

Reporting Instrument

OMB Approval No.: 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: 2024

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	\$375,478.00
Subtotal - All Federal Funds	\$723,538.00

Item 2 - Other Government Funds

(E) State Government Funds	\$33,016.00
(F) Local Government Funds	\$0
Subtotal - State and Local Government Funds	\$33,016.00

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)	\$756,554.00
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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
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Item 6 - Net Operating Resources

Total Income (Section 4) minus amount paid out to Consumers (Section 5) = Net Operating Resources	\$756,554.00
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Section B - Distribution of Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds

Section 713 of the Act; 45 CFR 1329.10

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	\$13,447.00
(2) Provided IL services to individuals with significant disabilities	\$0	\$297,591.00
(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
Totals	\$0.00	\$311,038.00

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 for Independent Living	IL Services Outreach Home Modifications Assistive Devices	\$81,084.00	\$63,466.00	Provider	Provider
Independent Living Choices	IL Services Outreach Home Modifications Assistive Devices	\$216,506.00	\$343,534.00	Provider	Provider
Black Hills Special Services	Resources to the SILC to carry out its functions	\$13,447.00	\$1,494.00	N/A	N/A
Total Amount of Grants and Contracts		\$311037	\$408494		

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 in October 2019 to solicit professional services needed to support South Dakota's Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). The proposal from Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) was accepted in December. The agreement was signed, and services began in January 2020. The agreement outlined needed staff support for the SILC. The agreement included specific budgeted line items to support SILC meeting related costs, SILC member travel, CIL staff training, and Strategic Planning. The agreement was originally for one year, with the option of four one (1) year extensions. The agreement runs on a calendar year, January 1st through December 31st; and is renegotiated annually.

The Division issued the second Request for Proposal in August 2024 to solicit support services to support the SILC. Proposals were due September 20, 2024 and the anticipated award decision/contract negotiation will take place after October 18, 2024. Language of the RFP outlined that the duration of the contract will be five years beginning January 1, 2025, with annual approved inflation, and the Division will have the option to renew the agreement under the same terms and conditions for up to five successive years.

The agreement contains the necessary funds to support SILC staff/personnel, operating expenses, Council member compensation and expenses, meeting related costs (including requested accommodation needs), Council member and staff costs to attend and/or secure trainings/conferences, and other costs deemed appropriate by the SILC. SILC staff works in conjunction with BHSSC's business manager and accounting specialists to bill for expenditures on a monthly basis. The SILC reviews and approves budget reports throughout the timeframe of the contract.

The SILC continues to partner with the two State Rehabilitation Councils (SRC) to support the local National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) activities. Each year, eleven to thirteen communities receive financial support to conduct activities to support speakers, meeting room rentals, invitations, and advertising. This has been a collaborative partnership where board/council members participate on the planning committees at the local level. These committees also involve board/council members, VR, CIL staff, employers, providers, State Human Resource Managers, and representatives from Mayor's Committees and Chambers of Commerce. SILC members participate in the annual debriefing in December. Local planning committee members speak to what worked well in their community, what could be changed or done differently, and areas or ways to collaborate on future events.

The SILC approved funding to support Disability Awareness Day which is held at the state's capital. This event was coordinated by the Council on Developmental Disabilities, and it now involves the State's Protection and Advocacy Agency (Disability Rights SD). The event involves twelve to sixteen disability related organizations and providers. This day is utilized to educate state leaders of what disability related services and programs are available and to thank them for their support of services/programs. Information about disability services, programs and supports is made available during the event to the general public.

SILC meeting expenses included interpreter services for the SILC's regular meetings, committee meetings and other meetings when appropriate. The Zoom subscription renewal was also supported by the SILC meeting expense line item. The Zoom license includes a room connector allowing the connection of software-based conference rooms to support the addition of meeting rooms. This allows members of the public to attend the meeting virtually at a given location in person. The SILC realizes that not all individuals have access to the equipment or internet services in their home and this provides choice and ability for more individuals to attend and participate in the meetings. The DSE provides the meeting space and conference room in addition to the support staff to assist individuals with needed assistance on the use of the technology.

Expenses for this reporting period include the use of the SILC Member Travel line item which

supported one SILC member to participate in the 2023 Fall Conference held in Pierre. The funds supported the members' registration fee. No travel was needed as this member resides in Pierre. CIL Staff Training funds supported 10 ILC staff members and 4 WRIL staff to attend the 2023 Fall Conference (registration, mileage, per diem and lodging). The SILC Staff line item supported SILC staff attendance as well.

The Fall Conference "Game On" was held in Pierre, in October 2023. Featured speakers/topics included: Rachel Simon/advocating for a family member; Chris Downey/design thinking for, of and in Rehabilitation Training, Josh Davies/becoming a resilient leader. Breakout sessions offered transition, brain injury and employment, self-determination/ethical practices, staff safety/navigating tricky boundaries, understanding guardianship/alternatives to guardianship, personality disorder/strategies for best results, assisting individuals with mental health symptoms, criminal backgrounds and substance use, ethics/boundaries, client engagement, building effective culture working/managing anywhere, preventing burn out/compassion fatigue/self-care and resilience, ABLE accounts, behavioral health services, and supporting families through the transition process.

Again, the SILC ensures all meetings and events are accessible to members and participants. The SILC meeting expense line item included costs associated with interpreter services for quarterly meetings, committee meetings, state planning meetings, and other SILC-related gatherings. Notably, this included a television interview featuring a SILC member. In October 2023, a Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) member arranged an interview on Keloland Living (a Sioux Falls television program that reaches thousands of viewers with local, timely community content). Both a BVR and a SILC member, both former recipients of the Governor's Awards, participated in the interview. The planning for this took place within a few days. The SILC member is a person who is deaf, and she coordinated the necessary interpreter services on very short notice, with financial support from the SILC covering these costs. This interview provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the Governor's Awards, their categories, and their significance. The Governor's Awards raise awareness of the importance of independent living and employment for persons with disabilities, the awards' foster a sense of community among those working in the field, and provides a platform for sharing experiences, challenges, and solutions which can strengthen networks. It is a powerful means in changing perceptions and breaking down barriers.

Strategic Planning funds were utilized to support the Champion of Independent Living Services Award presentation. The SILC hosts the Champion of IL Award presentation in conjunction with its September meetings. This meeting is coordinated with a host location near the recipient's home community. The SILC has been fortunate these last few years, as the local host site has had the capability of joining by Zoom or utilizing the state's Dakota Digital Network to join. The local vocational rehabilitation office in Aberdeen was used in 2023 to provide a face-to-face awards presentation and reception for the recipient. The 2023 recipient, Lance Sigdestad, used to work out of this office and he was co-located with VR staff. Lance's nomination was identified and chosen for his commitment to live a full life. He worked for CSD for over 30 years and currently working for SD Deaf Resources and Outreach Programs (SD DROP). He provided supportive services to individuals who were deaf, deaf-blind, deaf disabled and hard of hearing individuals. He empowered youth in meeting peers and adult mentors who were also members of the Deaf communities providing a sense of identify and ability to self-advocate. Lance also provided experiences for young people to learn about options after high school. Lance's advocacy and educational efforts led to improved services in multiple areas including communication, employment outcomes, Telecommunications Relay Services and equipment, and other communication assistance services.

The 2024 recipient, Shelly Pfaff was recognized for her years of service, commitment, hard work and passion to empowering people with disabilities to live as independently as possible. This awards presentation was scheduled on site with the assistance of the Independent Living Choices office located in Sioux Falls. Shelly worked for the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired,

Division of Rehabilitation Services and then upon leaving state government, she was the Executive Director of the SD Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities. She developed and provided training for CILs, university classes, county auditors, local businesses, and peer support groups. Nationally, she worked on critical issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act, prescription drug coverage for people on Medicaid and Medicare, parity in insurance coverage for persons with mental illness and work incentives. She was asked to serve on state work groups to address issues such as coordinated public transportation, traumatic brain injury, accessible voting, housing, emergency preparedness and the Employment Works Task Force. She worked on a project that tackled the intersection of violence and disability and she was a staunch advocate of self-directed services. Shelly worked tirelessly to integrate this model into service delivery systems.

The SILC started hosting the Champion for Independent Living Services Award presentation in 2015. The awards presentation helps people feel that their work is valued. The SILC realizes that recognition motivates others to strive for excellence, and that all benefit from it. Hosting the awards presentation provides an opportunity for those involved time to celebrate and reflect, allowing individuals to see the bigger picture. The awards' presentation provides individuals the opportunity to discuss the importance of their work, which by gathering and sharing experiences is a very powerful means of encouragement, and to raise awareness of independent living services in our state.

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), in this role the Division provides fiscal oversight for the Part B funds awarded to the CILs in South Dakota and carries out its responsibilities as outlined under 45 CFR Part 1329, Sections 1329.11 and 1329.12. The Division receives, accounts, and disburses the Part B Funds.

The DSE awards Part B funds directly to the CILs for the provision of IL services. Part B funds are also used to fund the SILC resource plan. The DSE provides fiscal oversight of these funded activities and provides technical assistance to the CILs as requested. DSE staff monitors the agreements with the CILs annually, and ongoing as needed. The DSE does not retain any Part B funds for administrative costs/purposes. The DSE does not provide staffing for the operation of the SILC.

Part B funds utilized in State contracts with CILs will supplement Part C funds and not duplicate the funding of services supported by Part C funds. All Part B funds not utilized in the SILC resource plan are used to support the provision of IL services. The primary focus of these activities is the provision of the five core services.

The DSE must comply with the following State fiscal requirements when distributing funds through contractual relationships. The contract between the DSE and Black Hills Special Services Cooperative is such a contract. Contracts of these types over \$50,000 need to go through a Request for Proposal Process as laid out in SDCL 5-18D-17 to 5-18D-22.

The DSE must comply with the following State fiscal requirements when distributing funds through contractual relationships:

- * Request for Proposal Process for professional services required by SDCL 5-18D-17 to 5-18D-22
- * SB162 - State Board of Internal Control
- * 2 CFR Section 200.330 - Federal Pass-Through Funds

There are no additional state-imposed requirements that limit, interfere with, or alter SILC autonomy in

fulfilling its duties, authorities, and responsibilities.

A contract between the DSE and Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) is a consulting agreement to provide support services to the SILC. The Consultant is an independent contractor and not an officer, agent, or employee of the State of South Dakota. The agreement is the result of a request for proposal process, and the length of the contract is for one year with the option of four, one-year extensions. The agreement outlines what the Consultant agrees to in providing support services to the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (the State Rehabilitation Council) and the Statewide Independent Living Council.

The agreement contains the Scope of Work and Budget as exhibits. The Scope of Work outlines how the operations of the SILC will be carried out. The DSE agrees to provide technical assistance regarding the DHS/DRS rules, regulations, and policies to the Consultant and to assist in the correction of problem areas identified by State monitoring activities. The Scope of Work outlines that the contractor will provide administration and support services for the SILC. It further outlines that SILC staff will be directed by the SILC Chairperson and SILC members to perform outlined functions to carry out the duties of the SILC. Thus, the SILC is autonomous in fulfilling its duties, authorities, and responsibilities.

The agreement outlines funds from different sources, i.e., Part B and VR Sec. 101 Innovation and Expansion funds which make up the SILC's resource plan. Major areas funded through the use of VR Sec. 101 I and E funds are SILC staff salaries and benefits, supplies, SILC staff travel and training. Part B funds are utilized to support SILC member travel, CIL staff training, SILC meeting expenses and SILC strategic planning. These funds support SILC activities which must be completed to meet the goals and objectives of the SPIL. There are no conditions or requirements in the SILC resource plan or in the agreement that would compromise the independence of the SILC. The agreement purchases services and supports for the SILC and is administered by the DSE, however, the SILC's executive committee reviews and approves the statement of work prior to the contract bid letting. The DSE consults with the SILC chairperson prior to approving the contract. Any contract or budget amendment affecting the SILC would be reviewed and approved by the SILC's executive committee and reported to the full SILC.

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 DSE provides administrative support of the Part B funded CILs and other Part B funded activities. The DSE IL Program Specialist is responsible for the annual review of the CILs as it relates to Part B funds and technical assistance and training to staff working with Part B funded activities. DSE staff collaborates with the SILC to ensure participation and submission of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), any amendments to the SPIL, ensures that SILC bylaws are up to date and current.

DSE staff also assists with the completion of the PPR (704 report) to ensure it is completed and submitted in a timely manner. DSE staff also participated in the SPIL and Consumer Services Committee meetings this past year. The majority of work focused on the SPIL related needs, i.e., gathering information to help identify IL needs/barriers, providing assistance to the committees with

drafting goals, objectives and other language for State Plan sections.

DSE staff does not provide staffing for the operation of the SILC.

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 2 - Administrative Support Services

Section 704(c)(2) of the Act

Item 3 - Monitoring and Onsite Compliance Reviews

Section 723(g), (h), and (i)

Item 4 - Updates or Issues

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

Section 704(m)(4) of the Act; 45 CFR 1329.12(a)(3-4)

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.

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) Complete Goals	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 served during the reporting year</i>	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
(7) <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
(3) <i>Total number of consumers served by sex</i>	0

Section G - Race And Ethnicity

Indicate the number of consumers 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
(9) <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

	# of Consumers
(5) Vision	0
(6) Multiple Disabilities	0
(7) Other	0
(8) <i>Total number of consumers served by 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)(3-4); 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 Modification, 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
(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	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
Self-Advocacy/Self-Empowerment	0	0	0
Communication	0	0	0
Mobility/Transportation	0	0	0
Community-Based Living	0	0	0
Educational	0	0	0
Vocational	0	0	0
Self-Care	0	0	0
Information Access/Technology	0	0	0
Personal Resource Management	0	0	0
Relocation from a Nursing Home or Institution to Community-Based Living	0	0	0
Community/Social Participation	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Totals	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 ACL 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)	Outcome(s)
Increase access to VR, IL, MH, DDD, and other services	Community/System s Advocacy	DSE/DSBVI/C ILs/VR/SILC	300.00	Plan/convene 2023 Fall Conference "Game On"; VR & IL tracks with vendors sharing infor/resources; sessions: transition, TBI, self determination, ethics, guardianship, personality disorders, MH/Behav Health, Choices waiver, staff safety	Held annual conference for 236 attendees including VR, DOL, DOE, BVR, SILC, providers. Specifically, 3 SILC members, SILC and DSE staff, 14 CIL staff. Increased learning specific disability areas, IL topics, networking, sharing resources
Community Living & Access-VR and IL services for people w disabilities	Community Education, Public Information	SILC/BVR/DSE	10.00	Broaden awareness and importance of Governor's Awards, nomination process, available services for individuals with disabilities to increase employment opportunities.	BVR & SILC member interviewed on television; increased knowledge of awards programs, employers who hire persons with disabilities, and available resources/services to assist persons with disabilities in the state.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Education/information about VR & IL, other disability rights/laws 	Community education public information and networking	DSE/VR/SILC /BVR/BSBVI	300.00	NDEAM events held across the state, inform shared of October theme; trainings, press releases, interviews, outreach, ceremonies, employee and employer panels sharing success stories	14 events held in local communities, topics: supporting neurodiversity in workplace, workforce and culture, Life's Great Moments, You matter/Humanity Launch, dis etiquette & service animals, employer/employee recognition events
Increase information and Community access	Community Education Public Information & Networking	BVR/SILC/BS BVI/DSE/DHS	80.00	Coordinate/sponsor annual Governor's Awards Ceremony/3 SILC members and staff attended along with several BVR, BSBVI, and Council on DD staff, and Disability Rights Staff, and VR staff; SILC member was recognized as a award recipient.	Disseminated statewide solicitation for nominations for individuals w disabilities and employers; ceremony/reception held; Gov honored 7 recipients; increased awareness of abilities of persons with disabilities/employers who hired ppl w disabilities
Increase access to appropriate disability related services	Community Systems Advocacy	SILC/TSLP/Council on DD	5.00	Disability Rights SD hosted Listening Session on topics of transportation, transition, IEP meetings, Choices, Family Support 360 waivers and employment. Listened to comments about above areas.	Attendees/family members/consumers voiced comments about variety of disability related services; Disability Rights will consider comments for their goals/strategic planning.
Increase knowledge of IL related services and access	Increase knowledge and understanding for SILC and others	SILC/DSE/CIL staff	22.00	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, CIL director, DSE and SILC staff and 7 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.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Increase knowledge of IL and VR services/access; info on dis related laws	Community Education Public Information & Networking	SILC, DSE, VR, BSBVI, BVR	35.00	NDEAM Debriefing - highlight what occurred in each community, speakers utilized, topic area, what worked, what could be improved upon, and discussion of future planning and possible partnering on events.	Three SILC members, SILC staff, and 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.
Increasing access to appropriate health care and disability services	Community Systems Advocacy	SILC	4.00	Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services hosted call to prepare stakeholders for onsite visit; preplanning included exchange of emails with basic information.	Reviewed CMS meeting, expectations, and educating attendees of encouraging others to identify systemic issues.
Increase access to SD Home and Community Based Waivers	Community Systems Advocacy	SILC/TSLP/D D Council/	10.00	Division of DD convened meetings to solicit feedback on information which summarized the 4 SD Home and Community Based Waivers	Reviewed information and provision of input of materials to simplify language for easier understanding for all individuals.
Community living and Community Access	Education and Community Systems Advocacy	SILC/Transition/ DOL/TSLP	15.00	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

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Increase access and education of available disability related services/prgs	Education, Community Systems	SILC/CILs/DD Council	6.00	Support Disability Awareness Day, have presence during 2024 legislative session, thank state leaders for support of disa related services and programs Involved Disability Rights, BRN, CSPs, Center for Disabilities, TSLP, Parent Connection, and more.	Shared information with at least 40 policymakers, legislators, cabinet secretaries, with 11 dis organizations present and another 120 people coming thru rotunda; dis related information was shared with all
Increase opportunities for people with disabilities to serve on Boards/coun	Increase Education and Public Information	SILC/BVR/DSE	10.00	Drafted and solicited information for both BVR and SILC member vacancies; to increase number of nominations for various disability related boards, councils and organizations	Coordinated/collaborated with other disability related boards/councils' nomination process and forms; posting related information for solicitation on websites and social media sites.
Increase access to Community living and access	Education, Community Systems, Advocacy	SILC/CILs/DSE	17.00	Arranged speaker for SILC mtg from Div. of Criminal Investigation, Victim Specialist in Human Trafficking; intro to new office, work they do, available trng for law enforcement, school resource officers, college/university and faith based orgs.	Increased knowledge/understanding of new position under Div of Criminal Invest, available resources, curriculums/presentations on surviving/thriving, abuse prevention, human trafficking, adverse childhood experiences, internet crimes, cyberbullying.
Technical Assistance & Training	Increase Education & Knowledge	SILC/CILs/DSE	40.00	SILC and DSE staff along with several SILC members participated in the monthly SPIL Training and Technical Assistance Series, started October 2023 and continued thru September	SILC and DSE Staff, several SILC members gained information and working knowledge of SPIL, SPIL requirements, new SPIL Instrument and, and introduction to new SPIL portal

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Increase knowledge of Vision loss, blindness, public input from consumers	Education, Community Systems, Advocacy	SILC/DSBVI	20.00	SILC member attended Nat Fed of the Blind State Chapter and SD Assoc of the Blind Convention; organized training for all SBVI staff. NFB mtg held public forum (discussion on currency readers) newslite availability in SD. Opportunity for networking	Increased knowledge of diabetes, Asst Tech, DakotaLink, scams/artificial intelligence, psych & visual effects of TBI. Info shared on SBVI's Older IL program and VR services, and Cane use, guide dog etiquette, dual diagnosis of vision/hearing loss
Increasing accessibility to Long Term Services and Supports	Education, Community Systems and Advocacy	DSE Staff	6.00	Participated in Getting Services you need from the waiver and safeguards, waiver program costs, trends and findings from a National Assessment of States Incident Management Systems in Waivers	Increased knowledge and understanding of considerations for waiver, program costs, trends and findings, federal fiscal management best practices.
Region 8 State SILC's Relationship Building	Education, Community Systems and Advocacy	DSE/SILC staff	6.00	Participated in Region 8 SILC meetings; early discussions have included SILC activities from each state; trying to identify areas of collaboration, ADA advocacy and Youth Leadership Forums.	Initial calls have included introductions of SILC members and staff from region 8 states Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming and sharing information of SILC's activities and networking/partnering possibilities.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Increase access to Community living and services	Education, Community Systems and Advocacy	SILC/DSE/CILs	15.00	Helpline Center University presentation for SILC; helpful resources within 211, 988 lifeline, overview and how to navigate website, review of community resources page under 211, data dashboards, how to find help, suicide/grief help, support programs	Increased members knowledge of SD's new Helpline center, overview of website, navigation, crisis prevention, resources, connecting volunteers with organizations, how to assist someone to find help in communities across the state.
Increase access to IL services; Systems Advocacy	Education, Community Systems and Advocacy	SILC/CILs/DSE	40.00	SILC held public forum to solicit input on draft State Plan for Independent Living; meeting was held in February 2024	Public Forum held with 7 SILC members present, both CIL directors, others included interested persons w disabilities, dis org reps, ten other individuals w 2 interpreters. Comments were positive and supportive of draft SPIL
Increase access to IL Services; Increase knowledge of IL services	Education, Community Systems and Advocacy	SILC/CILs/DSE	20.00	SILC held SPIL Committee Meetings to obtain feedback on draft SPIL document; each committee meeting was held as an open meetings; mtgs were held in October, November, and December of 2023	Obtained input on draft goals, objectives/activities outlined in draft State Plan; sections of SPIL were made available to public for review and comment; SPIL presented to full SILC at December meeting in order to move forward with public mtg in Feb
Increase knowledge of CIL and SILC is and how they operate	Technical Assistance & Education	SILC/DSE/CIL	12.00	SILC members and staff, DSE and CIL staff participated in the ILRU IL Net Training and TA - for new staff of CILs or SILCs monthly TA sessions.	Staff and members gained knowledge of IL History and philosophy and learned of available resources.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Increase access to public information about VR and IL services	Community Education	SILC/DSE/CILs	40.00	Continual updates made to the SILC's facebook page; disability related information, training events, posted on site, with updates made on a weekly basis.	Sharing of disability related information; solicited nominations for both SILC and BVR; Champion of IL Services Award nominations; infor about Governor's Awards, NDEAM events, and other local disability events held throughout the state.
Increase knowledge of Disability related activities	Education and Advocacy	SILC/BVR/BS BVI/DSE	20.00	Committee meetings held with representatives of the three boards/councils to review NDEAM proposals and review Governor's awards nominations.	Individual board/council members gaining information/knowledge about NDEAM and Governor's Awards related activities. Activities promote partnering with other councils and increases networking.
Increase knowledge of ACL's collection of SOGI Data	Technical Assistance/Disability Information	SILC/DSE Staff/CIL staff	4.00	SILC, DSE, and CIL staff participated on ACL webinar on collection of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Data, Advancing Racial Equity, and Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the basis of Gender identity and Sex orientation	Increase learning about possible changes impacting demographic information collection of persons served by CILs, to align with SOGI, Ex Order 13985, and Ex Orders 14075 and 13988.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Increase knowledge of IL and CIL service delivery system and SILCs	Technical Assistance from IL NET Trng and Tech Center for IL at ILRU	SILC/DSE and CILs	10.00	SILC and DSE staff, SILC members and CILs staff participated in New CIL and SILC Staff Peer Discussion and the Under 40 IL Leaders Conversations, monthly meetings.	IL Network members increased knowledge from peers of other states CILs SILC staff and SILC members; increase networking opportunities through these opportunities and heard from younger individuals with disabilities, learn about younger persons views.
Increase knowledge and understanding of Role of IL Network with Disasters	Technical Assistance from IL NET Trng and Tech Center for IL at ILRU	SILC/DSE/CILs	3.00	SILC/DSE staff and CIL staff participated in the webinar to learn of new resources, hear from other states about SPIL goals related to disaster, and the role of IL Network before, during and after a disaster.	IL Network members learned from other state networks about localized ideas for inclusion of disaster/emergency management in SPIL goals, learned of examples for goals to better meet the needs of persons with disabilities in the state.
Increase Knowledge of Trauma, Healing and Resiliency	Technical Assistance & Education	SILC/DSE/CILs	4.00	American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Religion and Spirituality Interest Network and RespectAbility presented 4-part series on trauma, healing, resilience in the lives of people w ID/DD.	Increased learning of how ppl can heal from traumatic events, how spirituality/engagement fosters recovery/resilience, ways providers can provide trng/support to staff. Practical strategies provided how to support pple with IDD who experience trauma

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Increase knowledge of students w Disab about supports after high school	Education, Community Access and Advocacy	SILC Member	2.00	SILC member participated in the Catch the Wave event in Aberdeen, facilitated by the SD Transition Liaison Services Project	This member spoke with high school students with disabilities looking for supports following high school; also provided education/information to teachers and parents who attended.
Increase knowledge of Waiver Services and Supports	Education, Training and Technical Assistance	DSE staff	30.00	DSE staff participated in Waiver specific training in her role as administrator of the state's ADLS program.	Increase knowledge/understanding of topics: critical incident management systems, self-direction, finding/keeping good support staff, mandatory reporting, younger onset Alzheimer's Disease, Cognitive Stimulation, cultural and linguistic competence
Increase community access; educate community members on	Community Advocacy and Education	SILC member	4.00	SILC member met with SD Secretary of State to educate staff about deafness, communication access and deaf culture (English as a 2nd language)	Increased awareness of the importance of having signed videos for 2024 Election Ballots; English is second language for individuals who are deaf.
Increase knowledge of legislative issues; increase community access	Attending Cracker Barrel events	SILC member	5.00	SILC member attended cracker barrel events in the Sioux Falls area; worked with organizers of events to ensure communication access was provided.	Increased knowledge and understanding of representatives views on issues; increased representatives staff knowledge of need and utilization of interpreter services (organizations were contacted prior to meeting and provided interpreter services).

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Increase Community access and Knowledge of Disability Related Needs	Public Access to livestream events/community announcements	SILC member	2.00	SILC member thanked SD Public Broadcasting for including picture in picture (PIP) livestreaming with Governor Awards event and asked that Governor's State of State address and other emergency announcements include the ASL interpreter in the PIP	Increased knowledge of SD Public Broadcasting staff of need for inclusion of ASL interpreter in PIP in broadcasts, it is very difficult to see interpreter on TV screen for entire presentation; enhances visibility/improves accessibility for all.
Community Access, Mentoring	Event organizer, panelist, mentor, attendee	SILC member	15.00	SILC member organized/participated with Accessibility/Visitability Panel, NDEAM Committee member, SD Developmental Disabilities conference planner, DakotaLink advisory member, Global Genes conference panelist, accessible travel webinar, city ADA Com	SILC Member work on committees - increased knowledge understanding of staff and comm members of accessibility, visitability, accessible travel, film festivals. Was a panelist @ Global Genes Conference; mentors youth at YLF, ADA city committee

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.

The Annual Fall Conference is a sponsored activity of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Divisions of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI) and Developmental Disabilities (DDD), Departments of Education and Labor and Regulation. The DSE is the primary responsible entity of organizing the annual conference. The DSE has hosted a conference planning committee which has representation from the two VR agencies, SILC, IL Specialist, CILs as well as SBVI's Older Blind Program staff. This conference has grown with attendees and due to size, it is limited to a few cities to host the event.

The Fall Conference planning committee allows staff of numerous agencies, providers, and persons with disabilities to come together, share information, and network. The conference planning committee expanded to include representation from DHS Division of Long Term Services and Support, employment specialists and other providers.

This conference has provided multiple tracks for choice for attendees. The 2022 Fall Conference sessions included: Aging in Place, Communication, Ethics, Challenging Behaviors in Youth,

Unconscious Bias, SSA Disability and Age 18 Redeterminations Decisions: IEP and 504 plans (diplomas/certificate of completion), ins/outs of Medicaid, Utilizing the LifeCourse Framework, Disability and Sexual Violence, and introduction to disability specific areas, i.e., anxiety, autism. Tracks included employment focus of SD Workforce Landscape, Employee Success Panel, Job Coaching Fundamentals, Informed Choice, and expanding apprenticeships for people with disabilities. The 2023 Fall Conference included topics of Advocacy, Transition, Brain Injury, Self Determination, Staff Safety/Boundaries/Burnout, Personality Disorders, MH symptoms and criminal backgrounds, alternatives to guardianship, ABLE accounts and services through the Behavioral Health System.

The SILC provided support to the annual Disability Awareness Day event held at the capitol during the state's legislative session. This event supports over 11 disability related organizations and staff to convene at the capitol one day of the year. Legislators have learned to look forward to this day, where fruit is served, and information is shared. This day is identified a year in advance and marked on the legislative calendar. Time is utilized to thank legislators and other policymakers for their support of disability related services and programs. People with disabilities and family members attend and share stories of services/programs that have impacted them in their daily lives. Disability Awareness Day was organized by the South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, which dissolved in 2020. Disability related organizations, family members and others felt it was important to continue this annual event. Disability Awareness Day is now organized by the Council on Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights SD.

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.

IL Network Partners recognize that recipients of IL services are also recipients of services from other service systems, both private and public. Consequently, through member representation on various boards/councils, and standing reports from agencies directly represented on the SILC, they remain current on major happenings with other systems. Periodically, the SILC invites representatives from other agencies/organizations to present at their meetings on topics specifically impacting people with disabilities.

During this reporting period, the SILC invited agency representatives to present on topics and facilitate discussions. These sessions enhanced understanding of services and activities impacting people with disabilities, while also giving council members the opportunity to hear directly from individuals with disabilities and their advocates. For both new and seasoned members, this offered valuable exposure to staff, providers, and ongoing or changing services. These opportunities encourage IL Network Partners to engage in open conversations about strengthening partnerships and coordinating activities more effectively.

During this reporting period, the SILC hosted the following guests and topics:

*Division of Criminal Investigation staff discussed newly created positions for a Human Trafficking Coordinator and an investigator for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. Staff shared their work with law enforcement, including tribal and federal agencies, as well as their experience in child sexual assault prevention and supporting human trafficking victims. Members learned about various training

sessions, such as Adverse Childhood Experiences assessments, Enough Abuse prevention, Internet Crimes Against Children, Surviving and Thriving, and Moving On.

*SD Helpline Center: At the March 2024 meeting, representatives presented an overview of 211 Helpline services, 988 services, and how to navigate their website. Members learned about the center's three core services: mental health crisis support, volunteer connections, and in-depth resources/referrals through the 211 program. The Helpline Center staff introduced its data dashboard, which provides statewide or county-level information on resources like housing, childcare, and food.

Following these presentations, SILC members reached out for additional sessions for agency staff, CILs, and the Center for Disabilities.

Independent Living Choices provided information about their Summer Transition Programs to provide Council members with a better understanding of services. The programs provide Pre-Employment Transition Services for students with disabilities ages 14-21, covering job exploration, work-based learning, workplace readiness, self-advocacy, independent living skills, social skills, hygiene, budgeting, and transportation. ILC hosted eight programs across the state, incorporating hands-on activities like visits to grocery stores, laundromats, and banks. One participant shared his experiences, including learning fire safety, cooking, cleaning, and riding the bus. His parent noted significant growth in his social skills and the use of tools like budgeting and planners at home.

Members learned that these programs foster strong partnerships between VR, IL and other agencies, offering students valuable life skills and early exposure to work and independent living activities. Funded through the Division of Rehabilitation Services via an RFP process, these programs help council members better understand how IL services are delivered and their impact on youth.

The SILC's quarterly meetings include standing agenda items for the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI), Older Blind Program, and the Boards of Vocational Rehabilitation and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (South Dakota's two State Rehabilitation Councils). This allows ongoing communication, and the ability for members and others involved to ask questions, share information and to keep abreast of changes.

Positive outcomes resulted from the SILC working with other entities. Efforts included: provision of financial assistance by the SILC/BVR/B/SBVI and DHS to support the 2023 NDEAM events, supporting the 2024 Disability Awareness Day, disseminate the solicitation packet for SILC and BVR nominations, disseminate the solicitation of the 2024 Governor's Awards nominations, utilization of the SILC's Facebook page, disseminate the solicitation for the Champion of IL Services Award nominations and host the awards presentation in conjunction with the SILC's September meeting. (ILC's main office assisted the SILC by hosting the reception on site for the award recipient, friends and other guests).

The Council on Developmental Disabilities organized the annual Disability Awareness Day event at the Capitol from 2021 to 2024. The SILC has members from disability related organizations who participate in this event, where disability advocates gather to thank public leaders for supporting disability services and inform new legislators about available resources. The Council on Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights SD now lead the Disability Advocacy Network, which the SILC participates in. This network shares information on state and national legislation, voting, how to contact lawmakers, and how individuals with disabilities and their families can provide testimony on relevant issues.

The SILC's quarterly meetings continue to involve each CIL providing updates on projects to include programs, activities, and services. This assists the SILC with keeping abreast of CIL related activities. IL Network members also learn of the CIL's fundraising events and other outreach efforts. The SILC has been supportive of CIL staff training. In fact, the SILC's budget contains a line item to support CIL staff training. The SILC will continue to support activities which support the working relationship between the CILs and provide consistency in service provision across the state.

The SILC maximizes efforts by partnering with other agencies or organizations. The SILC, DSE and CILs partner with entities such as SD Parent Connection, Disability Rights South Dakota, Employment Disability Resources, Workplace Disability Network, Office of Special Education, Transition Services Liaison Project, Native American Vocational Rehabilitation Programs, and Bridging South Dakota, in addition to the BVR, B/SBVI and the Council on Developmental Disabilities. These entities share information, resources, training announcements, solicitation/recruitment for member vacancies, and host public meetings to solicit feedback regarding service delivery systems. This broadens outreach efforts to individuals with disabilities, family members and providers in order to encourage and obtain participation in meetings and public forums to solicit feedback.

Examples of information shared and disseminated included: Department of Health announcements (vaccines, booster shots, flu) Emergency Preparedness, Get out the Vote and other voter information, intersection of disability and domestic violence and sexual assault, solicitation of applications/nominations for individuals to apply for activities i.e., Partners in Policymaking, Transition related information, Youth Leadership Forum, Catch the Wave, TSLP transition forums, ADA Anniversary Celebrations, and the annual Fall Conference.

The IL Network maintains a strong partnership through a SPIL committee that developed the 2020 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), worked on the 2024 SPIL Amendment and the 2025-2027 SPIL. This committee, made up of SILC, DSE, and CIL representatives, monitors and evaluates the SPIL's implementation. The SILC includes SPIL updates on its quarterly meeting agendas to review progress on goals and activities. To track participation and issues, the SILC created a "Tracking Report" for members and staff, helping document events, raise concerns, and identify needed adjustments to SPIL-related activities.

For several years, the SILC has included a line item in its resource plan to support attendance at events like the autism conference, youth leadership conference, and national transition conference. The SILC aims to help individuals access training opportunities that support their Independent Living (IL) goals. Application forms were reviewed and updated two years ago, and the SILC has shared this information with other disability organizations. Moving forward, the SILC plans to explore additional ways to publicize the availability of financial assistance. Currently, individuals and organizations can apply by contacting SILC staff for help.

Tracking specific outcomes of activities, outreach, and membership on other boards/councils can be challenging. However, SILC members have had valuable opportunities to educate others about disability needs and gain insight into related issues. One member, a Marketing Communications Specialist at the Center for Disabilities, shares information on social media, raising awareness of disability issues. Another new member, a Benefits Specialist, manages social media for the SD Benefits Specialists Network. Members regularly share updates on training and conferences, supporting the implementation of SPIL activities. These efforts help reduce service duplication, improve coordination, and increase cross-agency referrals, ultimately enhancing systems advocacy and cooperation.

The SILC includes a member who is a parent of children with disabilities and a guardian of adults with disabilities. She has extensive experience, having served on the state's protection and advocacy agency board, the Council on Developmental Disabilities, and as a Partners in Policymaking graduate. Several of her children have received vocational rehabilitation and independent living services. Her background in systems, agencies, and services adds valuable expertise to the SILC. Additionally, two new members with disabilities have used services such as college disability services, VR, and waiver services. One of them has years of experience helping individuals access IL services. Both are active on local boards and committees, and one uses a service animal. Their connections help link, coordinate, and share resources and information.

Two SILC members and SILC staff participated in the SD Disability Cultural Responsiveness ECHO Series, an initiative aimed at developing a sustainable Community of Practice for healthcare providers and organizations across the state. Sponsored by the SD Council on Developmental Disabilities, the project focused on enhancing cultural responsiveness in service delivery and promoting positive contributions of individuals with disabilities and their families to communities. Outcomes included increased knowledge, skills, and strategies for more inclusive and responsive services.

SILC members have been actively involved in a variety of activities this reporting period, focusing on cooperation, coordination and strengthening relationships. Additional activities included:

- *Collaboration with Rise Custom Solutions: Worked with the medical supply company to create a commercial showcasing devices, technology and services that help people with disabilities and the elderly remain active and engaged in their communities.

- *Disability Rights SD: Participation in board meetings and public listening sessions, including discussions on transportation in the Pierre area and the need for mentors for individuals with disabilities.

- *Partners in Policymaking: Involvement in sessions, continuing education and graduation.

- *Forward Together Conference: Participation in a two- and half-day event focusing on the impact of disasters on human services and exploring innovative approaches for equity in disaster response.

- *Lost and Found Meeting: Attended a meeting at SD State University to discuss disability awareness and campus resources for students with disabilities.

These activities contribute to the ongoing development of the SILC's goals and collaboration within the disability community.

SUBPART V - STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

Section 705 of the Act; 45 CFR Part 1329.14-16

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
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	Neither	Disability Organization/Advoc a	Voting	07/01/2023	06/30/2026
Val Beeck	Neither	Parent of Children w Disabilit	Voting	07/01/2023	06/30/2026
Richard Moeller	Neither	Person w Disability	Voting	07/01/2023	06/30/2026
Patty Kuglitsch	Neither	Person w Disability/Dis Org	Voting	07/01/2023	06/30/2025
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
Jennifer Lewis	State Agency	DSE Representative	Non-Voting	08/19/2024	06/30/2027
Brad Konechne	Neither	Person w Disability	Voting	10/01/2024	06/30/2027
Tricia Eggers	State Agency	SBVI/Older Blind IL Program	Non-Voting	12/05/2024	06/30/2027
Julie Johnson	Neither	Person w Disability	Voting	12/05/2024	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?	13
(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 divided by the Missouri River into two distinct regions: East River and West River. On the eastern side, Sioux Falls is the largest city, with four members living in Sioux Falls and one residing in Hartford, near Sioux Falls. Other East River members live in Mitchell (the sixth largest city), Brookings (the fourth largest city), and Alcester, located in the southeastern part of the state.

Pierre, the state capital, is centrally located and houses state government agencies. One member resides in Pierre and another in Ft. Pierre, and a third in Frankfurt which is also centrally located. Two members reside in the Northeastern part of the state. One member resides in Aberdeen, the 3rd largest community in the state, and another member resides in Redfield, which in comparison is the 41st largest community in the state.

Several SILC members reside in the western part of South Dakota. One member lives in Sturgis, just 30 miles from the Wyoming border, while another lives in Summerset, the state's second-fastest growing community, located only 13 miles from Rapid City, the second-largest city in the state.

South Dakota's population, according to the 2020 Census, is 886,667. SILC members come from a wide range of communities, including urban and rural areas. Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties (East River) are the most populous, with a combined population of 262,375. Aberdeen has a population size of 28,000. In contrast, members also reside in small rural communities such as Sturgis (7,100 people), Summerset (2,978 people), Redfield (2,104), Alcester (825 people), and Frankfurt (134 people).

The SILC follows its policy, "A Method for Recruiting Members and Regularly Providing Recommendations for Eligible Appointments to the Appointing Authority," by soliciting nominations annually, or sooner if a vacancy arises due to resignation, death, or other circumstance. A nomination packet is sent to over 300 entities, including state agencies, disability organizations, and various boards/councils (e.g., Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council, Council on Developmental Disabilities, SD Advocates for Change). Recruitment needs are also posted on the DSE website and shared with CILs and community partners who help with outreach.

Special attention is given to recruiting individuals from underrepresented communities. When specific membership needs arise, the SILC relies on community partners to assist with recruitment. The SILC's nomination form is available year-round on the DSE website under the Boards and Councils link. In addition, a SILC Facebook page was developed this past year to share information, including the solicitation packet and nomination form, making them easily accessible.

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 SILC is composed of a diverse group of members representing a broad range of disabilities and backgrounds. Membership includes individuals with disabilities, parents (including those of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities), family members, advocates, service providers, a CIL director, racial minorities, grassroots advocates, state employees, employees of federally funded programs, staff from the state's protection and advocacy organization, two employees from the Center for Disabilities (part of the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities), and retirees.

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

Ethnicity: According to the U.S. Census, over 80.7% of South Dakotans are White, 11% are American Indian, 4.4% are Hispanic or Latino, 2% are Black or African American, and 2.1% are Asian, with 5.3% identifying as multiracial. While a majority of SILC members are White/Caucasian, the council works to represent a diverse range of experiences and perspectives.

SILC membership spans a wide range of ages and includes individuals with diverse educational backgrounds, from high school graduates to those with post-secondary education, technical institute certifications, bachelor's degrees, and graduate-level education. Members' employment histories are varied, with some working part-time or full-time, while others are retired. Employment has been in both the public and private sectors, as well as in self-employment.

Members are active in a variety of disability-related groups and associations, such as the SD Association of the Deaf, SD Association of the Blind, National Federation of the Blind, People First, RehabACTion, Disability Rights SD board, and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities.

In addition to their roles with the SILC, members serve on local and state committees, including River City Transit, Planning Commissions, and attend city/county meetings on zoning, ordinances, and other matters. They are also involved in numerous 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, among others.

Item 3 - Knowledgeable about IL

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

Some SILC members are past recipients of Independent Living (IL) services, while others have served or currently serve on the boards of Centers for Independent Living (CILs). Some members come with less direct experience with IL services as defined under the Rehabilitation Act. In addition to members with disabilities, there are also members who have family members with disabilities, and some serve as

caregivers, while others may require caregiving assistance themselves.

SILC members are exposed to a wide range of disability-related services. Some have received Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and/or CIL services related to employment and independent living. Many have volunteered with CILs or served on the boards or committees of disability-related organizations. Several members have worked with services for children with disabilities, including Birth to 3, Head Start, Children's Specialty Clinics, and school special education programs.

Members bring a wealth of knowledge in specific disability areas, such as intellectual/developmental disabilities, mental health, blindness/vision loss, and deafness/hard of hearing. The SILC is also diverse in terms of ethnicity, with members representing a range of cultural backgrounds, languages, and customs.

Some members are very familiar with services linked to specific portions of the community of people with disabilities e.g., intellectual/developmental disabilities, mental health, blindness/vision loss, deaf/hard of hearing. SILC members have a broad range of ethnic differences to include cultural characteristics of language, history, religion and customs. Recognizing individual differences, SILC members share a commitment to supporting people with significant disabilities in choosing and accessing the supports they need to live as independently as possible in the communities of their choice.

To ensure all SILC members have a strong understanding of IL philosophy, services, and CILs, new members--and continuing members who wish to participate--receive training through a new member orientation in addition to quarterly meetings. The orientation covers key topics such as the history and philosophy of independent living (IL), the principles of consumer control, the history of the Rehabilitation Act, and the duties and authorities of the SILC.

Each new appointee receives a new member manual prior to orientation. The manual includes a membership listing, SILC bylaws, an overview of the history of IL and CILs in South Dakota, consumer control principles, roles of the DSE, SILC, and CILs, and a history of the Rehabilitation Act (including findings, title listing, and Title VII). It also contains the executive order establishing the SILC in South Dakota.

Additional materials in the manual cover topics such as travel reimbursement, allowable expenditures, and service rates (e.g., for drivers and personal attendants). Other items include the SILC member description, SD's Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policy for state authority members, SILC policies, and helpful resources such as Robert's Rules of Order, an acronym list, and brochures on CILs, VR, CAP, TSLP, and Benefit Specialists.

New members are provided information on where to find various training resources, including training modules available on the ILRU and NCIL websites. Members are encouraged to review the ILRU training modules titled "Foundations of Independent Living" to expand their knowledge. These modules cover key topics such as: Disability, Diversity, and Intersectionality in CILs: Strategies for Strengthening Outreach to Unserved and Underserved Populations; History of Independent Living; Relationships Among CILs, the SILC, and the Designated State Entity; and Standards and Assurances for Centers for Independent Living.

Additionally, new members were invited to view the "SILC Member Orientation to SILC Duties" training. This information will be reviewed with newly appointed members to ensure a shared understanding of IL principles and SILC responsibilities. Examples of training that members participated in and reported to staff include:

- *RespectAbility's Trauma and Healing: An Overview training

- *ACL's webinar on the collection of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Data

- *APRIL - Information and Referral/Core Services Conversation
- *CIL Assistant Directors, Program Managers, Middle Managers Peer Discussion
- *ILRU IL Net & APRIL - Core Services Conversation
- *National Center for Disability, Equity, and Intersectionality Webinar: What Should Centers for Independent Living Know about Intersectionality?
- *How to Talk about Trauma-Informed Care, Faith, and Spirituality by RespectAbility
- *Disability-Led and Consumer-Driven Systems Advocacy
- *"Me Privileged? Impossible!" by Dr. Rezenet Moges-Riedel
- *"How to Create the Best Board and Staff Relationships in Your CIL" by Beth Ruffin and Renee Wood (Ability Center of Greater Toledo; former Ohio SILC Member)
- *ILRU Innovations in Transition: Strategies to Engage Unhoused Consumers in Your Community

These trainings reflect a broad range of topics that help SILC members stay informed and deepen their knowledge in areas related to independent living, systems advocacy, and serving diverse populations.

The SILC aims to host a new member orientation annually, with all members invited to participate.

SILC members, along with DSE and SILC staff, participated in the ILRU SPIL Training and Technical Assistance Series to gain additional knowledge and guidance on SPIL requirements. Members have also taken advantage of other ILRU training opportunities, including The Power of Your SPIL, monthly TA trainings for new CIL and SILC staff, and TA peer discussions and trainings.

Members are informed of upcoming events, trainings, and IL-related resources. This includes newsletters like the OILP Monthly Newsletter, ACL updates, IL-Net Fast News for CILs and SILCs, NCIL announcements, AoD Disability Employment TA Center news, US Department of Health and Human Services updates, FAQs, and other relevant materials. These communications help ensure that members stay engaged and informed about key developments in the IL community.

IL Partners, including SILC and DSE staff, participated in the SILCSpeaks discussion groups throughout the reporting period. These monthly Zoom meetings provide opportunities to share best practices, solve problems, and discuss current topics relevant to SILCs. DSE and SILC staff also take part in the monthly Designated State Entity Peer Discussions.

Members are encouraged to gain additional knowledge through SILC-Net, ILRU, NCIL conferences, the APRIL conference, SILC Congress, and other relevant webinars, trainings, and conferences. To help guide professional development, each member is asked to complete an Individual Training Plan form annually, which helps identify training needs and interests.

Members are provided with information and updates on best practices and emerging policies or programs that impact individuals with significant disabilities. Through participation in "listening sessions" held in their communities and statewide, members gain valuable insights into the IL needs of South Dakotans and increases knowledge of what is working well, identifying challenges, and develop a better understanding of the evolving needs of people striving to live independently.

The SILC has welcomed appointees with extensive knowledge of disability-related issues. One member, who received speech and special education services, has worked as a crisis caregiver and is a certified behavioral therapist for individuals with autism. She advocates for individuals who cannot self-advocate and has experience supporting minority communities, including work on the Pine Ridge Reservation. As a current recipient of VR services, she also utilizes a service animal on campus.

Another member, a mother of ten with children who have various disabilities, is a self-employed business owner and a graduate of the Partners in Policymaking program. She has served on the Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Disability Rights SD board and brings extensive

knowledge of IL services.

A third member, a person with a disability, attended the Youth Leadership Forum in high school and now works for the Center for Disabilities. She has mentored youth, served on several boards, and delivered presentations on self-determination and advocacy. She lives independently and uses transit services.

Another appointee, a technology specialist and preschool teacher, actively volunteers in his community, utilizes attendant care services, and lives independently. He serves on various boards including DakotaLink's Advisory Council (SD's assistive technology project).

A younger member, a high school and college graduate, is a recipient of VR and IL services and an active community volunteer. He previously served as a board member for a CIL and utilizes Activities of Daily Living Services Program waiver services, recently transitioning to services through the HOPE waiver. He lives independently. Another young member, also a high school and college graduate, attended YLF, is a recipient of VR and IL services, and works as a benefits specialist helping individuals with disabilities navigate employment and benefits.

As we move forward, the SILC is excited to collaborate with such a diverse and passionate group of individuals who each bring valuable lived experiences and expertise, all aligning with our mission.

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.

Support Staff for the SILC was secured for FFY 2020 through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process by the DSE in accordance with South Dakota Codified Law. Colette Wagoner, the Project Coordinator for the SILC, began her work in January 2020. She is employed by Black Hills Special Services Cooperative and is located at 221 South Central Avenue, Ste 33, Pierre, SD 57501. Colette can be reached by phone at 605.494.3613 or via email at cwagoner@bhssc.org.

Colette's position is funded through a contract between the DSE and Black Hills Special Services Cooperative, with a portion of her time dedicated to supporting the SILC and the remainder 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, with proposals due by September 20, 2024. The anticipated award decision was made in October, followed by contract negotiations. Black Hills Special Services Cooperative was selected to continue providing services, with a new agreement taking effect on 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 the SILC leadership or the SILC 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 role in administering Part B funds for the provision of Independent Living (IL) services, directly awarding these funds to the Centers for Independent Living (CILs). In addition to providing fiscal oversight, the DSE offers technical assistance to the CILs upon request and monitors the agreements with the CILs both annually and as needed throughout the year.

The DSE also provides administrative support for Part B funds, ensuring proper management and compliance. This includes conducting annual reviews of the CILs in relation to the use of Part B funds, as well as offering training and technical assistance to staff involved in Part B funded activities. Furthermore, the DSE collaborates with the SILC and CILs to support the preparation and submission of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), any amendments to the SPIL, as well as ensuring that the SILC's bylaws are current, and the Program Project Performance Report is completed and submitted on time.

It is important to note that the DSE does not provide staffing for the operation of the SILC. The SILC operates independently with its own designated support staff.

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.

The SILC's SPIL (State Plan for Independent Living) committee began work on a community needs survey two years ago to better understand the challenges and needs of South Dakotans with disabilities who are striving to live independently in their homes and communities. The survey was developed using Survey Monkey and was voluntary and anonymous. It was distributed through disability-related organizations, who were asked to share the link with their membership, individuals with disabilities, family members, guardians, and others in the community.

The survey was designed to 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

- *Potential topics for educating others (e.g., businesses, government agencies, family, and friends)

The SILC approved offering gift cards as an incentive to encourage participation. Individuals who completed the survey had the option to provide their name and address for a drawing, with the understanding that this information would be kept separate from the survey responses to maintain anonymity. The survey is a valuable tool helping to capture the lived experiences of people with disabilities across South Dakota. Findings can inform future SPIL goals, activities, and priorities, ensuring that they reflect the needs and desires of the state's disability community.

The SILC's Consumer Services Committee played a crucial role in identifying unmet needs, unserved and underserved areas, and potential barriers that individuals with disabilities face across South Dakota. This information gathering was an integral part of preparing for the SPIL cycle for 2023-2026. The committee utilized a variety of data sources and methods to ensure comprehensive input.

Key Sources of Data Gathered by the Committee:

- *Surveys: Information was gathered from surveys, including the IL Consumer Satisfaction Survey and the SBVI's (Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired) Older Blind IL Consumer Satisfaction Survey.

- *Focus Groups and Listening Sessions: The committee organized and reviewed input from focus groups and listening sessions, including those conducted by Disability Rights SD and waiver renewal public input meetings.

- *Population and Needs Data: The committee reviewed South Dakota's population data and the Center for Disabilities' needs executive summary to better understand the specific needs of individuals with disabilities.

- *Statewide Needs Assessment: The committee considered recommendations from the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and SBVI's three-year statewide needs assessment to inform the SPIL development process.

This comprehensive approach helped ensure that the SPIL goals and priorities accurately reflect the needs of individuals with disabilities in South Dakota, particularly those in underserved or rural areas.

In October 2023, after receiving correspondence from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) regarding updates and options for the FY2024 SPIL, the SILC, CILs, and DSE agreed to submit a technical amendment for the FY2021-2023 SPIL, extending it through FY2024. During the April 2024 meeting, the SILC approved the proposed amendments to the SPIL and submitted it to ACL/OILP for review and approval.

Ongoing Work on the 2025-2027 SPIL: The Consumer Services Committee continued to meet throughout the reporting period to compile, prioritize, and review information about unmet needs, barriers, and underserved populations and areas. The committee's work in identifying these key issues was shared with the SPIL Committee, which began the process of drafting and refining the goals and objectives for the next SPIL cycle.

Through these efforts, the SILC and its partners worked to ensure that the SPIL aligns with the needs of South Dakota's disability community and address areas where support and resources are most needed.

During the April 2023 meeting, the SILC's Consumer Services Committee provided an update on the ongoing work for the 2025-2027 SPIL. The committee emphasized the progress made in gathering data and identifying unmet needs and barriers for individuals with disabilities in the state.

The SPIL committee outlined action steps and timelines to move forward with the SPIL development

process.

Timelines for SPIL Development:

- *SPIL Committee continue meeting and working on drafting goals and objectives for the new SPIL cycle.

- *SPIL Committee would provide draft language for the full SILC to review at the December 2023 meeting.

- *A notice for a public meeting would be issued by the end of January 2024 to ensure public input on the SPIL. (Public input meeting would be scheduled late February or early in March).

- *Draft SPIL would be posted to the DSE's website and on Boards/Commissions portal prior to end of January for public review and shared electronically with disability related entities and individuals with disabilities.

- *A public forum scheduled February 22 to discuss the draft SPIL and gather feedback from stakeholders.

- *Incorporate Edits: Consider feedback (public and written comment) from the public forum, incorporate edits into the draft SPIL, which would then be presented to the full SILC for review and consideration.

- *Final Approval: The draft SPIL would be presented to the SILC for final approval in early June 2024.

- *Signatures: The SILC Chair, CIL Directors, and DSE would sign the SPIL by mid-June 2024.

- *Submission to ACL: The final SPIL would be submitted to OILP/ACL prior to the end of June 2024.

These steps outlined a detailed process for the creation and finalization of the 2025-2027 SPIL, ensuring that all necessary stakeholders and the public had the opportunity to contribute.

SPIL Amendment and Updates: The IL Network successfully submitted the amended 2024 SPIL to OILP/ACL, which received conditional approval in August 2023. The SILC Chair was notified of the full approval of the amendment on September 27, 2023.

The SPIL Committee meeting in August 2023, SPIL discussion focused on simplifying and condensing the SPIL to make it more accessible and manageable.

The committee members provided valuable input, including the need for a ranking order for the goals, objectives, and activities in the SPIL. These priorities were set, and a consensus was reached to move forward with the streamlined approach.

During the September 2023 meeting, there was agreement to proceed with the prioritized goals and objectives, and the SPIL development process began in earnest. The SILC decided to review each section of the SPIL, making the process more manageable and ensuring thorough discussion of each section.

The October SPIL Committee meeting was scheduled in advance and was open to the public, ensuring accessibility for all interested parties. The agenda and relevant SPIL information were posted, and interpreters were arranged. During this meeting, the SPIL Committee reviewed and discussed the following components of the draft SPIL: Mission, Goals, and Objectives; SPIL Evaluation; Financial Plan and Financial Plan Narrative. This meeting allowed members to address critical aspects of the SPIL, including how the goals will be evaluated and the financial logistics behind IL services.

The November SPIL Committee Meeting continued the development work, focusing on key sections of the SPIL: Section 2: Scope, extent, arrangement of services, and outreach to underserved populations; and Section 3: Network of Centers and expansion/adjustment of the network. As with previous meetings, this session was scheduled in advance, open to the public, and the agenda and related information were posted on the State's boards and commissions portal. Interpreters were arranged. CIL directors were tasked with reviewing and updating the SPIL instrument table, which outlines the types of independent living services provided in South Dakota.

The December SILC Meeting, the SILC reviewed and approved the draft SPIL to move forward with scheduling the public meeting and gathering input.

The public meeting was scheduled February 22, 2024. On January 5, 2024, the notice, along with a Zoom link and the draft SPIL, was sent via email to the full SILC. On January 8, 2024, the notice and draft SPIL were posted on the State Boards and Commissions portal and the meeting was posted on the DHS's website calendar of events. The notice and related materials were distributed widely, shared on CIL social media, disseminated by the Council on Developmental Disabilities email/Facebook page, and Center for Disabilities social media. The process emphasized inclusive and accessible communication, allowing South Dakotans with disabilities and other interested parties to stay informed and participate in shaping the SPIL. By advertising the public meeting, providing easy access to the draft SPIL, and ensuring that documents were available in various formats, the SILC aimed to gather meaningful feedback that would inform the final plan.

This structured, transparent approach ensured that the 2025-2027 SPIL would reflect the needs and priorities of the disability community in South Dakota, incorporating the voices of those it was intended to serve. The process aligned with federal requirements for public input, fostering collaboration and support across the state's Independent Living Network.

A PowerPoint presentation was used during the public meeting to initiate discussion and gather input on the draft SPIL. The slides covered essential information, including:

- *The Rehabilitation Act and the establishment of Independent Living (IL) services and Centers for Independent Living (CILs).

- *The role of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) as the federal agency overseeing IL services.

- *The purpose and importance of the SPIL and the process of its development.

- *The design of the IL service network and the various sections of the SPIL, including the goals and objectives.

The public meeting was attended by 7 SILC members, SILC and DSE staff, and 9 other individuals. Attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Some of the key points raised during the meeting included: Clarification on changes between the current and proposed SPIL: There was a request to confirm whether there were substantial changes. Several comments affirmed that the goals and objectives of the proposed SPIL were aligned with the needs of South Dakotans seeking independent living supports. No written comments were received.

Post-Meeting Steps Included:

- *All feedback, questions, and comments from the public meeting were compiled and shared with the full SILC.

- *The draft SPIL was distributed again to the full SILC, and the only change made after the meeting was the addition of the Executive Summary.

- *The draft SPIL was posted again on the boards/commissions portal and shared with stakeholders through various communication channels, including the SILC's Facebook page and email to disability-related organizations.

- *A final public comment period was provided, with comments being accepted through May 20th.

Final Review and Approval:

- *During the June 2024 meeting, the SILC reviewed the final draft SPIL, and approved the Chairperson's signature on the SPIL, authorizing the Chairperson to sign the SPIL on behalf of the full SILC.

- *All signatories (including the SILC Chairperson, CIL directors, and the DSE) signed the final version of the SPIL.

*The signed SPIL was uploaded to ACL for review and approval.

*The SILC Chairperson received approval from ACL for the 2025-2027 SPIL on September 27, 2024.

This transparent and inclusive process ensured that the 2025-2027 SPIL reflects the needs of South Dakota's disability community, while adhering to the requirements set forth by the Rehabilitation Act. Ongoing work and activities for SPIL development and implementation includes: a standing agenda item focused on reviewing the SPIL goals, objectives and activities at each quarterly meeting. This review process allows SILC members and staff to provide updates on progress and share information about any work done or completed in relation to the SPIL's goals and objectives. These discussions encourage ongoing dialogue regarding events attended by members, bring forward any comments or concerns raised, and insights gained that may impact the implementation of the SPIL. This fosters collaboration between SILC members, CILs, and DSE, ensuring that the goals and objectives of the SPIL are being actively pursued and evaluated.

Training and Capacity Building:

IL Network members have participated in various trainings offered by ILRU (Independent Living Research Utilization) to better understand the SPIL and its requirements. These training sessions are designed to enhance members' knowledge and help them become more effective in their roles.

Some of the training opportunities included: "What You Need to Know About the New State Plan for Independent Living": A training designed to provide an overview of the SPIL process, including the steps involved in its development and implementation; "The Power of Your SPIL": A training that focuses on maximizing the impact of the SPIL, emphasizing the importance of aligning goals and objectives with the needs of the community and ensuring that the SPIL is effectively communicated and executed; and SPIL Training and Technical Assistance Series: A series of training sessions focused on the technical aspects of developing and managing the SPIL, providing guidance on the submission process, federal requirements, and strategies for addressing barriers to independent living.

These training sessions are part of the broader effort to strengthen the knowledge base of the IL Network and ensure that all involved parties are well-equipped to meet the goals of the SPIL and address the needs of South Dakota's disability community.

The process of developing the 2025-2027 SPIL was carefully structured with input from multiple stakeholders, a clear timeline, and a collaborative effort to ensure that the final plan reflected the needs of South Dakota's disability community while adhering to the requirements set by regulations and ACL. This thorough, inclusive approach helped create a solid foundation for the state's independent living services and programs moving forward.

(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.

The annual reviews of CILs (Centers for Independent Living) for Part B funded services are conducted regularly, providing critical insights for the SILC's monitoring process. Along with this, consumer satisfaction surveys, Program Performance Reports, and 704 report data are reviewed. These reviews allow the SILC to monitor, evaluate, and adjust the implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) in real-time, ensuring alignment with the goals and objectives established in the plan.

The SPIL continues to be a standing agenda item at every quarterly SILC meeting. This regular check-in ensures that progress is being made on SPIL goals, objectives, and activities.

The SPIL Committee is responsible for drafting the SPIL has created several tracking tools to assess progress and gather necessary data on SPIL implementation. This committee includes SILC members, DSE representatives, and CIL directors. Their work ensures that the SPIL's progress is evaluated and monitored effectively.

The CIL quarterly report serves as a key mechanism for tracking progress on SPIL objectives. The report collects details about the event/activity descriptions; date, location, and the CIL's role in the event. These reports are reviewed during SILC meetings with both CIL directors present. Any questions or concerns are addressed, providing an opportunity for ongoing dialogue and collaboration.

The DSE's IL Specialist provides an update at each SILC meeting based on consumer satisfaction survey data. These surveys are completed at case closure and include rating questions to assess consumer satisfaction. Narrative questions ask about what was most/least helpful in the IL service experience. These insights help the SILC and IL Network partners identify areas for improvement and focus service delivery efforts more effectively.

Additional Reports provide insights into the number of cases closed; survey responses for each CIL; information on Housing Modifications and Assistive Devices (HMAD), and housing assistance provided; and age of applicants (under 25 years old) and other key service data. This data helps track service delivery, outreach efforts, and the ability to identify areas for improvement based on demographic factors and service utilization.

Tracking SILC Member and Staff Activities is utilized to support SPIL monitoring. The SPIL Committee developed the SILC Member/Staff Activities Reporting Form, a tool that allows the SILC to track individual member and staff activities and engagement in SPIL-related initiatives; and collect information on activities relevant to SPIL goals and objectives. SILC staff distributes this form quarterly, prompting members to report their involvement in SPIL activities, ensuring that progress is being made across the board and that necessary updates are made when gaps or challenges are identified.

SILC Training Plans are in line with Section 8 of the SPIL. The SILC maintains a training plan for each member, which follows the SILC Training and Technical Assistance Centers (T-TAC) curriculum. The Individual Training Plan is a tool used to help members identify key training topics annually. Each member selects three training topics to focus on and submits these to the SILC staff. Staff reviews the topics and works with the SILC Chair and Executive Committee to integrate training needs into the SILC's agenda.

SILC staff assists members in accessing training opportunities from organizations like ILRU, NCIL, APRIL, and other sources. For example: ILRU training series on SPIL development and implementation, such as "What You Need to Know About the New State Plan for Independent Living" and "The Power of Your SPIL"; Webinars or conferences on topics like Person-Centered Communication, Peer Support, Transition services, The Rehabilitation Act at 50, Under 40 IL Leaders Conversation. These training efforts aim to provide members with deeper knowledge of the IL services landscape, the impact of disability, and the diverse perspectives within the disability community, enriching the SILC's decision-making and action planning.

In 2022, the SILC approved a social media policy, which resulted in the creation of the SILC Facebook page. The page has been used to share important disability-related information, training opportunities, and other pertinent information for individuals with disabilities, their families, service providers, and disability organizations. This social media presence helps increase the visibility of the SILC's work and engages a broader audience in the disability community, including those who may not traditionally

access information through other channels.

Collaboration and Ongoing Efforts: Throughout the reporting period, IL Network members have participated in trainings and meetings designed to expand their knowledge of the SPIL's requirements and ensure its successful implementation. These educational efforts equip network partners with the tools and understanding necessary to contribute effectively to the SPIL's goals and improve services for individuals with disabilities.

By integrating these tools and practices, the SILC is better able to monitor and evaluate the SPIL's impact, ensure alignment with its goals, and remain flexible in responding to emerging needs within South Dakota's disability community. This comprehensive approach provides a solid foundation for continuous improvement in services and supports for individuals with disabilities seeking to live independently.

(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 SILC, the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR), and the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (B/SBVI) work closely together, with shared membership across boards. This ensures alignment in policies and services across different areas of vocational rehabilitation and independent living. One member serves on both the SILC and the State Rehabilitation Council, while another SILC member also serves on the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind. This fosters communication and coordination among the councils, ensuring that goals related to independent living, vocational rehabilitation, and services for blind and visually impaired individuals are aligned.

SILC members have a wide-reaching presence across numerous boards, commissions, and councils that are integral to the disability and rehabilitation landscape in South Dakota. These memberships and active participation provide opportunities to influence policies, encourage the implementation of the Independent Living (IL) Philosophy, and push for systems change.

Examples of organizations and committees where SILC members serve include:

- *Disability Rights South Dakota
- *South Dakota Association of the Deaf
- *South Dakota Association of the Blind
- *Workforce Development Council
- *DakotaLink Advisory Council (South Dakota's 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 roles enhance the SILC's network and create avenues for cross-collaboration, policy influence, and the advancement of IL principles across multiple sectors.

The BVR, B/SBVI, and the SILC collaborate on the following annual activities: seeking nominations for board vacancies (each year these agencies work together to identify and nominate individuals to serve on their boards and councils). Governor's Awards Ceremony and Reception: This event highlights the contributions of individuals and organizations in the field of disability services and independent living. National Disability Employment Awareness Month: In October, the agencies come together to support and promote activities that highlight disability employment rights and opportunities across the state. These events create opportunities to promote the importance of independent living, disability rights, and employment for individuals with disabilities in South Dakota.

The SILC actively invites representatives from various organizations and program staff to attend SILC meetings, providing valuable updates and creating dialogue on issues of importance. These outreach efforts ensure that the disability community has a voice in SILC meetings and decision-making processes. Recent invitations included: SD Division of Criminal Investigation (human trafficking); SD Helpline Center and Helpline Center University (resources and supports); and Independent Living Choices staff (Summer Transition Programs).

The ongoing outreach ensures that the SILC remains connected to relevant community partners and stays informed about developments in the field of independent living. Collaboration with the Council on Developmental Disabilities: The Executive Director of the Council on Developmental Disabilities has continued to collaborate with the SILC on activities such as Disability Awareness Day. The director has been instrumental in introducing the incoming director to various organizations across the state, ensuring continuity and fostering new relationships between agencies.

The SILC recently learned about a new partnership with the Department of Health and the CDC BOLD Grant. In 2023, South Dakota's Department of Health received the CDC BOLD (Building our Largest Dementia) infrastructure grant. The purpose of this grant is to improve the state's response to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) by focusing on areas like: dementia risk reduction (including healthy living practices such as nutrition, physical activity, stress management, etc.); early detection and diagnosis; and caregiver support. A statewide coalition has been formed to develop a strategic plan addressing key issues related to dementia and health equity. SILC staff has engaged in initial conversations with the coalition to connect CILs, Community Support Providers, and the Council on Developmental Disabilities to the grant's initiatives.

The CDC BOLD staff is interested in increasing awareness of dementia among populations that may be at greater risk, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Opportunities are being explored to bring awareness and resource-sharing about dementia to future SILC meetings, which could help expand services and support for individuals with dementia in the disability community. These efforts underscore the SILC's commitment to fostering collaboration, policy change, and systems improvement that support independent living for all individuals with disabilities in South Dakota.

(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 holds quarterly meetings that are planned in advance, with meeting dates, times, and locations tentatively set at the conclusion of each previous meeting or determined through tools like a

Doodle poll to facilitate scheduling.

All meetings are held in accessible locations, ensuring that people with disabilities can participate. Notice of availability of auxiliary aids and services (such as sign language interpreters, captioning, or other accommodations) is included in the announcements for all SILC meetings or events.

If a meeting is conducted virtually (such as through Zoom), the meeting link and relevant details are sent to all SILC members and CIL directors. Additionally, a public notice with the meeting invitation and Zoom link is posted on the State of South Dakota's Boards and Commissions portal to ensure public access to the meeting, in addition to posting it the SILC's office and DHS office.

Once the meeting location and necessary lodging are secured, notice is sent out to SILC members, CIL Directors, and DSE staff to confirm attendance. A draft agenda is developed by the SILC Executive Committee and distributed no later than 10 days prior to the meeting.

The SILC holds public forums specific to the development and review of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). For these meetings advance notice is given to the public to ensure participation. Public meeting materials, such as agendas, meeting minutes, and any relevant documents, are made available through the State's portal and can be requested from SILC staff. All public meetings related to the SPIL adhere to the advance notice requirements outlined in the CFR, ensuring that the public has sufficient time and opportunity to provide input and feedback, including the submittal of written comment.

Public meeting notices include language to ensure that people with disabilities can fully engage in the process, including the availability of auxiliary aids and other supports as needed. The SILC's approach ensures transparency in its operations and promotes public participation in quarterly meetings, special meetings, and public forms, i.e., development and review of the SPIL. By maintaining a clear and consistent process for meeting scheduling, notification, and public access to materials, the SILC demonstrates its dedication to open government, accountability, and inclusive practices.

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 ACL for the training and technical assistance provided to CILs and SILCs.

Training And Technical Assistance Needs	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs --- Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
<p>Advocacy/Leadership Development</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Community/Grassroots Organizing</p> <p>Individual Empowerment</p> <p>Systems Advocacy</p> <p>Legislative Process</p> <p>Applicable Laws</p> <p>General overview and promulgation of various disability laws</p> <p>Americans with Disabilities Act</p> <p>Air-Carrier's Access Act</p> <p>Fair Housing Act</p> <p>Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act</p> <p>Medicaid/Medicare/PAS/waivers/long-term care</p> <p>Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended</p> <p>Social Security Act</p> <p>Workforce Investment Act of 1998</p> <p>Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999</p> <p>Government Performance Results Act of 1993</p> <p>Assistive Technologies</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Data Collecting and Reporting</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>PPR/704 Reports</p> <p>Performance Measures contained in Program Performance Report</p> <p>Dual Reporting Requirements</p> <p>Case Service Record Documentation</p> <p>Disability Awareness and Information</p> <p>Specific Issues</p> <p>Evaluation</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>CIL Standards and Indicators</p> <p>Community Needs Assessment</p> <p>Consumer Satisfaction Surveys</p> <p>Focus Groups</p> <p>Outcome Measures</p> <p>Financial: Grant Management</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Federal Regulations</p> <p>Budgeting</p> <p>Fund Accounting</p> <p>Financial: Resource Development</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Diversification of Funding Base</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p>

Training And Technical Assistance Needs	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs --- Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
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	
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	8
Program Design	9
Time Management	
Team Building	
Outreach to Unserved/Underserved Populations	
General Overview	
Disability	
Minority	10
Institutionalized Potential Consumers	
Rural	
Urban	
SILC Roles/Relationship to CILs	
General Overview	
Development of State Plan for Independent Living	
Implementation (monitor & review) of SPIL	
Public Meetings	

Training And Technical Assistance Needs	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs --- Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
<p>Role and Responsibilities of Executive Board</p> <p>Role and Responsibilities of General Members</p> <p>Collaborations with In-State Stakeholders</p> <p>CIL Board of Directors</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>Policy Development</p> <p>Recruiting/Increasing Involvement</p> <p>Volunteer Programs</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Optional Areas and/or Comments (write-in)</p>	

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.

Goal: increase awareness of independent living services; increase number of people who receive IL services by 10% over the SPIL cycle. The PPRs for the CILs for FY 2021 was compared to FY2020 (FY2022 was unavailable at the time of developing this report) which identified an increase in the numbers of individuals served.

CIL FY2021 FY2020

WRIL 469 473

ILC North 688 611

ILC South 1586 1521

NA ILC 281 269

Total: 3024 2874

DSE staff conducted onsite reviews during this period. An issue identified was a delay in responding to consumers after service applications, with contact made 3 to 4 weeks later on average. Training focused on proper documentation of eligibility and form completion. DSE agreed to review closure reasons and ensure consistent coding statewide. Positive findings included good collaboration with other resources and delays primarily caused by external vendors/providers.

DSE staff provides updates at the SILC quarterly meetings (budget, HMAE expenditure, consumers served). Outreach was conducted statewide, especially in very small/rural communities and on the nine Tribal nations. IL partners attended vendor markets, health fairs, community events to talk about services and provide resources. These outlets provide IL network members opportunities to hear and learn about unmet needs, underserved areas or populations.

IL Network members participated on local NDEAM planning committees (2020-2024), with events sponsored by the SILC, B/SBVI and BVR. SILC members are encouraged to join planning committees and attend events. Speakers covered topics such as disability awareness, employment supports, reasonable accommodations, diversity, physical and mental health challenges, accessible recreation, website accessibility and some events feature employee and employer panels.

SILC, SRC members, DSE/CIL/VR staff participate in the annual NDEAM debriefing meetings. The local planning team members speak to what worked well with events, what could be changed, best use of advertising, and how to engage employers, providers and other community members. The debriefing allows the planning team members to brainstorm ideas for the following year, i.e., speakers, venues, and topics.

SILC, in collaboration with BVR, B/SBVI and DHS hosted the annual Governor's Awards Ceremony, which was held in person and offered livestream. A major TV station interviewed BVR & SILC members to raise awareness, and local newspapers highlighted the achievements of people with disabilities and employers. Attendees include employers, state leaders and the public. This event raises awareness of disability related services (VR/IL) and celebrated individuals with disabilities in employment, employers hiring employees with disabilities, and the services that support these achievements.

SILC quarterly meetings host staff of programs/services to increase knowledge and understanding of members and foster networking opportunities. This reporting period included representatives from the Division of Criminal Investigation, Human Trafficking and Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People and SD Helpline Center. Following the presentations, various SILC members followed up with the speakers to arrange additional speaking events with their agencies.

The SILC resource plan supports council members/staff to attend trainings or conferences to increase knowledge and understanding. The agreement also contains a line item to support CIL staff training needs. Three SILC Members, 14 CIL staff, DSE and SILC staff attended the 2023 Fall Conference "Game On". WRIL and ILC hosted booths and IL information was shared. There were 236 attendees, including VR, CIL, LTSS, Departments of Education, Labor, Social Services, providers, family members, and individuals with disabilities.

Other activities included communicating and partnering with entities to support disability related activities. Entities and persons involved included Ex Director of Council on DD, Disability Rights SD, CSD, BRN, CSP staff, Center for Disabilities, and the Transition Services Liaison Project. Participating/supporting the annual Disability Awareness Day event is one example.

A Solicitation packet prepared/disseminated statewide for BVR/SILC vacancies due to occur in June. Information was disseminated via hard mail, electronically and made available via social media. The solicitation for nominations is conducted annually. Nominations are gathered and reviewed, and information is forwarded to the Governor's office for review and selection.

CIL staff participated in Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol; SILC provided support to this event. There were 40 policymakers and at least 120 other individuals who attended. This event is utilized to say thank you for supporting services/programs that assist individuals with disabilities and family members. Disability related organizations shared information with attendees. Booths: IL services, transition services, MH services, TBI, services for those impacted by sexual assault/domestic violence, Disability Rights SD, Council on DD, and the parent, information and training center (SD Parent Connection).

IL Network members participated in the Interagency Resource Team monthly meetings held in various communities. The Pierre area meeting involves VR (DRS and SBVI), TSLP, DLR, Career Learning Center, CILs, CSPs, and Benefits Specialists. These types of meetings are held in other areas and attendees include similar service providers and a few that are specific to the area.

SILC staff worked w/ TIE staff to develop social media ads to raise awareness/solicit nominations for the Governors Awards and Champion of IL Services Award. Ads disseminated via Facebook, email blasts and alerts.

The Champion of IL Services Award presentation was made during the SILC's September meeting, and media coverage was sought. Social media was utilized to solicit nominations, reminders sent/deadlines, and dates of award event.

Facebook is utilized to disseminate IL related information; raise awareness of services/disability awareness, trainings. The SILC's Facebook page is refreshed with new information at least weekly.

Data on how participants learned of IL services is collected quarterly. The CIL Quarterly Report includes a question about the application process and how participants found out about services. Results show that the most common source for WRIL participants is "Family/Friends", and for ILC participants, the most common response is medical personnel (doctors, nurses, therapists). This information will guide dissemination priorities and will be monitored to adjust outlets as needed.

Ensure people with disabilities have access to IL services. The CILs have an MOU in place, and it speaks to the CILs in providing assistance to individuals when they ask for assistance with seeking services of another CIL. There was only one request the first quarter of received information of an individual choosing another CIL to provide services (individual resided in Pine Ridge and the other CIL accepted the referral).

WRIL worked to recruit/fill open vacancies. Work completed to increase applicants for WRIL services. WRIL hired staff, conducted training and outreach increased. The DSE's IL Specialist Report at the September 2024 meeting identified that WRIL expended its full contract, going over by 1,310 units. ILC exceeded its needed services units by going over by 7,811 units.

Invite at least one group/organization to SILC meetings annually, to host dialogue. The following addressed the SILC: Division of Criminal Investigation, Human Trafficking and Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People and SD Helpline Center. This was new information for a number of members and for others it was an update. This information increased knowledge of changes with services/programs. SILC members reached out following the presentations invited some of the speakers to attend other board/council meetings or staff trainings to speak on same subject.

ILC held Summer Transition programs for youth with disabilities, ages 14-21. Sessions offer job exploration, workplace readiness, advocacy, IL skill building, and meeting with providers (VR, IL, CSP). ILC hosted eight programs in different locations. A total of 44 students with disabilities participated.

CILS work with local school districts to disseminate IL information to students. CIL quarterly reports identify activities and outreach (including work with schools) to disseminate IL information/establish linkages with students/families/teachers each quarter. This facilitates CIL staff opportunities to connect with the individuals residing in very small, rural areas.

CIL staff attended numerous meetings and/or trainings to provide information, speak about services, to facilitate information and access to IL services. Outreach with groups or locations included: tribal offices, clinics, medical offices, colleges, county sheriff offices, banks, gospel missions, parole officers, churches, Tribal colleges, technical colleges, Urban Indian health offices/clinics, psychiatry/psychology offices, campgrounds, rodeos, and more.

The SILC will work with TSLP to disseminate IL information to schools/students/families.

SILC staff communicates with TSLP staff regularly. Information is exchanged; flyers/announcements for upcoming events/trainings disseminated. TSLP includes CIL staff in events: meet and greet sessions, parent teacher conferences, YLF, Catch the Wave, Let's Talk Work, interagency mtgs, and Summer Institute. Several SILC members participated in YLF in various capacities, present on agency/services, serve as mentors and speakers. CIL staff attend IEP and other school related meetings, conferences/open houses, and Catch the Wave events.

SILC/CIL/DSE members serve on boards/councils/committees at the local level, i.e., River City Transit Board of Directors, Sioux Falls MPO Citizen Advisory Committee, Board of SBVI (Strategic Planning, Policy, Executive Committees), Center for Disability Run, Walk, & Roll committee, Governor's Awards review committee, SD Brain Injury Networking Group, National Usher Syndrome Coalition, and SD

Association for the Deaf. These activities provide members and staff with opportunities to hear directly from people receiving services.

IL Network partners participate in meetings/attend trainings to enhance linkages, gain understanding and knowledge. The following provide a few examples of cross disability events: IL Net T & TA Center sessions (i.e., IL Philosophy, SPIL Training and TA series, New CIL and SILC Staff Members, Financial Managers Peer Discussions, Intentional Community Outreach for CILs, Core Services, Understanding the Role of IL during and after a disaster), Everyone can Self Direct/NCAPPS Self Direction Learning Collaborative, DLTSS/Trends and Findings from National Assessment of States Critical Incident Management Systems, Finding and keeping good Support Staff in self-direction, Mandatory Reporting, Cognitive Stimulation Therapy Programs, Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease, Cultural and Linguistic Competence Assessment for Respite organizations, Barrier Free Futures, Self-Direction, HIPPA, Trauma & Healing, Disability, Equity and Intersectionality, Disability Led/Consumer Driven Systems Advocacy,

Other activities outline work conducted in terms of outreach: participation in public listening sessions, i.e., Disability Rights SD, provided input to Division of Developmental Disabilities regarding the four SD Home and Community Based Waivers, participation on call with Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to prepare for onsite visit and identifying systemic issues; participated in Disability Rights SD Board of Directors meetings, attended Partners in Policymaking sessions, participated in SD State University 'Lost and Found' meeting (disability awareness and campus resources), participated in Catch the College Wave event, worked with medial supply company on a commercial (addressing mobility services), attended motivational interviewing lectures, and participation in SD Disability Cultural Responsiveness ECHO series.

The IL Network recognizes significant progress toward achieving the SPIL's goals, objectives, and identified activities. IL Network members have been exceptionally engaged and incredibly busy throughout the year. Tracking the full extent of their involvement in activities, events, and presentations has proven to be more challenging this past year due to the volume of commitments and the range of tasks undertaken.

In the summer of 2023, the SILC welcomed seven new appointments, further strengthening the Council's capacity. The SILC is mindful of the ongoing need to strike a balance between the wealth of information to be shared, the requirement for attendance at meetings, committee participation, and the encouragement of broader involvement in other activities. This balance is particularly crucial given that all members serve in a volunteer capacity, while also managing full-time employment and family responsibilities. Despite these challenges, substantial work has been accomplished, reflecting the dedication and tireless effort of the IL Network members.

The IL Network acknowledges that ongoing work in these areas is essential, as the demand for IL services will continue to grow in response to the ever-changing needs of individuals and allowing people to age in place. As both the community and its circumstances shift, the IL Network remains committed to adapting and expanding its efforts to ensure that services meet the needs of all individuals served.

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 ILS

program.

There were no changes to the information contained in the SPIL during this reporting year (i.e., placement, legal status, membership or autonomy of the SILC, the SILC's resource plan, design of the statewide network of centers). The State Plan was amended the previous year and approved, changes were minimal, no substantial or material changes requested, nor was there a request to change operation of the SPIL, and the amendment was approved.

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.

A significant activity and accomplishment for the IL service delivery system is the Ramp Funding project. Ramp funds were made available by the DSE to the CILs. Last summer a total of \$250,000 was directed to the ramp project. The ramp contracts were renegotiated this past June. Funds are dependent on the amount of available funding from the DSE and renegotiated annually. Each CIL provided an estimate for ramps they thought could be completed in one year's time. This past summer the funding scope was expanded to include costs related to home modifications (widening doorways, accessible toilets, installing grab bars). Funding to support the ramp project was increased substantially when compared to the previous year, amounting to \$600,000.

The DSE supported Pre-ETS (summer programs) again this past summer. VR funding is utilized to offer the Pre-ETS training for youth with disabilities. Interested students with disabilities, ages 14-21 complete an application if interested in attending. ILC hosted eight programs in different locations, with a total of 44 students with disabilities participating. The Pre-ETS summer camps offer students with job exploration activities, workplace readiness, self-advocacy, information about VR and other adult service providers. Speakers address topics such as job exploration, employment soft skill development, hygiene, health, safety, banking/finances, dietary needs, housing, post-secondary education, and field trips. This activity engages individuals at an earlier age, exposes them to others with disabilities, and increases their knowledge and understanding of available services and supports. There were 19 summer programs conducted by other agencies as well, serving 125 students statewide.

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 DSE; complications recruiting SILC members; complications working with other state agencies or organizations within the state.

There were no substantial problems encountered, no disagreements among IL partners or need for resolutions during this reporting period.

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 GrantNot Applicable
Reporting Period	10/01/2023 - 09/30/2024
State	SD

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

Total Number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0
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Item 2 - Type of Public Health Professional(s) Hired

Type	#
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

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

SILC did NOT have a Public Health Workforce Grant

SUBPART VII - SIGNATURES

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

Ryan Groeneweg - Signed Digitally01/14/2025

SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSONDATE

Ryan Groeneweg - Director of Community Education(605) 357-1411

NAME AND TITLE OF SILC CHAIRPERSONPHONE NUMBER

Eric Weiss - Signed Digitally01/14/2025

SIGNATURE OF DSE DIRECTORDATE

Eric Weiss - Director(605) 773-3195

NAME AND TITLE OF DSE DIRECTORPHONE NUMBER