

REPORTING INSTRUMENT

OMB Control Number: 0985-0043

Expiration Date: March 31, 2024

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING
OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS**

**SECTION 704
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
For
STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
PROGRAM
(Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended)**

Part I INSTRUMENT

**(To be completed by Designated State Units
And Statewide Independent Living Councils)**

Reporting Fiscal Year: 2025

State: SD

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 35 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit (P.L. 105-220 Section 410 Workforce Investment Act). Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Rehabilitation Services Administration, LBJ Basement, Attention: Timothy Beatty, PCP Room 5057, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20202-2800 or email timothy.beatty@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1820-0606. Chapter 1, Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act.

SUBPART I – ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SECTION A – SOURCES AND AMOUNTS OF FUNDS AND RESOURCES

Sections 704(c) and 704(m)(3) and (4) of the Act

Indicate amount received by the DSE as per each funding source. Enter “0” for none.

Item 1 - All Federal Funds Received

(A) Title VII, Ch. 1, Part B	\$348,060.00
(B) Title VII, Ch. 1, Part C – For 723 states Only	\$0
(C) Title VII, Ch. 2	\$0
(D) Other Federal Funds	\$303,089.00
Subtotal - All Federal Funds	\$651,149.00

Item 2 - Other Government Funds

(E) State Government Funds	\$39,266.00
(F) Local Government Funds	\$0
Subtotal - State and Local Government Funds	\$39,266.00

Item 3 - Private Resources

(G) Fees for Service (program income, etc.)	\$0
(H) Other resources	\$0
Subtotal - Private Resources	\$0.00

Item 4 - Total Income

Total income = (A)+(B)+(C)+(D)+(E)+(F)+(G)+(H)	\$690,415.00
--	--------------

Item 5 – Pass-Through Funds

Amount of other government funds received as pass through funds to consumers (include funds, received on behalf of consumers, that are subsequently passed on to consumers, e.g., personal assistance services, representative payee funds, Medicaid funds, etc.)	\$0
---	-----

Item 6 - Net Operating Resources

[Total Income (Section 4) <minus> amount paid out to Consumers (Section 5) = Net Operating Resources	\$690,415.00
--	--------------

Section B – Distribution of Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds

What Activities were Conducted with Part B Funds?	Expenditures of Part B Funds for Services by DSE Staff	Expenditures for Services Rendered By Grant or Contract
(1) Provided resources to the SILC to carry out its functions	\$0	\$9,365.00
(2) Provided IL services to individuals with significant disabilities	\$0	\$337,662.00
(3) Demonstrated ways to expand and improve IL services	\$0	\$0
(4) Supported the general operation of CILs that are in compliance with the standards and assurances set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 725 of the Act	\$0	\$0
(5) Supported activities to increase capacity to develop approaches or systems for providing IL services	\$0	\$0
(6) Conducted studies and analyses, gathered information, developed model policies, and presented findings in order to enhance IL services	\$0	\$0
(7) Provided training regarding the IL philosophy	\$0	\$0
(8) Provided outreach to unserved or underserved populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations	\$0	\$0

Section C – Grants or Contracts Used to Distribute Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds

Sections 704(f) and 713 of the Act

Enter the requested information for all DSE grants or contracts, funded at least in part by Part B funds, in the chart below. If a column is not applicable to a particular grant or contract, enter “N/A.” If there were no non-Part B funds provided to this grantee or contractor for the purpose listed, enter “\$0” in that column. Add more rows as necessary

Name of Grantee or Contractor	Use of Funds (based on the activities listed in Subpart I, Section B)	Amount of Part B Funds	Amount of Non-Part B Funds	Consumer Eligibility Determined By DSE or Provider	Consumer Service Records (CSRs) Kept With DSE or Provider
Western Resources of Dis-Abled Independence	IL Services Outreach Home Modifications Assistive Devices	\$84,441.00	\$84,646.00	Provider	Provider
Independent Living Choices	IL Services Outreach Home Modifications Assistive Devices	\$253,221.00	\$256,132.00	Provider	Provider
Black Hills Special Services	Resources to the SILC to carry out its functions	\$9,365.00	\$1,577.00	N/A	N/A
Total Amount of Grants and Contracts		\$347027.00	\$342355.00		

Section D - Grants or Contracts for Purposes Other than Providing IL Services or For the General Operation of Centers

Section 713 of the Act

Describe the objectives, activities and results for each Part B grant or contract awarded for purposes other than IL services or the general operation of centers.

The DSE issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) in October 2019 to obtain professional services for South Dakota's Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) was awarded the contract in December 2019, with services beginning January 2020. The one-year agreement, renewable for up to four additional years, provided funding for SILC staff support, operating expenses, Council member compensation and travel, meeting and accommodation costs, training and conference participation, and other SILC-approved expenditures. SILC staff collaborate with BHSSC's business manager and accounting specialists for monthly billing, and the SILC reviews and approves budget reports throughout the contract period.

A new RFP was issued in August 2024 to continue SILC support services. Proposals were due September 20, 2024, with contract award and negotiations expected after October 18, 2024. The new agreement began January 1, 2025, for five years with annual inflation

adjustments, and may be renewed for up to five additional years under the same terms and conditions.

The SILC continued its collaborative efforts with South Dakota's two State Rehabilitation Councils (SRCs) to support National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) activities. Each year, 11-13 communities receive funding for local events covering speakers, venues, and outreach. These efforts are planned by committees that include Council members, vocational rehabilitation (VR) staff, centers for independent living (CILs), employers, service providers, and community representatives. SILC members also participate in annual debriefings to review successes and identify improvements.

The SILC also provided support to Disability Awareness Day at the State Capitol, coordinated by the Council on Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights SD. This event involves 12-16 disability organizations and educates state leaders and the public about disability-related programs and services.

SILC's meeting expenses supported interpreter services, zoom licensing (including virtual room connections), and meeting accessibility. The DSE provided meeting space and technical support to ensure inclusive participation for all attendees.

During the reporting period, SILC Member Travel funds supported four members' attendance at the 2024 Fall Conference in Deadwood. CIL Staff Training funds supported participation for 4 CIL staff, covering registration, mileage, per diem, and lodging. SILC staff also attended with related expenses covered with the SILC Staff budget line item.

The 2024 Fall Conference, themed "Don't Stop Me Now," included speakers Shawn Harper, Dr. Patrick Schwarz, and Malcolm Chapman. with breakout sessions on topics such as boundaries/relationships, successful student outcomes, neurodiversity at work, Alzheimer's Disease/Multiple types of dementia, disclosure, navigating anxiety, wellness strategies, and Lakota values.

The Fall Conference also provided time and opportunity for the SD RehabACTion to meet. SD's RehabACTion is a coalition of professionals, families, individuals with disabilities, and community members dedicated to strengthening the state's public vocational rehabilitation program. The organization highlights the collaborative efforts of employment specialists, counselors, educators, therapists, and others who work to help people with disabilities achieve greater independence through employment.

The SILC's Strategic Planning funds supported the Champion of Independent Living Services Award, hosted annually since 2015 to recognize individuals advancing independence and inclusion. The 2024 award honored and recognized Shelly Pfaff for her extensive leadership, policy work, and commitment to empowering people with disabilities. The awards celebrate excellence, inspire others, and strengthen awareness of independent living services across South Dakota.

Section E – Monitoring Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds

Provide a summary of the program or fiscal review, evaluation and monitoring conducted by the state of any of the grantees/contractors receiving Part B funds during the reporting year.

The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) serves as the Designated State Entity (DSE) for South Dakota, overseeing the fiscal management of Part B Independent Living (IL) funds awarded to Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC).

The DSE:

- * Receives, accounts for, and disburses Part B funds in compliance with 45 CFR Part 1329.
- * Provides fiscal oversight and technical assistance to CILs but retains no Part B funds for administrative costs.
- * Does not provide staff for SILC operations.
- * Ensures that Part B funds supplement, not duplicate, Part C funds, primarily supporting the five core IL services.

When distributing funds, the DSE must follow state and federal fiscal requirements, including:

- * Request for Proposal (RFP) process per SDCL 5-18D-17 to 5-18D-22 (for contracts over \$50,000).
- * SB162 - State Board of Internal Control.
- * 2 CFR 200.330 - Federal pass-through funds.

There are no additional state-imposed restrictions limiting the SILC's autonomy.

The contract with Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) is a consulting agreement--established through an RFP--for providing administrative and support services to the SILC (and the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation). The Consultant acts independently, not as a state employee. The contract runs for one year, with options for four one-year extensions, and includes a Scope of Work and Budget defining SILC operations, staff roles, and funding allocations.

Funding sources:

- * VR Sec. 101 Innovation & Expansion funds: support SILC staff salaries, benefits, travel, training, and supplies.
- * Part B funds: cover SILC member travel, CIL training, meetings, and strategic planning.

The SILC maintains independence over its operations. Its executive committee reviews and approves all statements of work, contracts, and budget amendments before DSE approval.

The DSE provides technical assistance and ensures compliance but does not interfere with SILC decision-making.

Section F – Administrative Support Services and Staffing

Section 704(c)(2) and 704 (m)(2) and (4) of the Act

Item 1 – Administrative Support Services

Describe any administrative support services, including staffing, provided by the DSE to the Part B Program.

The Designated State Entity (DSE) provides administrative support for Part B funded Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and related activities. The DSE IL Program Specialist conducts annual reviews of CILs' use of Part B funds and offers technical assistance and training. DSE staff collaborate with the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) on developing and submitting the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), updating SILC bylaws, and completing the annual performance report (PPR/704 report). Over the past year, their efforts focused on SPIL-related tasks, including identifying independent living needs and help with conducting preliminary work on the future State Plan. DSE staff also participated in the monthly Fall Conference Planning Committee and work related to organizing IL breakout sessions.

The DSE does not provide staffing support for SILC operations.

Item 2 – Staffing

Enter requested staff information for the DSE and service providers listed in Section C, above (excluding Part C funded CILs):

Type of Staff	Total Number of FTEs	FTEs filled by Individuals with Disabilities
Decision-Making Staff	0	0
Other Staff	0.3	0

Section G – For Section 723 States ONLY

Section 723 of the Act, 45 CFR 1329.12

Item 1 – Distribution of Part C Funds to Centers

In the chart below, please provide the following information:

- A) name of each center within your state that received Part C funding during the reporting year;
- B) amount of Part C funding each center received;
- C) whether the Part C funding included a cost-of-living increase;
- D) whether the Part C funding included any excess funds remaining after cost-of-living increases were provided;
- E) whether any of the centers received its Part C funding pursuant to a competition for a new center in the state; and
- F) whether the center was the subject of an onsite compliance review conducted by the DSE during the reporting year.

Add additional rows as necessary.

Item 2 – Administrative Support Services

Section 704(c)(2) of the Act

Describe the administrative support services used by the DSE to administer the Part C program.

Item 3 – Monitoring and Onsite Compliance Reviews

Section 723(g), (h), and (i) – 46

Provide a summary of the monitoring activities involving Part C centers conducted by the state during the current reporting year, including the onsite reviews of at least 15% of centers receiving Part C funds under section 723. The summary should include, at least, the following:

- A) centers' level of compliance with the standards and assurances in Section 725 of the Act;
- B) any adverse actions taken against centers;
- C) any corrective action plans entered into with centers; and
- D) exemplary, replicable or model practices for centers.

Item 4 – Updates or Issues

Provide any updates to the administration of the Part C program by the DSE, if any, including any significant changes in the amount of earmarked funds or any changes in the order of priorities in the distribution of Part C funds. Provide a description of any issues of concern addressed by the DSE in its administration of the Part C program.

SUBPART II – NUMBER AND TYPES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES RECEIVING SERVICES

Section 704(m)(4) of the Act; 45 CFR 1329.12(a)(4)

In this section, provide data from all service providers (DSE, grantees, contractors) who received Part B funds and who were listed in Subpart I, Section C of this report, except for the centers that receive Part C funds. Part C centers will provide this data themselves on their annual CIL PPRS, Part II.

Section A – Number of Consumers Served During the Reporting Year

Include Consumer Service Records (CSRs) for all consumers served during the year.

	# of CSRs
(1) Enter the number of active CSRs carried over from September 30 of the preceding reporting year	0
(2) Enter the number of CSRs started since October 1 of the reporting year	0
(3) Add lines (1) and (2) to get the <i>total number of consumers served</i>	0

Section B –Number of CSRs Closed by September 30 of the Reporting Year

Include the number of consumer records closed out of the active CSR files during the reporting year because the individual has:

	# of CSRs
(1) Moved	0
(2) Withdrawn	0
(3) Died	0
(4) Completed all goals set	0
(5) Other	0
(6) Add lines (1) + (2) + (3) + (4) +(5) to get <i>total CSRs closed</i>	0

Section C –Number of CSRs Active on September 30 of the Reporting Year

Indicate the number of CSRs active on September 30th of the reporting year.

	# of CSRs
Section A(3) <minus> Section (B)(6) = Section C	0

Section D – IL Plans and Waivers

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Number of consumers who signed a waiver	0
(2) Number of consumers with whom an ILP was developed	0
(3) <i>Total number of consumers</i> served during the reporting year	0

Section E – Age

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Under 5 years old	0
(2) Ages 5 – 19	0
(3) Ages 20 – 24	0
(4) Ages 25 – 59	0
(5) Age 60 and Older	0
(6) Age unavailable	0
<i>Total number of consumers served by age</i>	0

Section F – Sex

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Number of Females served	0
(2) Number of Males served	0
<i>Total number of consumers served by sex</i>	0

Section G – Race And Ethnicity

Indicate the number of consumers served in each category below. *Each consumer may be counted under ONLY ONE of the following categories in the Program Performance Report, even if the consumer reported more than one race and/or Hispanic/Latino ethnicity).*

**This section reflects a new OMB directive.
Please refer to the Instructions before completing.**

	# of Consumers
(1) American Indian or Alaska Native	0
(2) Asian	0
(3) Black or African American	0
(4) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
(5) White	0
(6) Hispanic/Latino of any race or Hispanic/ Latino only	0
(7) Two or more races	0
(8) Race and ethnicity unknown	0
<i>Total number of consumers served by race/ethnicity</i>	0

Section H – Disability

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Cognitive	0
(2) Mental/Emotional	0
(3) Physical	0
(4) Hearing	0
(5) Vision	0
(6) Multiple Disabilities	0
(7) Other	0
<i>Total number of consumers served by disability</i>	0

SUBPART III – INDIVIDUAL SERVICES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FUNDED THROUGH TITLE VII, CHAPTER 1, PART B FUNDS

Sections 13 and 704(m)(4); 45 CFR 1329.12(a)(3) Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) Performance Measures

Subpart III contains new data requests. Please refer to the Instructions before completing.

Section A – Individual Services and Achievements

For the reporting year, indicate in the chart below how many consumers requested and received each of the following IL services. Include all consumers who were provided services during the reporting year through Part B funds, either directly by DSE staff or via grants or contracts with other providers. Do not include consumers who were served by any centers that received Part C funds during the reporting year.

Services	Consumers Requesting Services	Consumers Receiving Services
(A) Advocacy/Legal Services	0	0
(B) Assistive Technology	0	0
(C) Children’s Services	0	0
(D) Communication Services	0	0
(E) Counseling and Related Services	0	0
(F) Family Services	0	0
(G) Housing, Home Modifications, and Shelter Services	0	0
(H) IL Skills Training and Life Skills Training	0	0
(I) Information and Referral Services	0	0
(J) Mental Restoration Services	0	0
(K) Mobility Training	0	0
(L) Peer Counseling Services	0	0
(M) Personal Assistance Services	0	0
(N) Physical Restoration Services	0	0
(O) Preventive Services	0	0

Services	Consumers Requesting Services	Consumers Receiving Services
(P) Prostheses, Orthotics, and Other Appliances	0	0
(Q) Recreational Services	0	0
(R) Rehabilitation Technology Services	0	0
(S) Therapeutic Treatment	0	0
(T) Transportation Services	0	0
(U) Youth/Transition Services	0	0
(V) Vocational Services	0	0
(W) Other Services	0	0
Totals	0	0

Section B – Increased Independence and Community Integration

Item 1 – Goals Related to Increased Independence in a Significant Life Area

Indicate the number of consumers who set goals related to the following significant life areas, the number whose goals are still in progress, and the number who achieved their goals as a result of the provision of IL services.

Significant Life Area	Goals Set	Goals Achieved	In Progress
(A) Self-Advocacy/Self-Empowerment	0	0	0
(B) Communication	0	0	0
(C) Mobility/Transportation	0	0	0
(D) Community-Based Living	0	0	0
(E) Educational	0	0	0
(F) Vocational	0	0	0
(G) Self-care	0	0	0
(H) Information Access/Technology	0	0	0
(I) Personal Resource Management	0	0	0

Significant Life Area	Goals Set	Goals Achieved	In Progress
(J) Relocation from a Nursing Home or Institution to Community-Based Living	0	0	0
(K) Community/Social Participation	0	0	0
(L) Other	0	0	0

Item 2 – Improved Access To Transportation, Health Care and Assistive Technology

(A) Table

In column one, indicate the number of consumers who required access to previously unavailable transportation, health care services, or assistive technology during the reporting year. Of the consumers listed in column one, indicate in column two, the number of consumers who, as a result of the provision of IL services (including the four core services), achieved access to previously unavailable transportation, health care services, or assistive technology during the reporting year. In column three, list the number of consumers whose access to transportation, health care services or assistive technology is still in progress at the end of the reporting year.

Areas	# of Consumers Requiring Access	# of Consumers Achieving Access	# of Consumers Whose Access is in Progress
(A) Transportation	0	0	0
(B) Health Care Services	0	0	0
(C) Assistive Technology	0	0	0

Note: For most IL services, a consumer's access to previously unavailable transportation, health care and assistive technology is documented through his or her CSR. In some instances, consumers may achieve an outcome solely through information and referral (I&R) services. To document these instances as successful outcomes, providers are not required to create CSRs for these consumers but must be able to document that follow-up contacts with these consumers showed access to previously unavailable transportation, health care and assistive technology.

(B) I&R Information

To inform RSA how many service providers engage in I&R follow-up contacts regarding access to transportation, health care services or assistive technology, please indicate the following:

The service provider did / did not X engage in follow-up contacts with I & R recipients to document access gained to previously unavailable transportation, health care or assistive technology.

Section C – Additional Information Concerning Individual Services or Achievements

Please provide any additional description or explanation concerning individual services or achievements reported in subpart III, including outstanding success stories and/or major obstacles encountered.

NA

SUBPART IV – COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND COORDINATION

Section 704(i), (l), and (m)(4) of the Act; 45 CFR 1329.17(c)

Section A – Community Activities

Item 1 – Community Activities Table

In the table below, summarize the community activities involving the DSE, SILC and CILs in the Statewide Network of Centers (excluding Part C fund recipients) during the reporting year. For each activity, identify the primary disability issue(s) addressed as well as the type of activity conducted. Indicate the entity(ies) primarily involved and the time spent. Describe the primary objective(s) and outcome(s) for each activity. Add more rows as necessary.

Subpart IV contains new data requests. Please refer to the Instructions before completing.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcomes(s)
Increase Awareness of Employment of Persons with Disabilities	Community Education/Outreach, Public Information	BVR/SILC/DSE/DSBVI	60.00	Host Governors Awards to recognize & honor indiv w disabilities, employees and employers, & service providers w signi contributions to employment & inclusion; to encourage nominations, celebrate impact, promote awareness, & foster continued support.	Highlight successful models & employment practices, fostered culture of appreciation & advocacy; encouraged widespread participation w nomination process, raised public awareness of value of ppl w disabilities in workforce; and amplifies visibility
Increase Disability Awareness	Outreach & Community Education	BVR/DSE/SILC	4.00	Worked with SD Public Broadcasting to Livestream the Governor's Awards Ceremony and make it available as a YouTube video for public viewing and access.	Continue to raise awareness of the skills and abilities of people with disabilities and recognize businesses who hire qualified individuals with disabilities, increase awareness in more remote/rural areas
Increase Awareness of Disability Related Services	Community Outreach and Education	DHS/DRS/SBVI	20.00	Conduct interviews w/Governor's Awards recipients, share on social media/broaden message; power of resilience, role of rehabilitation & support services, inspire others w/disabilities, promote use of adaptive equipment, value of VR & IL services	People w disabilities stories inspire and motivate others, increase awareness of assistive technology, increase understanding of VR & IL services, reinforcement of possibility and hope, and recognize community and family support in achieving goals
Disability Awareness and Public Access	Community Outreach/Systems Advocacy and Networking	SILC Member	2.00	SILC member contacted SDPB re ASL interpreter via PIP, noted its impact, and urged expanding accessibility to other public broadcasts (e.g., Governor's address, emergency updates). Thanked and encouraged SDPB to continue and broaden these efforts	Recognition of SD Public Broadcasting's existing efforts, increased awareness, encouragement for policy consideration, advocacy from a lived experience perspective, and encouraged potential for expanded accessibility practices and efforts
Increase access to VR, IL, MH, DDD and other services	Community/Systems Advocacy/Networking'	DSE/DSBVI/CILs/Providers	300.00	Plan/convene the 2024 Fall Conference "Don't Stop Me Now," featuring VR, IL, provider tracks. Topics included tribal youth programs, working dogs, community resources, and communication/care skills. Hosted vendors and build in time for networking.	Increase knowledge/understanding for staff in disability arena, sessions: ethics and boundaries, dementia, wellness, anxiety, and disclosure; cultural enrichment, employment equity, business engagement, and inclusive employment strategies.

Disability Awareness & Training	Community Education/Outreach, public education, and networking	DSE/BVR/SILC/BSBVI/Provid	350.00	Convene statewide NDEAM events to raise awareness of disability employment, promote inclusive practices among employers, share success stories, and reinforce year-round efforts to expand opportunities for people with disabilities.	Increase public awareness/understanding of contributions of workers with disabilities, improve access/equity, engage employers, support the development & implementation of policies that promote disability employment and workplace accommodations.
Increase awareness of changes in Disability Related Organization	Community Education, Public Awareness and Networking	SILC/BVR/Disab Rights SD	10.00	Hosted gathering to honor the outgoing Executive Director of the Council on Dev Disabilities and welcome the incoming Director, fostering appreciation, trust, engagement, and a smooth leadership transition while celebrating organizational continuity.	Provided closure for the outgoing director, provided introduction of new director, increase stakeholder confidence in change of leadership, to help ensure that existing relationships with partners and staff are maintained through change
Disability Awareness	Community Education & Outreach	BVR/SILC/American Heart Assoc	5.00	BVR member shared a personal stroke recovery story, highlight aftercare, advocate for equitable access in rural/underserved areas, inspire survivors & caregivers, promote holistic healing. SILC staff/benefits specialist supported by editing speech.	Increase understanding recovery is lifelong journey, raise awareness of essential aftercare, sharing survivor's story, advocate for affordable, access rehab services, telehealth/rural areas, integrated mental health care & caregiver support systems.
Increase knowledge of IL and VR services/access; info on disability related laws	Community Education Public Information & Networking	SILC, DSE, VR, BSBVI, BVR	30.00	NDEAM Debriefing - highlights what occurred in each community, speakers utilized, topic area, what worked, what could be improved upon or changed, advertising that worked in given areas, discussed of future planning & possible partnering on events.	Two SILC members, SILC staff, 2 BVR members, VR staff participated during mtg discussion; dialogue included what worked in different communities, what did not work, how to improve future events, and planning for next year's events.
Increase awareness and access to community resources	Education and Community Systems Advocacy	SILC/DOL/TSLP/VR/Legal Services	12.00	Participate in monthly Information Referral Team meetings; members include DOL, VR, TSLP, CSPs, Pierre Area Referral, Benefits Specialist, National Farm Worker Jobs Prgm, CIL, Capitol Area Counseling	Increase awareness and understanding of various local agencies, available services, changes in services, share obtained information on SILC Facebook site, and with CILs and others
Disability Awareness & Training	Community & Systems Advocacy	SILC/DSE/CILs	160.00	Speakers at SILC meetings educated members on complexity of Dementia, definition, causes & progression, dementia in specific populations, pharmaceutical approaches/managing symptoms, & promoted strategies to reduce risk, & provided resources	Increased understanding of dementia/progressive/terminal brain disease, diverse experiences, emphasizing individualized care, exploring treatment/prevention options, promoting access to credible resources/improving attitudes toward caregiving.

Identify and Recruit people w disabilities to serve on boards/councils	Increase Education Outreach and Public Information	SILC/BVR/DSE	10.00	Identify and recruit qualified individuals with disabilities to fill vacancies on the BVR and SILC ensuring representation reflects the diversity of our state, and supports the mission, goals, and responsibilities of each.	To maintain a well-rounded board/councils composed of majority of people with disabilities, who bring valuable perspectives, expertise and lived experiences. To promote inclusive and effective leadership
Disability Training & Education	Increase Education, Public Information, Networking	SILC	10.00	Participate in Dementia Dialogues training - Equip community members, caregivers, healthcare providers, and professionals with practical knowledge & strategies to better support individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD)	Increase understanding of Alzheimer's & related dementias, improve communication, share practical strategies for behavior management & independence, strengthen caregiving problem-solving & promote dementia-friendly community through awareness & support.
Increase access/education of available disability related services	Education, Community, Systems Advocacy	SILC/CILs/DD Coun/Dis Rig	10.00	Hosted Dis Aware Day, foster education/awareness, & relationship-bldg betw dis orgs & state leaders. Services supporting independent living & included partners like Dis Rights, BRN, CSPs, Center for Dis, TSLP, Parent Conn. 2 SILC members participated	Increased visibility of disability services & fostered meaningful connections between advocates & state leaders. Collaboration of 16 orgs, engaged over 150 attendees, advancing SPIL goals through education and outreach w/o lobbying.
Increase access to public information about VR and IL services	Community Education	SILC/DSE/CILs	60.00	Maintain and update the SILC's Facebook page on a weekly basis to share disability-related information, promote training events, and provide timely updates to the community	Increased public awareness/engagement in disability-related initiatives, sharing information, promotion of award nominations (SILC, BVR, Champ IL Services), & dissemination of details on Gov Awards, NDEAM events, local disability events across the state.
Increase knowledge of disability related activities	Education and Advocacy	SILC/BVR/BS BVI/CIL staff	20.00	Convene committee meetings with representatives from the three boards/councils to review NDEAM proposals and Governor's Awards nominations, fostering collaboration and shared planning efforts	Board and council members gained increased knowledge of NDEAM and Governor's Awards activities, strengthened partnerships among councils, and expanded networking opportunities within the disability community.
Increase knowledge/understanding of SILC, CIL DSE roles, & service delivery	Education, Community Advocacy	SILC/DSE/CILs	20.00	SILC members/staff, DSE and CIL staff participated in the new IL T&TA Center trngs as of April 2025 in training, resources, and technical assistance; with goal of advancing independent living throughout all communities	IL T&TA Center provide comm-based living, self-deter & inclusion for ppl w disa, timely/relevant trng & TA (started April 2025), Ask Anything IL Resource Group, Learn & Share, Strength Connections, Youth Initiatives, Peer to Peer, SILC Role/Fiscal

Increase knowledge of IL related services and access	Education and Advocacy	SILC/DSE/CIL staff	10.00	Broaden understanding/increase knowledge of SILC members and CIL staff - of IL, philosophy, role of DSE, what a CIL is, services provided during SILC new member orientation; SILC Chair, DSE and SILC staff and 2 SILC members attended	Increased knowledge and understanding of what a CIL is, available services, what role the DSE has, IL history and philosophy, Rehabilitation Act.
Broaden knowledge & understanding of accessibility issues	Education Community Advocacy	SILC/DSE	20.00	SILC members involved in planning/advocacy efforts, promote accessibility, inclusion, & equal opportunity across the state. Participation provides lived-experience perspectives, strengthen policies, programs, & events supporting the disability comm.	Ppl w disabilities contribute to shape initiatives, policy, & community programs; participation fosters partnerships. increased collaboration & capacity building/expand awareness to improve accessibility, and mentorship builds upon youth empowerment.
Broaden knowledge & understanding of disability issues	Strengthen knowledge, leadership capacity, and collaboration	SILC/DSE/CIL	60.00	Members/staff participate in professional development, behavioral health, education, disability advocacy trng. Engagement ensures individuals w/disabilities & others are equipped to inform policy, improve service delivery, advance inclusive practices	Expand prof expertise, integrates lived & prof experience, promote inclusive education & mental health supports, strengthens collaboration & systems awareness, ensures commitment to cultural and ethical practices, and reflects ongoing development
Broaden knowledge & understanding of disability issues	Strengthen knowledge, leadership capacity, and collaboration	SILC/SBVI	20.00	Increase knowledge and understanding of vision loss, SBVI services, Tribal VR programs, cultural sensitivity, and brain injuries to better support individuals with vision-related disabilities and enhance collaboration with partner agencies.	Participated in the SBVI All Staff Meeting to expand knowledge in these areas and attended a Vision Loss Support Group in Watertown to connect individuals experiencing vision loss with peer support and available resources.
Broaden knowledge & understanding of disability issues	Strengthen knowledge, leadership capacity, and collaboration	SILC/SD DROP	20.00	Broaden knowledge and understanding of disability issues by increasing awareness, collaboration, and advocacy related to the needs and experiences of individuals who are deaf/hard of hearing.	Increased collaboration, and awareness of issues impacting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing through statewide partnerships, community outreach, and training initiatives.

Item 2 – Description of Community Activities

For the community activities mentioned above, provide any additional details such as the role of the DSE, SILC, CIL, and/or consumers, names of any partner organizations and further descriptions of the specific activities, services and benefits.

Local Leadership in NDEAM Events

South Dakota communities have long celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) through locally planned events supported by SILC, BVR, B/SBVI, and the Divisions of Rehabilitation Services and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired.

In 2024, eleven communities hosted events with around 820 attendees, including students, educators, service providers, employers, and disability advocates. These events promote inclusion, awareness, and progress through formats like film screenings, panels, workshops, retreats, and awards--held both virtually and in person.

Success is driven by local planning groups who tailor events to their community's needs. Strong partnerships with VR, CILs, businesses, mental health centers, and economic development organizations help sustain these efforts.

Each year, SILC, BVR, and DSE issue a Request for Funding (RFF), with proposals evaluated on collaboration and community engagement. The goal: to expand employment opportunities for people with disabilities, create more inclusive communities and build lasting community connections.

Several events were held in very remote areas of the state which provided outreach to areas that typically do not have access to these types of events or activities. These areas include Volga (population of 2,340), Sisseton (pop 2,412), and Mobridge (3,261).

2024 Annual Fall Conference

Planning for the Annual Fall Conference begins a year in advance and is a collaborative effort among agencies planning sessions on vocational rehabilitation, community employment, transition services, and independent living. The planning committee includes representatives from SILC, DSE, CILs, and the DSBVI Independent Living Older Blind program, which contributes to sessions focused on areas specific to independent living. The planning committee has grown to now include representatives from the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Division of Long-Term Services and Supports and the Department of Labor and Regulation.

The 2024 Conference welcomed 209 attendees from a wide range of organizations, including:

- *State Departments: Human Services, Labor, Social Services, and Education
- *Community Partners: Employers, Centers for Independent Living (CILs), schools, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation programs, Disability Rights South Dakota, Council on Developmental Disabilities, and both state VR programs
- *Support Providers: Disability-related organizations and community-based service providers
- *Boards and Councils: SILC, BVR, B/SBVI, and the Council on Developmental Disabilities

The conference featured vendor booths offering valuable information and resources, along with social networking opportunities to foster collaboration. Time was also set aside for the SD RehabACTion meeting, which brings together professionals, families, individuals with

disabilities, and community members dedicated to improving public vocational rehabilitation services. SD RehabACTion works to help people with disabilities achieve independence through employment. Its members include counselors, educators, therapists, and support staff who are committed to removing barriers to employment and promoting inclusive workforce opportunities.

Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol

Held annually during South Dakota's legislative session, Disability Awareness Day brings together disability-related organizations, advocates, and individuals with disabilities to engage with state leaders in the Capitol Rotunda. The 2025 event, hosted by Disability Rights South Dakota, took place on February 28th and featured sixteen participating organizations and an estimated 150 attendees, including over fifty individuals supported by VistaCare (community support provider) of Pierre.

This long-standing tradition--complete with fruit cups and meaningful conversation serves as a non-lobbying, educational opportunity to thank legislators and policymakers for their support of disability services and programs. It also provides a platform for individuals with disabilities and their families to share personal stories about how these services impact their lives.

The event is scheduled a year in advance and marked on the legislative calendar, reflecting its importance and consistency. It supports the goals outlined in the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) by fostering collaboration, relationship-building, and public awareness.

Organizations that participated this year:

- *SD Council for Developmental Disabilities
- *Benchmark
- *Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired
- *Resources for Human Development
- *South Dakota Service for the Deaf
- *NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
- *SD Deaf Resource & Outreach Programs
- *VistaCare
- *Western Resources for Independent Living
- *Center for Disabilities
- *LifeScape
- *SD Network Against Family Violence & Sexual Assault
- *Community Support Providers of South Dakota
- *Disability Rights South Dakota
- *New Directions Down Syndrome Association

Section B – Working Relationships Among Various Entities

Describe DSE and SILC activities to maximize the cooperation, coordination, and working relationships among the independent living program, the SILC, and CILs; and the DSE, other state agencies represented on the SILC, other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues, and other public and private entities. Describe the expected or actual outcomes of these activities.

Independent Living (IL) Network Partners recognize that individuals receiving IL services often engage with multiple service systems, both public and private. To foster coordination and stay informed, SILC members actively participate on various boards and councils and receive regular updates from agencies represented on the SILC. These standing reports help maintain awareness of developments across systems that impact people with disabilities.

To further strengthen collaboration, the SILC periodically invites representatives from other agencies and organizations to present at council meetings. These presentations focus on topics relevant to the disability community and provide opportunities for council members to engage directly with individuals with disabilities and their advocates. This approach enhances understanding of available services, emerging issues, and system changes, while also encouraging open dialogue among IL partners.

During this reporting period, the SILC invited agency representatives to present on topics and facilitate discussions that enhanced understanding of services and issues impacting people with disabilities. The discussions also supported relationship building, cross system collaboration, and alignment with the goals outlined in the SPIL. These sessions provided council members--both new and experienced--with valuable exposure to service providers, advocates, and evolving programs. They also created opportunities for open dialogue about strengthening partnerships and improving coordination across systems.

Two notable presentations included:

*Diving into Dementia: This session focused on increasing awareness and understanding of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). Presenters shared strategies for supporting individuals with dementia, highlighted community-based resources, and emphasized the importance of inclusive services for aging individuals with disabilities.

*ABLE Accounts: This presentation provided an overview of Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts, which allow eligible individuals with disabilities to save money without affecting their SSI or Medicaid benefits. The session covered account setup, qualified expenses, and how ABLE accounts can promote financial independence and long-term planning.

To strengthen cooperation and coordination among the IL program, SILC, CILs, DSE, and other partners, the SILC engages in a wide range of collaborative activities. These include hosting quarterly meetings with standing agenda items for key agencies, supporting youth transition programs like those offered by Independent Living Choices, and promoting cross-agency understanding through firsthand participant stories and program updates.

The SILC actively partners with entities such as the Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability Rights SD, and others to support events like Disability Awareness Day,

NDEAM, and the Governor's Awards. These efforts foster public engagement, legislative education, and recognition of IL achievements.

Ongoing collaboration with CILs includes updates on services, outreach, and fundraising, as well as budgeted support for staff training to ensure consistent service delivery statewide. The SILC, DSE, and CILs work together through the SPIL Committee to develop, monitor, and evaluate the State Plan for Independent Living, using tools like the Tracking Report to document progress and identify areas for improvement.

Information sharing is a key strategy, with the SILC disseminating resources on health, emergency preparedness, voting, transition services, and leadership opportunities. Financial assistance is provided to support attendance at conferences and training aligned with IL goals.

These coordinated efforts have led to increased awareness, reduced duplication of services, improved cross-agency referrals, and stronger systems advocacy. SILC members contribute by sharing information through social media and professional networks, helping to amplify the impact of IL services across South Dakota.

The SILC benefits from diverse member representation, including individuals with lived experience navigating disability services. One member is a parent and guardian of individuals with disabilities, with extensive involvement in advocacy and policymaking boards. Her background provides valuable insight into systems and services. Two new members with disabilities bring firsthand experience with college disability services, VR, and waiver programs. Their active roles on local boards and use of IL services, including service animals, enhance the SILC's ability to connect, coordinate, and share resources across communities.

SILC members and staff also participated in the SD Disability Cultural Responsiveness ECHO Series, aimed at building a sustainable Community of Practice for healthcare providers. Sponsored by the Council on Developmental Disabilities, this initiative improved participants' knowledge and strategies for delivering culturally responsive and inclusive services.

Additional collaborative activities during the reporting period included:

- *Disability Rights SD: Participated in board meetings and public listening sessions, Partners in Policymaking sessions and continuing education classes.

- *Partners in Policymaking: Engaged in sessions and continuing education sessions.

- *DakotaLink (South Dakota's assistive technology project) SILC members serve on Advisory Committee.

- *ADA Sioux Falls Committee, NDEAM committees, Accessibility and Visitability Panel, the SD Conference on Developmental Disabilities SILC members serve on a variety of committees.

- *Lost and Found Meetings and Mentorship Program: participates with campus discussion at SDSU on disability awareness and student resources, has filled roles as mentee and mentor.

- *Accessibility and Visibility Panel (event, meetings, organizer)

- *Global Genes Conference (attendee and panelist)

- *Film Festival Committee Member

*Youth Leadership Forum, Catch the College Wave, Let's Talk Work and other TSLP events

*Participation in IL T&TA's webinars and trainings by SILC and DSE staff, CIL staff, and SILC members: SILC Connection, Telling Your Story, Expanding Access, DSE Role In the IL Network, Reaching the Unheard, Data as a Driver, Language Matters and more.

*Participation in OILP's Town Hall meetings monthly by SILC members, CIL staff, and SILC and DSE staff

*National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center Webinars i.e., IDD and Dementia Late Life and End of Life Care Planning.

These activities reflect the SILC's commitment to strengthening relationships, enhancing systems advocacy, and supporting inclusive service delivery. Through ongoing collaboration, diverse member engagement, and strategic partnerships, the SILC continues to foster meaningful coordination among IL programs, CILs, the DSE, and other public and private entities--improving outcomes for individuals with disabilities across South Dakota.

SUBPART V – STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

Section 705 of the Act; 45 CFR Part 1329.14â€“16

Section A - Composition and Appointment

Item 1 – Current SILC Composition

In the chart below, provide the requested information for each SILC member. The category in which the member was appointed can be described, for example, as ex-officio state agency representative, other state agency representative, center representative, person with a disability not employed by a center or state agency, section 121 funded project director, parent of person with a disability, community advocate, other service provider, etc. Include current vacancies, along with the corresponding appointment category for each. Add more rows as necessary.

Name of SILC member	Employed by CIL, State Agency or Neither	Appointment Category	Voting or Non- Voting	Term Start Date	Term End Date
Lance Sigdestad	Neither	Person w Disability	Voting	06/30/2025	06/30/2028
Brett Glirbas	Neither	Person w Disability	Voting	12/21/2023	06/30/2026
Joe Vetch	Neither	Person w Disability	Voting	11/09/2023	06/30/2026
Theresa Marzahn	State Agency	State Agency Rep (DDD)	Non-Voting	07/01/2023	06/30/2026
Valerie Beeck	Neither	Parent of persons w disabiliti	Voting	07/01/2023	06/30/2026
Richard Moeller	Neither	Person w Disability/Dis Org	Voting	07/01/2023	06/30/2026
Kendra Gottsleben	Neither	Person w Disability/Dis Org	Voting	10/11/2023	06/30/2026
Victoria Steffes	Neither	Person w Disability	Voting	10/10/2023	06/30/2026
CJ Moit	Neither	Person w Disability/Dis Org	Voting	10/11/2023	06/30/2026
Ryan Groeneweg	Neither	Person w Disability/Dis Org	Voting	07/10/2024	06/30/2027
Matt Cain	CIL	Center Representative	Voting	07/10/2024	06/30/2027
Brad Konechne	Neither	Person with Disability	Voting	10/01/2024	06/30/2027
Julie Johnson	Neither	Person w Disability	Voting	12/05/2024	06/30/2027
Tricia Eggers	State Agency	State Agency/SBVI/ Older Blind	Non-Voting	12/05/2024	06/30/2027

Jennifer Lewis	State Agency	DSE Representative	Non-Voting	08/19/2024	06/30/2027
----------------	--------------	-----------------------	------------	------------	------------

Item 2 – SILC Composition Requirements

Please provide the information requested in the chart below. Include any current vacancies in a particular appointment category.

SILC Composition	# of SILC members
(A) How many members are on the SILC?	15
(B) How many members of the SILC are individuals with disabilities not employed by a state agency or a center for independent living?	10
(C) How many members of the SILC are voting members?	12
(D) How many of the voting members of the SILC are individuals with disabilities not employed by a state agency or a center for independent living?	10

Section B – SILC Membership Qualifications

Section 705(b)(4) of the Act; 45 CFR 1329.14(a)

Item 1 – Statewide Representation

Describe how the SILC is composed of members who provide statewide representation.

South Dakota is geographically divided by the Missouri River into two distinct regions: East River and West River. The SILC reflects this division through its member representation. On the eastern side, Sioux Falls - the state's largest city - is home to three members, with another residing in nearby Hartford. Additional East River members live in Mitchell (the sixth largest city), Brookings (the fourth largest), and Alcester, located in the southeastern part of the state.

Centrally located members include those from Pierre, the state capital and hub of government agencies, Ft. Pierre, and Frankfurt. In the northeastern region, members reside in Aberdeen (the third largest city), Redfield (ranked 41st in population), and Bristol.

West River representation includes members from Sturgis, located near the Wyoming border, and Summerset, the state's second-fastest growing community, just outside Rapid City - the second-largest city in South Dakota.

According to the 2020 Census, South Dakota's population is 886,667. SILC members come from both urban centers and small rural communities. For example, Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties (East River) have a combined population of 262,375, while Aberdeen has 28,000 residents. In contrast, members also represent smaller towns such as Sturgis (7,100), Summerset (2,978), Redfield (2,104), Alcester (825), Bristol (288), and Frankfurt (134).

To maintain broad representation, the SILC follows its policy titled "A Method for Recruiting Members and Regularly Providing Recommendations for Eligible Appointments to the Appointing Authority." Nominations are solicited annually - or sooner if vacancies arise - through a packet sent to over 300 entities, including state agencies, disability organizations, and various boards and councils (e.g., Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council, Council on Developmental Disabilities, SD Advocates for Change). Recruitment notices are also posted on the DSE website and shared with CILs and community partners.

Special attention is given to recruiting individuals from underrepresented communities. When specific membership needs arise, the SILC collaborates with community partners to identify candidates. The nomination form is available year-round on the DSE website under the Boards and Councils section. Additionally, the SILC launched a Facebook page to share information, including the solicitation packet and nomination form, making them more accessible to the public.

Item 2 – Broad Range of Individuals with Disabilities from Diverse Backgrounds

Describe how the SILC members represent a broad range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds.

The South Dakota SILC is composed of a diverse group of members who represent a broad range of disabilities, backgrounds, and life experiences. Membership includes individuals with disabilities, parents and family members (including those of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities), advocates, service providers, a CIL director, racial minorities, grassroots advocates, state employees, staff from federally funded programs, representatives from the state's protection and advocacy organization, two employees from the Center for Disabilities (a UCEDD), and retirees.

Disability Representation:

SILC members have a wide variety of disabilities, including mobility/physical disabilities, cognitive, developmental, and intellectual disabilities, mental health conditions, sensory disabilities, and multiple disabilities. This includes individuals who are deaf, have hearing loss, and vision loss, as well as those with progressive conditions. Some members were born with disabilities, while others acquired them through disease, injury, or accident. One member utilizes a service animal.

Ethnic Diversity:

According to the U.S. Census, South Dakota's population is 80.7% White, 11% American Indian, 4.4% Hispanic or Latino, 2% Black or African American, and 2.1% Asian, with 5.3% identifying as multiracial. While most SILC members are White/Caucasian, the Council strives to represent a diverse range of experiences and perspectives.

Age, Education, and Employment Diversity:

SILC members span a wide range of ages and educational backgrounds - from high school graduates to individuals with technical certifications, bachelor's degrees, and graduate-level education. Employment histories vary, including public and private sector work, self-employment, part-time and full-time roles, and retirement.

Community and Advocacy Involvement: Members are active in disability-related organizations such as the SD Association of the Deaf, SD Association of the Blind, National Federation of the Blind, People First, RehabACTion, Disability Rights SD, and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. They also serve on local and state committees, including River City Transit and Planning Commissions, and attend city/county meetings on zoning and ordinances.

Beyond advocacy, members participate in a wide range of community and recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, ice skating, community theater, music groups, church, veterans' organizations, the Mayor's Committee, and the Chamber of Commerce. These connections help ensure that SILC members bring real-world perspectives and lived experience to their work, strengthening the Council's ability to represent and advocate for South Dakotans with disabilities.

Item 3 – Knowledgeable about IL

Describe how SILC members are knowledgeable about centers for independent living and independent living services.

The South Dakota SILC is composed of individuals with a wide range of experiences and knowledge related to Independent Living (IL) services and Centers for Independent Living (CILs). Some members are past recipients of IL services, while others have served or currently serve on the boards of CILs. In addition to members with disabilities, the SILC includes parents, caregivers, and individuals who themselves require caregiving assistance. While some members come with less direct experience under the Rehabilitation Act's definition of IL services, they bring valuable perspectives through their work with disability-related programs and advocacy.

SILC members have been exposed to a broad spectrum of services, including Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), CIL services, and supports for children with disabilities such as Birth to Three, Head Start, Children's Specialty Clinics, and school-based special education. Members bring expertise in specific disability areas including intellectual/developmental disabilities, mental health, blindness/vision loss, and deaf/hard of hearing. The Council also reflects ethnic and cultural diversity, with members representing various customs and backgrounds.

To ensure all members have a solid foundation in IL philosophy and services, new appointees - and continuing members who wish to participate - receive a comprehensive orientation. This includes training on the history and philosophy of IL, consumer control principles, the Rehabilitation Act, and the roles of the SILC, DSE, and CILs. Each new member receives a manual containing SILC bylaws, historical context, policies, and practical resources

such as travel reimbursement guidelines, conflict of interest policies, and brochures on CILs, VR, CAP, TSLP, and Benefit Specialists.

Members are encouraged to explore additional training through the IL T & TA Center, NCIL, APRIL, including the IL T&TA's Operationalizing the IL Philosophy. And now the IL T&TA Center is offering the "Foundations & History of the IL Movement" as a short, self-paced learning module E-course. Training topics have included disability, diversity, intersectionality, and outreach to underserved populations. Some members also viewed the "SILC Member Orientation to SILC Duties" training to reinforce their understanding of IL principles and responsibilities.

Throughout the reporting period, members have participated in a wide range of training and webinars, including:

- *IL T & TA Centers webinars: DSE Role in the IL Network, Expanding Access, Reaching the Unheard, Network Relations, Language Matters, SPIL Amendments, Fiscal/Administration Oversight, Good Governance, Assurances, Policies and Procedures, and more.

- *National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center (NADRC) Caring through Culture

- *Dementia Dialogues Trainings; Finding the Right Fit/Options for Care at Home; offered through the Office for the Study of Aging

- *Disability Employment Technical Assistance Center (DETAC) trainings

- *Miscellaneous Trainings: Worker Benefits in Self Direction; Natural Support/Who's in My Circle; Too Big to Thrive; Cultural Responsiveness, evaluating biases while working with diverse individuals, and prioritizing client rights and needs; Value Based Approaches/Driving Meaning Changes in Education; ABA Evolved/Neurodiversity affirming approach; Acceptance and Commitment Therapy in Schools/Interventions for students and staff; Youth Mental Health ECHO/Strategies for Providers; National Disability Rights Network Fire Safety Training;

- *OILP Town Hall Meetings

- *Lurie Institute for Disability Policy (disaster preparedness, ring for natural disasters)

- *ACL Housing and Services Resource Center, i.e., Smart Home Technology Solutions for Individuals with Accessibility Needs

- *Institute on Disability Awareness, i.e., disability awareness trainings

The above opportunities help members stay informed and deepen their understanding of IL services, systems advocacy, and serving diverse populations. The SILC also aims to host orientation annually, with all members invited to participate.

The SILC gained a new member who works for the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, Independent Living Older Blind Program. She has attended a wide variety of trainings to become better grounded, including Money Follows the Person, human trafficking, disability employment and modern technology, homelessness and addiction, technology and artificial technology, personality disorders, low vision phone apps, cultural sensitivity, building connection and resilience through peer support for vision loss.

SILC members, DSE staff, and SILC staff receive regular updates through newsletters and announcements from OILP, ACL, IL-Net, NCIL, AoD, APRIL, NCIL, and other sources. These communications help members stay engaged with developments in the IL community.

IL partners, including SILC and DSE staff, participate in monthly IL T&TA webinars, discussion groups, and DSE Peer Discussions to share best practices and address current issues. Members are also encouraged to attend national conferences such as SILC Congress, APRIL, and NCIL, and complete an annual Individual Training Plans to guide their professional development.

Listening sessions held locally and statewide provide members with firsthand insight into the needs of South Dakotans with disabilities. These sessions help identify challenges, highlight successes, and inform the Council's understanding of evolving IL needs.

The SILC has welcomed appointees with extensive knowledge and lived experience:

- *A member who received speech and special education services, works as a behavioral therapist, and advocates for underserved communities.

- *A mother of ten, business owner, and Partners in Policymaking graduate with experience serving on multiple disability boards.

- *A member with a disability who attended the Youth Leadership Forum, mentors' youth, and works for the Center for Disabilities.

- *A technology specialist and preschool teacher who uses attendant care and serves on DakotaLink's Advisory Council.

- *A young member who received VR and IL services, served on a CIL board, and transitioned to HOPE waiver services.

- *Another young member who attended YLF, received VR and IL services, and now works as a benefits specialist supporting employment and benefits navigation.

- *A member who has over 30 years in supportive services for individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, deaf disabled and individuals who are hard of hearing.

Together, these members bring a rich blend of personal experience, professional expertise, and community engagement. Their knowledge strengthens the SILC's ability to advocate effectively, support IL services, and fulfill its mission of promoting independence and inclusion for all South Dakotans with disabilities.

Section C – SILC Staffing and Support

Item 1 – SILC Staff

Please provide the name and contact information for the SILC executive director. Indicate the number and titles of any other SILC staff, if applicable. Also indicate whether any SILC staff is also a state agency employee.

SILC Support Staff Information

Support staff for the South Dakota Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) was secured for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process conducted by the Designated State Entity (DSE), in accordance with South Dakota Codified Law.

SILC Staff

*Name: Colette Wagoner
*Title: SILC Project Coordinator
*Organization: Black Hills Special Services Cooperative
*Address: 221 South Central Avenue, Suite 33, Pierre, SD 57501
*Phone: (605) 494-3613
*Email: cwagoner@bhssc.org

Colette began working with the SILC in January 2020. Her position is funded through the contract between the DSE and Black Hills Special Services Cooperative. A portion of her time is dedicated to supporting the SILC, while the remainder is allocated to the State's Rehabilitation Council (Board of Vocational Rehabilitation).

In August 2024, the Division of Rehabilitation Services issued a new RFP for SILC support services. Following the proposal review and contract negotiations, Black Hills Special Services Cooperative was selected to continue providing services, with a new agreement effective January 1, 2025.

As an independent contractor, the SILC consultant is not an employee, officer, or agent of the State of South Dakota. SILC staff is supervised and evaluated by SILC leadership or the Council as a whole.

Item 2 – SILC Support

Describe the administrative support services provided by the DSE, if any.

The South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services (DSE) plays a key administrative role in supporting Independent Living (IL) services through the management of Part B funds. The DSE directly awards these funds to the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and provides fiscal oversight to ensure proper use and compliance. This includes conducting annual reviews of CILs related to their use of Part B funds and offering technical assistance to CIL staff upon request.

In addition to fiscal responsibilities, the DSE supports administrative functions by collaborating with the SILC and CILs on the development and submission of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), including amendments when necessary. The DSE also assists in ensuring that the SILC's bylaws remain current and that the Program Performance Report is completed and submitted in a timely manner.

Training and technical assistance are provided to staff involved in Part B-funded activities to promote effective service delivery and compliance with federal requirements.

It is important to note that the DSE does not provide staffing for the operation of the SILC. The SILC functions independently and is supported by its own designated staff, secured through a contractual agreement.

Section D – SILC Duties

Section 705(c); 45 CFR 1329.15

Item 1 – SILC Duties

Provide a summary of SILC activities conducted during the reporting year related to the SILC's duties listed below:

(A) State Plan Development

Describe any activities related to the joint development of the state plan. Include any activities in preparation for developing the state plan, such as needs assessments, evaluations of consumer satisfaction, hearings and forums.

Below are summarized informational bullets of activities from each of the SILC's quarterly meetings held during this reporting period.

SILC Meeting - December 19, 2024

Review Results of the CILs Consumer Satisfaction Surveys

- * - Survey responses from Oct 1, 2023 - Sept 30, 2024.
- * - 27.24% response rate; mostly positive feedback.
- * - Concerns noted about WRIL's high rate of unsuccessful closures.

Collaborative Planning

* - Members encouraged to report on disability-related activities and participation in other disability related meetings or events.

- * - SPIL goals shared and discussed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- * - Program Performance Report (PPR) reviewed and approved.
- * - Members asked to submit edits by Jan 13.

SILC Meeting - March 26, 2025

Review Results of the CILs Consumer Satisfaction Surveys

- * - Survey responses from Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2024.
- * - 20.64% response rate; positive feedback with suggestions for improvement.

Needs Assessments

- * - On-site reviews of ILC and WRIL conducted.
- * - New data points added to monitor service delivery.

Collaborative Planning

- * - Members reminded to report activities for inclusion in the PPR.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- * - SPIL Section 1.4 discussed.
- * - Tracking report shared to monitor goals and objectives.
- * - PPR submissions from ILC and WRIL reviewed.

SILC Meeting - June 17, 2025

Review Results of the CILs Consumer Satisfaction Surveys

- * - Survey responses from Oct 1, 2024 - Mar 31, 2025.
- * - 20.49% response rate; positive feedback.

Needs Assessments

- * - The Divisions of SBVI and DRS along with the two State Rehabilitation

Councils beginning work on the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA).

Collaborative Planning

- * - Outreach in underserved counties noted.
- * - New Member Orientation scheduled to include SPIL overview.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- * - SPIL 2025-2027 discussed.
- * - Members reminded to report participation in SPIL-related activities.

SILC Meeting - September 30, 2025

Review of the Results of the CILs Consumer Satisfaction Surveys

- * - Survey responses from Oct 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025.
- * - 19.29% response rate; mostly positive.

Needs Assessments

- * - Draft Community Survey for SPIL 2028-2030 shared and approved.
- * - Survey intended for dissemination by end of 2025 or early 2026.

Collaborative Planning

- * - Outreach in underserved counties.
- * - Staff training and peer support initiatives.
- * - Adoption of SILC financial guidance document.
- * - Fall Conference participation supports SPIL goals.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- * - PPR development beginning; draft to be reviewed in December.
- * - Individual training plans for SILC members required.
- * - SPIL 2025-2027 goals and objectives reviewed.

(B) Monitor, Review and Evaluate the Implementation of the State Plan

Describe any activities related to the monitoring, review and evaluation of the implementation of the state plan.

Program Performance Report (PPR) Development and Review

The SILC and the Division of Rehabilitation Services jointly reviewed and approved the Program Performance Report (PPR) during the December 2024 meeting. Members were invited to submit edits prior to finalization. In September 2025, work began on the next PPR, with members reminded to submit information on SPIL-related participation. A draft will be shared for review before the December 2025 meeting.

SPIL Monitoring and Evaluation

Staff presented updates at the quarterly meetings on SPIL goals, objectives, and indicators. A tracking report was shared to monitor progress, and members were encouraged to report relevant activities for inclusion.

SILC members were reminded of the required individual training plans for all SILC members (per the SPIL Indicators). The individual training plans are disseminated annually to each member to complete following the June meeting. Staff will resend the training plans and ask members who have not completed them to do so to obtain a better response rate.

Consumer Satisfaction Surveys

Consumer satisfaction surveys were conducted by the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) throughout the year. These surveys included both successful and unsuccessful case closures. Survey results were reviewed at each meeting, with response rates ranging from 19% to 27%. Feedback was positive and used to inform service improvements.

On-Site Reviews of CILs

In early 2025, the Division conducted on-site reviews of Independent Living Choices (ILC) and Western Resources for Independent Living (WRIL). These reviews evaluated compliance with federal regulations, state policies, and contract requirements. They included analysis of organizational policies, consumer satisfaction data, and service delivery metrics.

Review of Current Policies

The SILC recognized it did not have a financial policy or a policy manual in place. Draft guidance was written to promote transparency and ensure the proper use of public and private funds for the SILC. The document was drafted to include the responsibilities of SILC staff, BHSSC organizational management processes, SILC expenditure and reimbursement process, use of PO's, credit card purchases and time and attendance records, and the DSE's fiscal management & role. The SILC approved the implementation and use of the "Guidance for Responsible Practices for SILC Support" document at their September meeting. Members agreed that the document outlines appropriate checks and balances for the SILC.

Future SPIL Planning

Initial development of the SPIL for 2028-2030 began in September 2025. The Community Survey utilized in 2022 was reviewed and updated. The SILC reviewed and approved it for dissemination by the end of 2025 or early 2026. The survey includes updated questions to better capture educational priorities and service interests and will inform the next SPIL cycle.

Specifically, the survey will gather information on various aspects of IL, including:

- * Housing and current living situations
- * Barriers or issues individuals face in living independently at home
- * Areas where individuals struggle or need assistance
- * Challenges in accessing the support they need
- * Topics they would like to learn more about

Several new questions were added to address whether the individual has been in contact with a local CIL; what additional programs or services they would like to see the CIL provide; and what question was not asked, that they think should have been asked.

Monitoring and Evaluation Activities Highlights

The DSE conducts annual reviews of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) receiving Part B funding. These reviews are essential for monitoring service delivery and ensuring alignment with the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Following the reviews, the DSE provides an update during a SILC meeting to address the findings. These reviews along with information from the consumer satisfaction surveys and the Program Performance Reports, this information allows the SILC to monitor, evaluate, and adjust the implementation of the State Plan in real time, ensuring alignment with the goals and objectives established in the plan. This information also allows the SILC to evaluate progress and make timely adjustments to ensure that activities remain consistent with the plan's goals and objectives.

The SPIL is a standing agenda item at each quarterly SILC meeting. This consistent focus allows members to track progress, discuss challenges, and ensure that SPIL-related activities are advancing as intended.

The SPIL Committee, composed of SILC members, Designated State Entity (DSE) representatives, and CIL directors, leads the development and oversight of the SPIL. The committee has created tracking tools to monitor progress and collect data on implementation. These collaborative efforts ensure that SPIL activities are evaluated effectively and transparently.

One of the key tools used to monitor SPIL objectives is the CIL Quarterly Report. These reports include detailed information about events and activities, including dates, locations, and the CIL's role. Reports are reviewed during SILC meetings with both CIL directors present, providing a platform for discussion, clarification, and collaboration.

At each SILC meeting, the DSE's Independent Living Specialist presents updates based on consumer satisfaction surveys. These surveys, completed at case closure, include both rating and narrative questions to assess the quality and impact of IL services. Feedback from these surveys helps identify strengths and areas for improvement, guiding service delivery enhancements across the IL Network.

Additional reporting includes data on case closures, survey response rates, Home Modifications and Assistive Devices (HMAD), housing assistance, and demographics such as age (e.g., applicants under 25). This information supports targeted outreach and helps identify service gaps based on population needs.

To further support SPIL monitoring, the SPIL Committee developed the SILC Member/Staff Activities Reporting Form. This tool allows members and staff to document their involvement in SPIL-related initiatives. The form is distributed periodically to encourage more consistent tracking of engagement. The information helps identify areas where additional support or adjustments may be needed.

(C) Coordination With Other Disability Councils

Describe the SILC's coordination of activities with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) established under section 105, if the state has such a Council, or the commission described in section 101(a)(21)(A), if the state has such a commission, and councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues under other Federal law. Please state whether the SILC has at least one representative serving as a member of the SRC and whether the SILC has any members serving on other councils, boards or commissions in the state.

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) works in close partnership with the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) and the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (B/SBVI). Shared membership across these boards ensures consistent communication and alignment of policies and services across vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs.

- * One SILC member serves concurrently on the State Rehabilitation Council, while another serves on the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind.

- * These dual roles foster coordination among councils and support unified efforts to advance goals related to independent living, vocational rehabilitation, and services for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

SILC members actively participate in a wide range of boards, commissions, and councils that influence disability policy and service delivery in South Dakota. Their involvement promotes the Independent Living (IL) philosophy and drives systems change. Examples of organizations and committees with SILC member representation:

- * Disability Rights South Dakota
- * South Dakota Association of the Deaf
- * South Dakota Association of the Blind
- * Workforce Development Council
- * DakotaLink Advisory Council (Assistive Technology Project)
- * South Dakota Brain Injury Networking Group
- * South Dakota Association for Behavioral Analysis
- * Southeastern Behavioral Health Behavioral Intervention Council
- * Sertoma
- * Planning and Zoning Commissions
- * South Dakota School for the Deaf Advisory Council
- * Association for Behavior Analysis International

These diverse affiliations enhance SILC's statewide network and create opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and policy influence.

The SILC, BVR, and B/SBVI collaborate on several key annual initiatives:

- * Board Nominations: Joint efforts to identify and nominate qualified individuals for board and council vacancies.

- * Governor's Awards Ceremony: Celebrates outstanding contributions to disability services and independent living.

* National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM): Promotes disability employment rights and opportunities through statewide events and outreach.

These activities reinforce the importance of independent living, disability rights, and employment inclusion across South Dakota.

Community Engagement and Outreach. The SILC actively invites representatives from various organizations to attend meetings and share updates. This engagement ensures that the disability community has a voice in SILC discussions and decision-making.

Invited guests included:

* Heather Janes, CDP, (Causes of Dementia, reversible causes, Down Syndrome and Dementia, pharmaceutical approaches, non-pharmacological approaches and reducing risks) man trafficking awareness)

* Rhonda Erickson, South Dakota Benefits Specialists Network and ABLE Accounts

These outreach efforts keep the SILC informed and connected to emerging issues and resources in the independent living field.

The SILC continues to collaborate with the Council on Developmental Disabilities, particularly on events like Disability Awareness Day. The Executive Director has played a key role in introducing new leadership to statewide organizations, fostering continuity and relationship-building.

(D) Public Meeting Requirements

Describe how the SILC has ensured that all regularly scheduled meetings and other public hearings and forums hosted by the SILC are open to the public and sufficient advance notice is provided.

The SILC ensures that all regularly scheduled meetings, public hearings, and forums are open to the public and announced with sufficient advance notice. Quarterly meetings are planned, with tentative dates, times, and locations reviewed at the conclusion of each meeting or determined through scheduling tools such as Doodle polls.

All meetings are held in accessible locations to ensure participation by individuals with disabilities. Announcements include information about the availability of auxiliary aids and services (e.g., sign language interpreters, captioning, or other accommodations).

For virtual SILC meetings (e.g., via Zoom), public access is ensured through multiple channels. Meeting-related information is posted on the South Dakota Boards and Commissions Portal at: <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=56>, and notices are also displayed at the SILC and DHS offices.

Each meeting agenda includes language inviting public participation via computer or mobile device. Individuals who wish to attend the Zoom meeting by phone or online are encouraged to contact SILC staff in advance to request the meeting link, password, or dial-in number. Information is included on how to reach or contact SILC staff regarding meeting related questions.

Additionally, a conference room at the Department of Human Services (DHS) state office -- located at Hillsvue Properties Plaza, 3800 E Hwy 34, Pierre, SD -- is available for individuals who prefer to participate in the virtual meeting in person.

Once the meeting location and lodging are confirmed, notices are sent to SILC members, CIL directors, and DSE staff. A draft agenda is developed by the SILC Executive Committee and distributed at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

Public forums related to the development and review of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) are announced in advance to encourage public participation. Meeting materials, including agendas and minutes, are posted on the State's portal and available upon request. These meetings comply with advance notice requirements outlined in the CFR, allowing time for public input, including written comments.

All public notices include language affirming the availability of accommodations to ensure full participation by individuals with disabilities. Through consistent scheduling, transparent communication, and accessible practices, the SILC promotes open government, accountability, and inclusive engagement in all its meetings and public forums.

As part of its commitment to transparency and compliance, the SILC conducted its annual review of South Dakota's Open Meetings Laws during the September 2025 meeting, as required by Senate Bill 74. The review included an examination of the informational brochure from the South Dakota Attorney General's office, which was shared with all members prior to the meeting. SILC staff presented an overview of the laws, highlighting key points such as the need for advance notice, rules for public participation, proper meeting recordings, and the distinction between official meetings and executive sessions. Staff also covered the six allowable reasons for holding closed sessions, record-keeping responsibilities, and procedures for reporting violations. This review will continue as a regular feature of future fall SILC meetings.

Item 2 – Other Activities

Describe any other SILC activities funded by non-Part B funds.

None

Section E – Training and Technical Assistance Needs

Section 721(b)(3) of the Act

Please identify the SILC's training and technical assistance needs. The needs identified in this chart will guide the priorities set by RSA for the training and technical assistance provided to CILs and SILCs.

	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs — Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
Training and Technical Assistance Needs	
Advocacy/Leadership Development	
General Overview	
Community/Grassroots Organizing	
Individual Empowerment	2
Systems Advocacy	1
Legislative Process	
Applicable Laws	
General overview and promulgation of various disability laws	
Americans with Disabilities Act	
Air-Carrier's Access Act	
Fair Housing Act	
Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act	
Medicaid/Medicare/PAS/waivers/long-term care	
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended	
Social Security Act	
Workforce Investment Act of 1998	
Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999	''
Government Performance Results Act of 1993	
Assistive Technologies	
General Overview	
Data Collecting and Reporting	
General Overview	
704 Reports	
Performance Measures contained in Program Performance Report	
Dual Reporting Requirements	
Case Service Record Documentation	

	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs — Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
Training and Technical Assistance Needs	
Disability Awareness and Information	
Specific Issues	
Evaluation	
General Overview	
CIL Standards and Indicators	
Community Needs Assessment	
Consumer Satisfaction Surveys	3
Focus Groups	
Outcome Measures	
Financial: Grant Management	
General Overview	
Federal Regulations	
Budgeting	
Fund Accounting	
Financial: Resource Development	
General Overview	
Diversification of Funding Base	
Fee-for-Service Approaches	
For Profit Subsidiaries	
Fund-Raising Events of Statewide Campaigns	
Grant Writing	
Independent Living Philosophy	
General Overview	
Innovative Programs	
Best Practices	5
Specific Examples	6
Management Information Systems	
Computer Skills	
Software	

	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs — Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
Training and Technical Assistance Needs	
Marketing and Public Relations	
General Overview	
Presentation/Workshop Skills	
Community Awareness	
Networking Strategies	
General Overview	
Electronic	
Among CILs & SILCs	
Community Partners	7
Program Planning	
General Overview of Program Management and Staff Development	
CIL Executive Directorship Skills Building	
Conflict Management and Alternative Dispute Resolution	
First-Line CIL Supervisor Skills Building	
IL Skills Modules	
Peer Mentoring	9
Program Design	10
Time Management	
Team Building	
Outreach to Unserved/Underserved Populations	
General Overview	
Disability	
Minority	8
Institutionalized Potential Consumers	
Rural	
Urban	

	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs — Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
Training and Technical Assistance Needs	
SILC Roles/Relationship to CILs	
General Overview	
Development of State Plan for Independent Living	
Implementation (monitor & review) of SPIL	
Public Meetings	
Role and Responsibilities of Executive Board	
Role and Responsibilities of General Members	4
Collaborations with In-State Stakeholders	
CIL Board of Directors	
General Overview	
Roles and Responsibilities	
Policy Development	
Recruiting/Increasing Involvement	
Volunteer Programs	
General Overview	
Optional Areas and/or Comments (write-in)	None

SUBPART VI – STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL) COMPARISON AND UPDATES, OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF THE REPORTING YEAR

Section 704(n) of the Act

Section A – Comparison of Reporting Year Activities with the SPIL

Item 1 – Progress in Achieving Objectives and Goals

Describe progress made in achieving the objectives and goals outlined in the most recently approved SPIL. Discuss goals achieved and/or in progress as well as barriers encountered.

Progress has been made toward achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the most recently approved State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

Goal 1: Increase Awareness of Independent Living (IL) Services Statewide

Several accomplishments were made under this goal. One objective was to offer new member orientation for SILC members on an annual basis. Orientations were successfully held in December 2023 and August 2025, with the timing aligned to coincide with new member appointments.

Another objective focused on supporting SILC members and staff in participating in training to enhance their understanding of disability related topics. SILC members, staff, and representatives from CILs and the DSE attended the annual Fall Conferences. The SILC Resource Plan includes dedicated line items to support participation in such events, covering expenses like registration, lodging, and per diem. The conference rotates locations (Deadwood, Pierre, and Sioux Falls), which helps facilitate broader participation. Additionally, members are asked to share information on attending disability related trainings or conferences, or other meetings that overlap i.e., transportation, housing.

The objective to track SILC member and staff participation in disability-related trainings and conferences using a reporting form has proven more challenging. Instead, SILC staff sends bimonthly email reminders to collect this information. Members have expressed that these reminders are helpful, and staff maintains documentation accordingly. A quarterly budget update is also provided, which supports monitoring of travel-related expenses and ensures alignment with the resource plan.

SILC members also participate in events, meetings, and activities to exchange or obtain information. A standing agenda item on the SPIL includes monitoring and evaluation at quarterly SILC meetings; this encourages members to share insights, particularly regarding changes in service delivery that may impact individuals with disabilities. Information from CILs, submitted through quarterly reports, is reviewed and discussed during these meetings.

An additional objective is involved using Facebook to disseminate disability-related information. The SILC Facebook page, established several years ago, has seen increased engagement in recent months. Posts related to the Governor's Awards Ceremony and National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) events significantly boosted visibility. For example, the Champion for Independent Living post received 425 views, while the Governor's Awards announcement garnered over 2,300 views. While this growth is encouraging, continued efforts are needed to expand the page's reach and increase public awareness of disability issues and statewide events.

An objective called upon the CILs to host open houses to increase public knowledge and understanding of the centers, services and supports. To date, one CIL has held an open house. The other CIL was preparing for an open house and the loss of staff prevented it from happening. Once staff are hired and trained, plans will continue. Another objective was incorporated to track the development of marketing materials, and one CIL had their marketing message redesigned for use on the radio.

Goal 2: Ensure people with disabilities have access to services.

Progress continues toward ensuring individuals with disabilities have access to services across South Dakota. The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) reported consumer service numbers for FY 2022 through FY 2024, showing an increase in participants served from 2022 to 2023, followed by a decrease in 2024. Specifically, WRIL served 469 individuals in FY 2022, 484 in FY 2023, and 477 in FY 2024. ILC North served 688, 657, and 500 respectively; ILC South served 1,586, 1,727, and 1,474; and ILC Native American served 281, 242, and 176. The total number of individuals served across all CILs dropped from 3,110 in FY 2023 to 2,627 in FY 2024.

During a recent SILC meeting, one CIL director noted that staff are spending more time with participants, many of whom present with multiple disabilities and very complex needs. These efforts are occurring in the context of challenging economic conditions. The IL Network recognizes that this increased time investment helps build trust and strengthens relationships, leading to a deeper understanding of participants' needs. As a result, the Network plans to revisit the language of the goals and objectives in the upcoming State Plan cycle to better reflect the importance of time-intensive support, which may contribute to more successful outcomes and improved satisfaction with services.

Following the June 2024 SILC meeting, IL Network partners identified the need to revise the CIL quarterly report to better capture outreach efforts to underserved counties. The updated form now includes fields to document outreach activities and the specific counties where they occurred. CIL staff have demonstrated creativity and commitment in reaching individuals in rural areas, making stops at schools, clinics, assisted living centers, nursing homes, health care facilities, domestic violence shelters, missions, gas stations, libraries, and health and wellness fairs. Staff are also engaging with administrative personnel and residents at nursing homes and rehabilitation centers to raise awareness of available services. Additionally, CILs are collaborating with schools by attending open houses, conferences, and other events, and

participating in statewide Transition Services Liaison Project activities such as Catch the College Wave, Youth Leadership Forum, Let's Talk Work, Transition Round Ups, and the Transition Summer Institute.

The SPIL also outlined objectives to strengthen collaboration and accountability among IL partners to improve service delivery. Indicators focused on maintaining fiscal and programmatic accountability, implementing contract quality improvements, and using unified service descriptions and methods to ensure consistency. In support of these objectives, DSE staff conducted on-site reviews of CILs to ensure compliance with federal regulations, state policies, and contract requirements. ILC's review was held in December 2024, and WRIL's in January 2025. These reviews included examination of organizational policies, audits, board meeting minutes, organizational charts, and consumer satisfaction survey results. DSE staff led the reviews and presented findings based on participant file audits, service delivery objectives, and compliance scoring.

Building on findings from the previous year, which identified delays in consumer follow-up after service applications, this year's reviews incorporated new data points to better track service timelines and outcomes. These included the length of time from referral to application date, the percentage of cases receiving Home Modifications and Assistive Devices (HMAD) and Transition Assistance (TAD), total and closed cases, and specific closure reasons such as relocation, death, criminal activity, non-compliance, or inability to locate the individual. Training efforts continued to emphasize proper documentation of eligibility and form completion. The DSE reaffirmed its commitment to reviewing closure reasons and ensuring consistent coding practices statewide. Positive findings from the reviews included strong collaboration with external resources and confirmation that many service delays were due to vendor or provider availability rather than internal processes. These reviews support continuous quality improvement and accountability across the statewide network of centers.

Additionally, following an IL T&TA training, it was identified that the SILC did not have a formal financial policy or policy manual in place. In response, SILC staff drafted a document titled Guidance for Responsible Practices for SILC Support for SILC review and consideration. The document was designed to protect the integrity of SILC operations, promote transparency, and ensure proper use of public and private funds. It outlines responsibilities of SILC staff, organizational management processes, expenditure and reimbursement procedures, use of purchase orders and credit cards, and time and attendance tracking. It also details the DSE's fiscal management role, including how federal funds are safeguarded and the separation of duties for SILC staff to ensure appropriate checks and balances. The SILC formally approved the guidance document at its September 2025 meeting.

Goal 3: Engage in Efforts to Collaborate, Promote, and Advocate for Needed Changes in Areas That Impact Persons with Disabilities to Live as Independently as Possible

This goal emphasizes the importance of collaboration and advocacy to support individuals with disabilities in living independently. A key objective under this goal is for IL Network members to attend and participate in community events and meetings where services, supports, and disability-related issues are discussed. These engagements also provide

opportunities to gather participant feedback, which helps the SILC remain responsive to the needs of the disability community and stay informed about emerging concerns and priorities.

Throughout the reporting period, IL Network members participated in a variety of meetings and events, including Codington Connects (a quarterly interagency meeting), the Watertown Lion's Club, Partners in Policymaking, Representative Payee Managers meetings, the National Disability Rights Network Fire Safety Pilot Training, and the Rapid City Disability Awareness and Accessibility Committee. These activities reflect the Network's commitment to building relationships, sharing information, and advocating for improvements in service delivery and accessibility.

The SILC also finalized the Community Survey during this period, which will be disseminated to gather input that will inform the development of the next State Plan for Independent Living. In addition to the survey, the SPIL Committee will review public input gathered from other providers, including feedback from waiver recipients, vocational rehabilitation consumers, survey results gathered by the Council on Developmental Disabilities, and listening sessions hosted by Disability Rights South Dakota. This multi-source approach ensures that the SPIL reflects a broad and inclusive range of perspectives.

To support collaboration and enhance awareness of disability-related issues, the SILC invited guest speakers to present on key topics. Heather Janes, a dementia expert with over 20 years of experience, provided a comprehensive overview of dementia, including its definition, related conditions, South Dakota-specific statistics, and the intersection of dementia and Down Syndrome. She also discussed available supports and resources. Rhonda Erickson, a South Dakota Benefits Specialist, presented on the SD Benefits Specialist Network, detailing the services offered statewide such as benefits analysis, work incentives planning, and benefits management. She also provided an in-depth overview of ABLE accounts, covering contribution limits, financial benefits, eligibility, qualified disability expenses, and access options.

In addition to these educational efforts, the SILC collaborated with the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Department of Human Services to host the annual Governor's Awards Ceremony and statewide events in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The SILC also partnered with Disability Rights South Dakota and the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities to support the annual Disability Awareness Day event held in Pierre. These collaborative efforts help raise public awareness, celebrate achievements, and promote inclusion and accessibility for individuals with disabilities across the state.

Item 2 – SPIL Information Updates

If applicable, describe any changes to the information contained in the SPIL that occurred during the reporting year, including the placement, legal status, membership or autonomy of the SILC;

the SILC resource plan, the design of the statewide network of centers; and the DSE administration of the SILS program.

There were no changes to the information contained in the SPIL during this reporting year. This includes the placement, legal status, membership, or autonomy of the SILC; the SILC's resource plan; the design of the statewide network of centers; and the DSE's administration of the SILS program.

Section B– Significant Activities and Accomplishments

If applicable, describe any significant activities and accomplishments achieved by the DSE and SILC not included elsewhere in the report, e.g. brief summaries of innovative practices, improved service delivery to consumers, etc.

Further explanation is provided of how the DSE and SILC strengthened collaboration, improved transparency, and advanced innovative practices that enhance the independent living network's efficiency and visibility statewide.

- * **Strengthened Fiscal and Operational Transparency:**

The SILC developed and adopted the Guidance for Responsible Practices for SILC Support, establishing clear financial and operational safeguards. This new framework promotes accountability, delineates fiscal responsibilities, and ensures consistent, transparent use of public funds.

- * **Enhanced Data Reporting and SPIL Monitoring:**

The DSE, SILC and CILs refined the quarterly reporting and Program Performance Report (PPR) process to ensure improved alignment with State Plan goals and more accurate tracking of outcomes. This includes collecting member activity data linked to specific SPIL objectives to better evaluate progress and identify emerging needs.

- * **Increased Public Access and Awareness:**

In partnership with South Dakota Public Broadcasting, the SILC, BVR and BSBVI supported the livestream broadcast of the Governor's Awards Ceremony, expanding access to rural and underserved communities. This collaboration sets a precedent for inclusive public engagement in statewide disability recognition events.

- * **Expanded Community and Youth Engagement:**

Through outreach and collaboration with local groups, the SILC promoted independent living values in underrepresented regions and among youth. One CILs took advantage of grant funding to support youth transition classes across multiple communities, reaching over fifty students statewide.

- * **Innovative Cross-Training and Partnership Development:**

IL Network partners actively seek out statewide cross-agency initiatives, such as the Bridging South Dakota Project, to support and learn more of initiatives. This project focuses on accessibility and sexual assault prevention training for people with disabilities and individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing - broadening the reach of independent living education and collaboration.

*** Improved Accessibility and Safety Practices:**

There was facilitated dialogue on accessible emergency equipment for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, leading to future consideration of adaptive safety devices (e.g., flashing carbon monoxide detectors) within state-supported programs.

Together, these accomplishments reflect a proactive approach to innovation, inclusion, and accountability--demonstrating the DSE, CILs and SILC's shared commitment to improving independent living services and outcomes across South Dakota.

Section C – Substantial Challenges

If applicable, describe any substantial problems encountered by the DSE and SILC, not included elsewhere in this report, and discuss resolutions/attempted resolutions, e.g., difficulty in outreach efforts; disagreements between the SILC and the DSU; complications recruiting SILC members; complications working with other state agencies or organizations within the state.

During this reporting period, the DSE and SILC encountered several challenges affecting program operations and service delivery. Limited state and federal funds created uncertainty around continued support for Home Modifications and Assistive Devices, while staffing shortages within both CILs affected service coverage in rural and tribal regions. Collecting consistent performance data from CILs and monitoring SPIL activities required increased coordination and technical assistance. Safety concerns during in-home visits and the need for enhanced security protocols for virtual meetings were also identified. Despite these challenges, both the DSE and SILC demonstrated adaptability through proactive planning, improved processes, and strengthened collaboration among IL partners.

A challenge rose due to the protest filed against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding the awarding of the new Independent Living Training and Technical Assistance (IL T/TA) Center. This protest caused delays in launching the center, which in turn disrupted access to monthly national technical assistance calls and webinars. These sessions are vital for connecting Centers for Independent Living (CILs), Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs), and Designated State Entities (DSEs) across the country to share insights and discuss key independent living topics.

The delay also impacted access to ILRU's website - a long-standing and trusted resource established in 1977. It was difficult to retrieve archived training materials, resources, and expert guidance. Time was needed for the new IL T/TA Center to become fully operational, including staffing, website development, and resource availability.

Fortunately, we were able to participate in the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) monthly technical assistance series, which proved invaluable during the development of our state plan. The disruption highlighted the importance of timely access to national support systems and the deep value of ILRU's historical expertise in the independent living field.

Section D – Additional Information

Include any additional information, suggestions, comments or explanations not included elsewhere in the report.

Not applicable

Public Health Workforce (PHWF) - Data Reporting Requirements

Grant Number	SD SILC DID Not Receive a PHWF Grant - Not Applicable
Date Range	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025
State	SD

Item 1 - Total Number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)

Total Number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0
--	---

Item 2 - Type of Public Health Professional(s) Hired

Case Investigator	0
Contact Tracer	0
Social Support Specialist	0
Community Health Worker	0
Public Health Nurse	0
Disease Intervention Specialist	0
Epidemiologist	0
Program Manager	0
Laboratory Personnel	0
Informaticians	0
Communication and Policy Experts	0
Other positions as may be required to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. List below:	
Other 1:	0
Other 2:	0
Other 3:	0
Other 4:	0
Other 5:	0

Item 3 - The Activities They Are Engaged In To Advance Public Health

SUBPART VII - SIGNATURES

Please sign and print the names, titles and telephone numbers of the DSE directors(s) and SILC chairperson.

SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

DATE

-

NAME AND TITLE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

PHONE NUMBER

SIGNATURE OF DSE DIRECTOR

DATE

-

NAME AND TITLE OF DSE DIRECTOR

PHONE NUMBER