includes the groups shown.
Professionals work with people with disabilities. Totals may differ from 100%.

79% of people with disabilities are very concerned about threats to services and benefits

Concern about threats to services and benefits affecting people with disabilities

Level of concern	People with disabilities	All respondents	Close to someone with a disability	Professionals
Very concerned	**79%**	80%	82%	77%
Somewhat concerned	**16%**	16%	14%	18%
Not at all concerned	**4%**	4%	3%	5%

95% of people with disabilities are very or somewhat concerned.

Percent within each group. “All respondents” includes the groups shown.
Professionals work with people with disabilities. Totals may differ from 100%.

57% of people with disabilities are very interested in advocacy to educate Texas lawmakers

Interest in advocacy to help Texas lawmakers better serve people with disabilities

Level of interest	People with disabilities	All respondents	Close to someone with a disability	Professionals
Very interested	**57%**	52%	46%	58%
Somewhat interested	**30%**	33%	37%	31%
Not interested	**10%**	13%	15%	11%

87% of people with disabilities are very or somewhat interested.

Percent within each group. “All respondents” includes the groups shown.
Professionals work with people with disabilities. Totals may differ from 100%.

Disability rights concerns and interest in getting involved

Responses from people with disabilities

88%

Very or somewhat concerned about losing disability rights

74% very concerned
14% somewhat concerned

87%

Very or somewhat interested in advocacy to educate Texas lawmakers

57% very interested
30% somewhat interested

These separate questions show high concern and high interest.
They do not establish how many individuals reported both.

Transportation, housing and living costs lead barriers to independence

Open-ended question: Biggest barriers to living independently in the community

147 responses from 181 survey participants with disabilities

Transportation	The most frequently cited barrier in the source summary.
Affordable, accessible housing	Housing costs and accessibility constrain independent living.
Other living costs	Respondents also described financial pressures beyond housing.

Other concerns: administrative barriers to public services, physical accessibility, and employment discrimination.

Housing leads service priorities for the next three years

Open-ended responses from people with disabilities: 138 responses from 181 participants

Theme	Percent*
Housing services and supports	**17%**
Transportation and mobility supports	**11%**
Employment services and workforce development	**11%**
Independent living supports, including caregiving	**10%**
Information, navigation and case management	**9%**
Accessibility services	**9%**

*Percentages follow the source's comment analysis, not all survey respondents.
Leading themes shown. Full category detail appears in the speaker notes.

Additional comments emphasize financial security and barriers to access

Open-ended responses from people with disabilities: 88 responses from 181 participants

Theme	Percent*
Economic insecurity and benefits	13%
Accessibility and ADA compliance	12%
Service access and navigation	11%
Housing	10%
Government accountability	9%

Respondents described benefits that fall short of basic needs and income limits that can constrain employment.

*Source comment-analysis percentages. Leading themes shown, not population prevalence.

Additional perspectives from families and professionals

Supporting context for the priorities people with disabilities identified

Families and close contacts

Caregiver support

Comments described burnout, difficulty working, and limited respite or compensation.

Navigating services

Families described long waits, complex eligibility rules, and poor coordination.

Professionals

Capacity to deliver services

Comments emphasized workforce shortages and insufficient funding, alongside the need for better coordination.

Themes reflect respondents' experiences and perspectives.

What respondents are telling us

Perspectives of Respondents with Disabilities

- Securing the basics of independent living remains difficult.
- Concern about losing rights and essential supports adds uncertainty.

Strong interest in connection and advocacy creates an opportunity to involve people directly in shaping services.