

# 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: 2023

State: MT

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](mailto: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	\$348060
(B) Title VII, Ch. 1, Part C - For 723 states Only	\$0
(C) Title VII, Ch. 2	\$0
(D) Other Federal Funds	\$0
<b>Subtotal - All Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$348,060.00</b>

### Item 2 - Other Government Funds

(E) State Government Funds	\$527212
(F) Local Government Funds	\$0
<b>Subtotal - State and Local Government Funds</b>	<b>\$527,212.00</b>

### Item 3 - Private Resources

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

### Item 4 - Total Income

Total income = (A)+(B)+(C)+(D)+(E)+(F)+(G)+(H)	\$875,272.00
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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.)	\$802255
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### Item 6 - Net Operating Resources

Total Income (Section 4) minus amount paid out to Consumers (Section 5) = Net Operating Resources	\$73,017.00
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## Section B - Distribution of Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds

Section 713 of the Act; 45 CFR 1329.10

<b>What Activities were Conducted with Part B Funds?</b>	<b>Expenditures of Part B Funds for Services by DSE Staff</b>	<b>Expenditures for Services Rendered By Grant or Contract</b>
(1) Provided resources to the SILC to carry out its functions	\$14083	\$0
(2) Provided IL services to individuals with significant disabilities	\$0	\$0
(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	\$311017
(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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$14,083.00</b>	<b>\$311,017.00</b>

## 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.

<b>Name of Grantee or Contractor</b>	<b>Use of Funds</b> (based on the activities listed in Subpart I, Section B)	<b>Amount of Part B Funds</b>	<b>Amount of Non-Part B Funds</b>	<b>Consumer Eligibility Determined By DSE or Provider</b>	<b>Consumer Service Records (CSRs) Kept With DSE or Provider</b>
Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFFT)	Provide services for people with disabilities	\$141,266.00	\$189,921.00	Provider	Provider
Montana Independent Living Services dba Ability Mo	Provide services for people with disabilities	\$27,334.00	\$94,091.00	Provider	Provider
North Central Independent Living Services (NCILS)	Provide services for people with disabilities	\$137,698.00	\$179,930.00	Provider	Provider
Summit	Provide Services for people with disabilities	\$4,718.00	\$27,296.00	Provider	Provider
<b>Total Amount of Grants and Contracts</b>		<b>\$311016</b>	<b>\$491238</b>		

## 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.

All contracts are for the 5 core and other IL services.

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.

CILs send invoices each month to the DSE IL Program Manager for review and submission to the DSE Budget Analyst for processing. Quarterly Reports are also submitted to the DSE IL Program Manager. These reports detail the services and activities provided by each CIL during the quarter. The CILs are also required to send copies of their board minutes. All this information is reviewed by the DSE IL Program Manager to ensure that contract goals are being met. Updates on CIL activities are provided at each SILC meeting by the CIL Executive Directors. Financial reviews are to be conducted on a 4-year rotating schedule of the CILs.

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 IL Program Manager makes preparations for SILC quarterly meetings and distributes meeting materials in accessible formats to all members and guests attending the SILC meetings and is responsible for uploading the materials to the website. The DSE IL Program Manager provides support to the SILC by coordinating and facilitating all SILC committee meetings, attending CIL task force meetings, drafting correspondence and reports, and assessment activities related to SPIL goals. The DSE IL Program Manager assists with carrying out projects approved by the SILC and attending various state and local meetings to gather and provide information regarding IL issues as the SILC representative. The DSE IL Program Manager also receives and responds to phone calls and correspondence regarding the SILC and maintains the website for 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	1	1
Other Staff	0	0

Section G - For Section 723 States ONLY

## **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
<b>Totals</b>	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
<b>Totals</b>	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.

The majority of Part B funds are contracted to the CILs which provide consumer services. The funds are shared between the CILs based on an equalization formula based on total federal and state funding. They report the consumers served (CSR) and services provided in their respective quarterly reports.

# 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)
SPIL	Writing	SILC, DSE	20.00	Write new State Plan for Independent Living.	Finished SPIL with a target date for completion early May.
SPIL	Collaboration	SILC, DSE	20.00	Monitor current SPIL as necessary to meet SPIL requirements.	Activities were reported in quarterly reports from the CILs and during SILC meetings. This information was submitted to the DSE and reviewed by the program manager.
Competitive Integrated Employment	Collaboration	SILC, DSE	60.00	Continued collaboration with other agencies to foster integrated employment.	The DSE oversaw the CCIR reviews and contracted with the CILs for implementation of the Section 511 of the Rehab Act. CILs attended various community meetings & legislative task forces meetings where competitive integrative employment was discussed.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Housing	Outreach	SILC	10.00	Work with various agencies to increase affordable and accessible housing.	SILC members participated in state and local meetings to increase awareness of the need for affordable and accessible housing. CILs taking a role advocating on city planning committees for on topics affecting individuals with disabilities.
Youth	Outreach	SILC, DSE	30.00	Increase awareness and knowledge of IL issues to you in transition.	Promoted and participated in the Montana Youth Transitions Conference (MYT).
Youth	Outreach	SILC	20.00	Increase awareness and knowledge of IL issues to you in transition.	Youth representatives attended the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living conference.
Youth	Outreach	SILC	50.00	Increase awareness and knowledge of IL issues to you in transition.	Promoted and participated in the Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF).
Other	Recruitment	SILC, DSE, CIL	30.00	Recruitment of new members to serve on the MI SILC Board.	Worked diligently to have four new potential candidates apply to the SILC to be appointed by the Governor.
Other	Outreach	SILC	50.00	Increase Awareness of IL Living issues as they relate to recreation.	Members of the SILC and CILs worked diligently to promote and attend a variety of recreational activities including river floating, fly fishing, summer camps, and outdoor games.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Other	Community Systems Outreach	SILC, DSE	250.00	Rework and pass State Olmstead Plan	The SILC, DSE, and CILs attended numerous planning and advocating sessions, ultimately with the passing of the new Olmstead Plan. Continued work is being done to define the parameters of this plan within the State of Montana.

## 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.

During the 2023 Legislative session MT SILC, CILs, and DSE played an integral part in the passage of Montana House Bill 922. This bill requires the Montana Department of Health and Human Services develop and implement an Olmstead plan. Over the past two years members of the SILC in conjunction with the CILs have served on the Committee advocating support and direction for this plan. Presently, the Committee is meeting bi-weekly and on working on the beginning phases of State implementation. Ultimately the SILC will continue to work with the State to develop a plan that will be fully executed by June 30, 2029.

Likewise, over the past year the MT SILC has placed a priority in continuing its work in prioritizing and advancing competitive integrated employment. Working in conjunction with the State Resource Council, the councils have focused on ways to increase employment for individuals and evaluate the use of the 14(c) of the FLSA to employ people for less than minimum wage.

Likewise, the MT SILC has been actively involved in Transition activities with the youth of Montana. Attending and contributing to both the MYLF (My Life) Conference and the MYTransition Conference. Both multi-day conferences focus on advocacy, leadership skills, post-secondary academic & career goals. So important to attendees is the creation of their personal Resource Development plan. Such an integral tool in helping young adults gain more independence in the areas of technology, community support, peer mentoring, and civil rights.

The MT SILC attended the National Council on Independent Living in Washington D.C. While at the conference members met with Montana Congressman to discuss concerns surrounding independent living concerns. As well, the attendees were able to march on the Capital to share the message of Independent Living. The MT SILC members also attended the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living Conference in California. This conference continues to be an integral part of Independent Living support and reference for Montana and its rural communities.

## 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.

The MT SILC and the DSE during this past year continue to make competitive, integrated employment (CIE) a priority. With a partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council and Vocational Rehabilitation CEI funding and opportunities are being served to Montana clients through the four Montana CILs. A successful joint meeting with the State Rehabilitation Council was again held in the Spring 2023 and focused additional topics such as how best to disseminate information focused on independent living especially to our rural communities, 14(c) and sub-minimum wage, and the continued involvement in the newly adopted Olmstead Plan.

As well as the continued work with the newly placed into Law Olmstead Plan development, the SILC works with the four Montana CILs on the various task forces that take place throughout the State. The SILC IL Manager hosts or attends the majority of these meetings to continue to build the partnership between the MT SILC, MT CILs, and DSE.

Representatives from the MT CILs are working in conjunction with the MT SILC to develop the new State Plan for Independent Living.

# 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
Scott Williamson	CIL	Person with a Disability emplo	Voting	01/01/2022	11/30/2024
Tami Hoar	CIL	Person with disability and Ind	Voting	11/07/0222	12/01/2024
Tom Thompson	CIL	Person with a Disability emplo	Voting	01/01/2022	11/30/2024
Allyson Talaska	State Agency	Vocational Rehabilitation Coun	Non-Voting	10/07/2021	11/30/2024
Julie Williams	State Agency	Representative from a State Ag	Non-Voting	08/04/2023	11/30/2024
Michael ManHardt	Neither	Person with a Disability not E	Voting	10/07/2021	11/30/2023
Chris Johnsrud	Neither	Person with Disability	Voting	04/01/2024	12/01/2024
Hannah Thompson	Neither	Advocate of and for persons wi	Voting	08/14/2023	12/01/2026
Heather Giese	Neither	Parent of a Child with a Disab	Voting	04/01/2024	12/01/2024
Jean Schroeder	Neither	Member At-Large	Voting	01/01/2022	12/01/2024
June Hermanson	Neither	Person with Disability Not emp	Voting	01/01/2022	11/30/2024
Nichole Lowrance	Neither	Advocate of and for person	Voting	04/01/2024	12/01/2026
Now filled: Melanie Beagle	Neither	Person with Disability	Voting	04/01/2024	12/01/2024
Savanah Smith	Neither	Parent of Child with a Disabil	Voting	12/31/1969	12/01/2024
Vacant: Indian Helath Services Representative	Neither	Person with Disability	Voting	11/30/-0001	11/30/-0001

### 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?	8

## 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.

The MT SILC has members from 6 different cities located in various regions of the state, both urban and rural. There is 505 miles between the two furthest serving MTSILC Board Members. MTSILC's recruiting strategy specifically targets the most rural and underserved communities in the state, including representation from the numerous Native American Indian Reservation. Presently the Board members are from 3 of the 4 regions served by the CILs. Membership continues to be a major focus of the MT SILC. Presently 3 individuals are awaiting appointment from the Governor, all who do not work for a CIL or the State. Likewise, upon appointment all 4 regions will be represented.

### 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.

MTSILC has Board members from three of the four regions served by the four CILs. Board members are diverse with a multitude of varied talents and backgrounds. Members include those involved in youth transitions, parents of those with disabilities, active business ownership, are Native American, and have experience running nonprofits. Likewise, members additionally have IL experience from other states IL programs, assistive technology expertise, resource development, and operations management. Many members have long histories of advocacy and experience surrounding the disability community.

Presently, SILC Board represent the following disabilities: three individuals with differing mobility issues, two with speech and communication disabilities, two visually impaired individuals, two with mental health disabilities, and one individual with a physical disability. Additionally, two Board members have children with disabilities with differing genetic disorders. one Board member is a representative of the DSE, and another Board member represents the University system as a state employee.

### **Item 3 - Knowledgeable about IL**

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

Many members are former consumers and work for or have worked for a CIL. Several members have served on the SILC both in our state and other states before. New SILC members are also encouraged to participate in trainings on ILRU. A CIL representative serves on the MTSILC as well as each CIL gives an update on happenings at their CIL at each quarterly meeting. Likewise, the CIL Directors and staff members serve on numerous committees together.

## **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.

The Montana SILC does not have an executive director. The IL Program Manager is the only staff member employed by the Disability and Employment and Transitions Division of DPHHS whose sole focus is working for the MT Statewide Independent Living Council. This position is currently filled by Julia Arnold. Her contact information is: 201 1st St. South, STE 2, Great Falls, MT 59405 (406) 454-6066

### **Item 2 - SILC Support**

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

The Independent Living program manager ensures that correspondence, reports and other common tasks are completed in a timely manner. The program manager coordinates SILC meetings and training, prepares and distributes materials for SILC meetings and maintains records of SILC actions. They also maintain the SILC website. The program manager, contracts specialist and budget analyst prepare and oversee annual state General Fund and Part B contracts with the CILs and monitors their compliance. The program manager also participates in meetings with other community organizations to promote the SILC and independent living, and coordinate efforts to serve the community and especially people with disabilities.

## **Section D - SILC Duties**

## **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.

A townhall meeting is facilitated annually by the DSE where the public asks questions during a virtual meeting and the DSE later answers the questions and send the responses to the townhall attendees via email or postal mail. The MTSILC website also encourages comments to be sent to the Montana SILC with a link on the SPIL webpage. Additionally, these questions are used to help formulate the SPIL. The meetings use information gathered from the townhall meeting and information from the SPIL Evaluation Committee to formulate the new plan. The SILC and the CILs work together to develop the State plan.

### **(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 SPIL Evaluation Committee meets throughout the year to evaluate the progress made on the SPIL goals. This year our goals were focused on Year 3 of the 2020-2022 SPIL goals as we were granted an extension for this year. The SPIL Evaluation Committee reviewed the goals and noted the majority of the goals for this past year continued to be met or were goals that were intended to be on-going. For example, 'a work group will meet twice annually to ensure advocacy'. The SPIL evaluation committee noted that this goal was on-going and wished to potentially include it in the next SPIL. Barriers to the implementation of the SPIL include the lack of an Independent Living Program Manager for eight months of 2023. Thus, data management and project implementation was difficult to undertake.

### **(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.

A SILC member is designated to participate in the SRC meetings. This member reports on SILC

activities and gathers information from the SRC to bring back to the SILC. A joint SRC/SILC meeting is held annually with the two councils. The last joint meeting held was in April 2023 where members of both councils discussed their missions and ongoing work. Tentative plans are being made to hold the next joint meeting in April 2024. The Centers for Independent Living have established several task forces to address specific issues impacting the disability community. These task forces are the Self-Determination, Legislative Advocacy, Transportation, Community Living, and Youth and Employment. These task forces meet regularly and have a representative from the SILC in attendance. SILC members also are active with the Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) and Montana Youth Transitions Conference. Individually SILC members are involved in a variety of local, state, and national organizations advocating for people with disabilities.

**(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.

Meetings are posted by the IL program manager on the SILC website at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Montana State Code, annotated requires that all such meetings be open to the public. The opportunity for public comment is provided during each SILC meeting and is noted on the agenda. Meeting agendas, minutes, and other material is posted to the SILC website. CIL directors and other community leaders are also invited to the SILC meetings to provide information on activities that have taken place since the previous SILC meeting. Teleconferencing is provided for those who are unable to participate in person and accommodations are provided as needed. Live closed captioning is provided through Hamilton Relay as well as Zoom auto generated captioning is also available. During the joint SRC/SILC meeting ASL interpreters are provided.

**Item 2 - Other Activities**

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

Describe any other SILC activities funded by non-Part B funds.  
No other SILC activities are done using non-Part B funds.

**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
Advocacy/Leadership Development	

Training And Technical Assistance Needs	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs --- Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
Individual Empowerment	1
<b>Applicable Laws</b>	
Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999	5
<b>Data Collecting and Reporting</b>	
General Overview	6
<b>Evaluation</b>	
General Overview	9
<b>Financial: Grant Management</b>	
Budgeting	3
<b>Financial: Resource Development</b>	
General Overview	7
<b>Marketing and Public Relations</b>	
Community Awareness	4
<b>Outreach to Unserved/Underserved Populations</b>	
Rural	2
<b>SILC Roles/Relationship to CILs</b>	
General Overview	8

# **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.

This year our goals were focused on Year 3 of the 2020-2022 SPIL as we were granted an extension for this year. The MTSILC made continual progress in meeting these goals. The MTSILC worked in conjunction with the four MT CILs. This year the SILC worked diligently to help pass the State of Montana Olmstead Plan. Likewise, the SILC continued to work with the CILs to provide the 5 core services. Outreach continues to be a priority with members attending numerous Conferences across the State and Nation. With our many successes we do continue to have several challenges. These include not having a Program Manager for eight months. With this position empty it was difficult to facilitate portions of the Council well. This position has since been filled and Board activities have resumed. Additionally, we continue to have to spend large amounts of time recruiting new members for the MT SILC Board. We presently have three potential candidates for the Board with applications into the Governor.

SPIL Goal 1: IL Systems operate effectively and efficiently.

Goal 1 was divided into four main sections. The first aspect of this goal was to ensure the SILC is compliant with Standards and Indicators by the end of year 1. This goal was achieved in year 1, although this goal continued to be referenced and implemented throughout all the years of this SPIL. The second objective of this goal explored the options for increased autonomy of the SILC including possible 501(c)(3) status. The SILC Board explored this option and in May 2023 it was voted by the Board not to pursue 501(c)(3) status. Thirdly, the SILC in partnership with the CILs was tasked with seeking and exploring funding opportunities to meet the increased demand for funding. The need for continued exploration of this portion of the goal continues to be important. It was delayed as the MT SILC did not have a program manager for 10 months of 2023. The present Program Manager will be tasked with the continual search for funding opportunities. The final portion of goal one directed the SILC to provide training opportunities that align with the IL Philosophy. This goal was met in a variety of ways including ilru virtual trainings, webinars, and mini-classes, APRIL and NCIL conference attendance, expanded MT SILC website reference materials, shared local conference attendance, and distribution of educational materials provided by ilru, APRIL, and NCIL.

Goal 2: Policies, procedures, and systems are transformed through advocacy, education, training and awareness to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

The second goal of the SPIL has three subsections. The first integral part of this goal included affecting social change through disability education and awareness to the public. This goal was met and continues to be a focus of the SILC. The SILC worked tirelessly throughout the previous legislative session to educate legislatures to support passing a new Olmstead Plan. In May 2023 the Governor signed into law HB922. Presently a new Olmstead Plan is being developed within the Montana

Department of Health and Human Services. In August 2022 the SILC held the biannual IL Symposium inviting individuals from across the state to participate in three days of IL updates, education, community building, and network development. Additionally, the SILC provided comments advocating for the inclusion of the Olmstead Plan to the commission regarding HB872 (Behavioral Health Systems for Future Generations). The second part of this goal focuses on providing opportunities to people with disabilities to promote disability rights at the local, state, and national levels. This objective was also accomplished through involvement in the Olmstead Committee work, response to HB872, IL Symposium, and attendance at state and national conferences. The last aspect of this goal partners the SILC with the network of MT CILs to promote systemic change. In addition to the newly developed Olmstead Plan, the SILC works collaboratively with the CILs on their task forces. These task forces include Transportation, Legislative Advocacy, Native American, Community Living, and Self-Determination.

Goal 3: Montanans with disabilities have access to and receive quality and appropriate services. The first of four objectives developed within this goal directs the SILC to collaborate with the MT networks of CILs to target the unserved and underserved populations through the current outreach model. This goal was important enough to the current SPIL Writing Committee that it became part of the newly written and submitted SPIL. Access to and receipt of quality services begins with the knowledge that these services exist. This objective was supported using several methods including increased website and social media use to expand awareness of the SILC and CILs, mailings with updated print material for local distribution, and the use and training of the MTCIL network to inform individuals regarding current local, state, and national issues and legislation that affects the lives of people with disabilities.

Additionally, CIL reports from the Directors within each SILC meeting are also now part of the quarterly meetings and new quarterly reports were designed to collect quantitative data from across the state. Support continues for the Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF), the Montana Youth Transitions (MYT) Conference, and the numerous CIL activities centered around youth that are not identified in the 5th Core service area. Lastly, the SILC, CILs, and continue to work together to support the provision of nursing home transition and diversion services. The IL Program Manager linked the CILs with the State of Montana's Money Follows the Person program, with the result of expanded local service now being provided.

## **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.

No changes were made to the SPIL.

## **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.

All activities and accomplishments achieved by DSU and the MT SILC have been covered elsewhere in this report.

## **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.

MT SILC Board membership continues to be a struggle. Since mid-summer a focus has been placed on recruitment. Presently, the Board has three individuals in the Governor's application process. Likewise, the MT SILC continues to actively seek a member to represent Indian Health. Additionally, during the first half of the year a search was conducted for a new Independent Living Program Manager. This position has been filled and the new program manager has been tasked with developing and distributing new recruiting materials.

## **Section D - Additional Information**

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

none



# PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE (PHWF) - DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grant Number	2201MTISPH-00
Reporting Period	10/01/2022 - 09/30/2023
State	MT

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

Total Number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	2.1
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## Item 2 - Type of Public Health Professional(s) Hired

Type	#
Case Investigator	0
Contact Tracer	0
Social Support Specialist	1
Community Health Worker	0.5
Public Health Nurse	0
Disease Intervention Specialist	0
Epidemiologist	0
Program Manager	0
Laboratory Personnel	0
Informaticians	0
Communication and Policy Experts	0
Certified Mental Health Peer Support Specialist	0.6

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

The Social Support Specialist advanced public health for disabled Montanans by identifying critical issues surrounding the dangers that the congregate setting could pose to our consumers during the ongoing public health emergency. Initial top-down approaches to the issue were unsuccessful as state and private institutions proved highly resistant to contact and improvement. The bottom-up approach was highly successful through engagements with County Attorneys and county-level public health officials. The Social Support Specialist determined that significant numbers of civil commitments to congregate settings were occurring without proper investigation of local and regional home and community-based services and without necessary discharge planning. Because of this, Disabled and Elderly Montanans were facing greater risk of COVID-19 exposure through civil commitment to psychiatric and nursing facilities. Across 14 services counties, direct contact with 9 counties introduced better methods for investigating regional home and community-based services that would help Disabled and Elderly Montanans maintain their resilience to public health dangers by remaining in their

safest setting: their homes. The other primary effort of the Social Support Specialist involved creating more resilient human service workers and advocates through interpersonal debriefing and educational presentations on different theoretical approaches to service delivery. This workforce development has increased the competency of agency staff and peer supporters. Secondary efforts of the Social Support Specialist surrounded better recreational opportunities for the community, Disabled and non-disabled alike. Community integration is a key component of the Independent Living movement and the establishment of a Book Club, Chess Club, and Dungeons and Dragons group allowed for better social opportunities in the ongoing pandemic. The Book Club's focus on experiences of disability allowed non-Disabled to increase their competency on the matter and reduce stigma in the community. The Chess Club continues to provide an engaging outlet where Disabled and non-Disabled community members can engage with each other over a shared game that has catered to the Disabled community for nearly a century. The Dungeons and Dragons group has allowed for a small group of Montanans with Disabilities to re-establish social connections that can be maintained in the case of another public health emergency.

Community Health Workers provided basic assistance and education regarding such things as Health Care, nutrition, day-to-day well-being. Community Health Workers collaborate with medical professionals, assisting with basic duties regarding medications, reminders, safe disposal, etc. CHWs also provide education on home safety, emergency preparedness, community resources, access to vaccines, COVID test kits and health education.

Certified Mental Health Peer Support Specialists were able to connect community members to needed community services, provide access to crisis support services within the community, specifically for patrons at the Great Falls Public Library. Additionally, this position supported the education of Library staff on strategies to effectively work with individuals with behavioral health issues to reduce the number of incidents reports and police interventions at the library. The public health professionals at the library provide aid to other Library staff in de-escalating patron behavior problems and to connect those patrons to the appropriate community services. This pilot project was developed in partnership with the Cascade County Local Area Council on Mental Health, Many Rivers Whole Health, North Central Independent Living Services, Inc. and the Great Falls Public Library. To date this project has resulted in fewer calls to dispatch in requesting emergency assistance, has improved customer service for the library and connected patrons with the most appropriate services in our community dealing with behavior health needs, crisis intervention, homelessness, diversion and discharge from institutional settings.

# SUBPART VII - SIGNATURES

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

Scott Williamson - Signed Digitally

SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

07/16/2024

DATE

Scott Williamson - PCA

NAME AND TITLE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

(406) 833-0189

PHONE NUMBER

Chanda Hermanson - Signed Digitally

SIGNATURE OF DSE DIRECTOR

07/16/2024

DATE

Chanda Hermanson - Administrator-Disability Employment and Transition

NAME AND TITLE OF DSE DIRECTOR

(406) 444-4179

PHONE NUMBER