# *Part I – Agency Profile*

**Agency Overview**

The Idaho State Independent living Council's (SILC) mission elevates the voices of people with disabilities, breaking down systemic barriers to inclusion and integration through advocacy and enhancing the ability of Idahoans with disabilities to live independently, direct their lives and strengthen their communities.

The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992 were signed into law by President George Bush on October 30, 1992, requiring the establishment of Statewide Independent living Councils. Idaho's SILC was created by Governor Cecil Andrus by Executive Order 93-01 on May 28, 1993. The Idaho SILC became an independent governmental entity as required by Section 704 of the Rehabilitation Act with the passage of House Bill 711 on July 1, 2005. The Council is made up of 17-24 volunteers who are regional representatives, a minimum of 51% of whom are people from across the disability spectrum who do not work for a state agency or a Center for Independent Living (CIL); family members of and service providers for people with disabilities, and ex-officio members from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Health and Welfare, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Idaho Commission on Aging. Council membership is appointed by the Governor. The SILC is the only statewide cross disability organization in Idaho with membership comprised of a majority of people with disabilities, serving Idahoans across disabilities and lifespan.

Council members hire and direct the SILC executive director, who in turn, manages the day-to-day operation of the Council. SILC staff is comprised of four full time employees. The SILC has one office located in Boise. On­going council activities are directed by the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). This federally mandated plan is developed every three years and sets the goals and objectives of the organization and the Independent Living Network. The Council meets quarterly with meeting dates prescheduled annually. All meetings are open to the public in accessible locations. The Council's January and July meetings are held virtually via a web-based platform. Meetings include American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, captioning for web-based meetings and materials provided in multiple formats upon reasonable request.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act of 2014 (WIOA), signed into law by President Obama on July 22, 2014, transferred the Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living programs funded under title VII, Chapter 1 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by WIOA (P.L. 113-128)(Rehabilitation Act) from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), U.S. Department of Education, to the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The transfer of the Independent Living (IL) programs aligns with the mission of ACL to maximize the independence, well-being and health of individuals with disabilities across the lifespan.

Idaho SILC revenue comes from Federal WIOA, Title VII, Part B, and Title I Section 101(a)(18)(A)(ii)(II) Innovation and Expansion state grants, administered by the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR), State General Fund appropriations, interest accrual and occasional donations. The SILC may from time to time receive revenue from grants, contractual projects and other project specific fundraising.

The SILC actively engages in statewide activities that assist in providing Idahoans with disabilities a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer-directed, cost-effective and community based. The core functions of the SILC are specific to both federal mandates and Idaho Code providing the rationale behind the SPIL. The Council often partners with national, state and local agencies, advocacy organizations and nonprofits to effect positive systems change at the state and national levels.

The 2021-2023 State Plan, approved by ACL for implementation October 1, 2020 was to conclude the end of September 2023. However, due to platform difficulties through the federal contractor, SILCs nationally were unable to submit our next triennial State Plans. As such, we submitted technical amendments to ACL in June for the extension of the Plan through Federal Fiscal year 2024. The Plan was approved for continuation commencing on October 1, 2023. The SILC submitted the 2025 - 2027 State plan to ACL for approval on May 17, 2024 for implementation October 1, 2024.

**Core Functions/Idaho Code**

Federal and state mandates (29 U.S.C. section 796d(c) and 34 CFR 364.21) require the SILC to: 1) Develop, sign and submit, in conjunction with the IDVR and the ICBVI, the SPIL for people with disabilities. SILC must monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL. 2) Support the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and advocate for Independent Living (IL) services provided through state and federal programs for people with disabilities. 3) Gather and disseminate information, conduct studies and analyses, develop model policies, conduct training on IL philosophy, and work to expand and improve IL services. Additionally, Chapter 12, Title 56, Idaho Code, requires the SILC to 1) assess the need for services for Idahoans with disabilities and advocate with decision makers. 2) Supervise and evaluate such staff as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the council. 3) Ensure that all regularly scheduled meetings of the council are open to the public and that sufficient advance notice of meetings is provided pursuant to the open meeting law. 4) Prepare reports and make recommendations, as necessary. 5) Perform other activities the council deems necessary to increase the ability of Idahoans with disabilities to live independently. 6) Promulgate rules, as may be necessary in compliance with Chapter 52, Title 67, Idaho Code.

WIOA replaces the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and retains and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Under WIOA, SEC. 474. STATE PLAN, Section 704 (29 U.S.C. 796c) regarding future SPIL development and implementation is amended as follows:

(A) developed by the chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council, and the directors of the Centers for Independent Living in the State, after receiving public input from individuals with disabilities and other stakeholders throughout the State; and

(B) Signed by--

(i) the chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council, acting on behalf of and at the direction of the Council;

(ii) the director of the designated State entity described in subsection (c); and

(iii) not less than 51 percent of the directors of the Centers for Independent Living in the state;

(o) Promoting Full Access to Community Life - The plan shall describe how the State will provide independent living services described in section 7(18) that promote full access to community life for individuals with significant disabilities.

Legislative Text:

SEC. 475. STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL.

Section 705 (29 U.S.C. 796d) is amended--

(c) Functions-

(1) DUTIES- The Council shall--

(A) develop the State plan as provided in section 704(a)(2);

(B) monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State plan;

(C) meet regularly, and ensure that such meetings of the Council are open to the public and sufficient advance notice of such meetings is provided;

(D) submit to the Administrator such periodic reports as the Administrator may reasonably request, and keep such records, and afford such access to such records, as the Administrator finds necessary to verify the information in such reports; and

(E) as appropriate, coordinate activities with other entities in the State that provide services similar to or complementary to independent living services, such as entities that facilitate the provision of or provide long-term community-based services and supports.

(2) AUTHORITIES- The Council may, consistent with the State plan described in section 704, unless prohibited by State law--

(A) in order to improve services provided to individuals with disabilities, work with centers for independent living to coordinate services with public and private entities;

(B) conduct resource development activities to support the activities described in this subsection or to support the provision of independent living services by Centers for Independent Living; and

(C) perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of this chapter and comparable to other functions described in this subsection, as the Council determines to be appropriate.

**Revenue and Expenditures**

| **Revenue** | **FY 2022** | **FY 2023** | **FY 2024** | **FY 2025** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| State General Funds | $226,210 | $233,857 | $259,639 |  |
| State Grants/Contributions | $198,858 | $225,221 | $206,271 |  |
| Federal Grants/Contributions | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| ARRA Stimulus Funds | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| **TOTAL** | **$425,068** | **$459,078** | **$465,910** |  |
| **Expenditures** | **FY 2022** | **FY 2023** | **FY 2024** | **FY 2025** |
| Personnel Costs | $305,533 | $327,891 | $346,773 |  |
| Operating Expenditures | $123,403 | $131,266 | $146,450 |  |
| Capital Outlay | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Trustee/Benefit Payments | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| ARPA Expenditures | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| **TOTAL** | **$428,936** | **$459,157** | **$493,223** |  |

**Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided**

| **Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided** | **FY 2022** | **FY 2023** | **FY 2024** | **FY 2025** | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Federal Requirements** | | | | | |
| - Develop (including three-year statewide assessment, sign and submit, in coordination with the Designated State Entity and at least 51% of the Centers for Independent Living, the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for people with disabilities. At least quarterly, the SILC must monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL for effectiveness. | - Monitored the 2021-2023 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) via refined surveys disseminated to SPIL partners, including Council members quarterly, monitoring progress of the 2021-2023 SPIL, and provide review during public  quarterly business meetings: July, October, January and April.  - SPIL progress monitored by SILC staff monthly.  - Refine and disseminate surveys to SPIL partners quarterly, monitoring progress of the 2021-2023 SPIL, and provide review during quarterly public meetings.  -Develop in coordination with our partners the three-year statewide assessment and information gathering process following the timeline presented to the Council in FFY 2022.  - Implementation of the Statewide assessment: 26 public meetings/listening sessions in 20 communities + 1 high school for a total of 225 participants prior to July 1, 2022. Three meetings were for the Spanish speaking community.  An additional three community listening sessions and two virtual sessions are slated for July and August 2022.  - The statewide independent living assessment survey was launched in January 2022 and will conclude September 16, 2022. Surveys are available electronically in English and Spanish and hard copy surveys are available in typical and large print, braille and Spanish.  Expectations met | - Monitored the 2021-2023 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) at quarterly business meetings: July, October, January, and April.  - SPIL progress monitored by SILC staff monthly.  - SPIL development: Develop, Sign, and Submit the technically amended and extended SPIL in collaboration with IDVR, ICBVI and the Centers for Independent Living.  (Submitted July 1, 2023).  - Concluded Statewide assessment with final three community listening sessions and two virtual sessions.  Expectations met | -Monitored the 2021-2024 State Plan for State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) at quarterly business meetings: July, October, January, and April.  -SPIL progress monitored by SILC staff monthly  -2025-2027 SPIL completed, signed and submitted for approval by ACL for implementation October 1, 2024.  Expectations met |  | |
| Support three Idaho Centers for Independent Living (CILs). | - Supported CIL, regional Independent Living (IL) conference September 2021. The conference, hosted by the eastern Idaho CIL, LIFE, was a hybrid with in-person and virtual participation.  - Provided outreach and IL education to underserved areas in support of CIL activities and services, targeting underserved areas.  - Actively disseminated federal, state and local information and resources related to the COVID-19 health emergency to people with disabilities and their families.  - Partnered with Public Health and non-profit organizations to provide health education and information to the disability community across Idaho.  - Provided ongoing emergency preparedness training and collaborative opportunities to CIL and other partner organizations and agencies.  Expectations met. | - Supported CIL, regional Independent Living (IL) conference (September 2022) in Lewiston.  - Provided outreach and IL education to underserved areas in support of CIL activities and services, targeting underserved areas.  - Actively disseminated federal, state and local information and resources related to the COVID-19 health emergency to people with disabilities and their families.  - Provided ongoing emergency preparedness training and collaborative opportunities to CIL and other partner organizations and agencies.  Expectations met | -Provided in-person training from the Independent Living and Research Utilization project to SILC and CIL staff, Council members and CIL boards creating opportunities share and learn from peers.  -Provided outreach and IL education to underserved areas in support of CIL activities and services, targeting underserved areas.  -Provided ongoing emergency preparedness training and collaborative opportunities to CIL and other partner organizations and agencies.  Expectations met |  |
| Advocate for Independent Living Services. | - Provided written and verbal concerns to policy makers and workgroups related to affordable, accessible housing issues across Idaho, particularly in response to the recent health emergency and the loss of affordable housing options due to reduced inventory and exponential population growth.  - Provided written and verbal input regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of emergency preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery to appropriate volunteer organizations, local, state and federal agencies, including meeting with FEMA Administrator and Deputy FEMA Region X Administrator.  - Participated in multiple Medicaid workgroups focused on the response to the shortage of direct care workers without whom Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) cannot be provided to people with disabilities.  - Met with and provided information to policymakers on the negative impacts on people with disabilities due to Medicaid service restrictions and loss of access to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), low wages for direct care workers, staffing ratios resulting in potential abuse and neglect and reduced services to people with disabilities, including eviction from care facilities.  - Through public comment, provided input on potential changes to the Extended Employment Services (EES) program administered by the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and ultimately moved to DHW during the 2022 legislative session.  -Provided written comment on the Idaho Medicaid renewal application for the 1915(c) Home and Community Based (HCBS) Aged and Disabled (A&D) Waiver.  -Participated in multiple housing workgroups to address the statewide shortage of affordable, accessible housing which is a limiting factor for people who have recovered from injury or illness to be safely discharged from LTCFs.  Expectations met. | - Provided written and verbal concerns to policy makers and workgroups related to affordable, accessible housing issues across Idaho, and the loss of affordable housing options due to reduced inventory and exponential population growth and the Direct Care Workforce shortages’ impact on people who use Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)  - Provided written and verbal input regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of emergency preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery to appropriate volunteer organizations, local, state and federal agencies, including meeting with FEMA Region X Administrator.  - Participated in multiple Medicaid workgroups focused on the response to the shortage of direct care workers without whom Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) cannot be provided to people with disabilities.  - Met with and provided information to policymakers on the negative impacts on people with disabilities due to Medicaid service restrictions and loss of access to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), low wages for direct care workers, staffing ratios resulting in potential abuse and neglect and reduced services to people with disabilities, including eviction from care facilities.  -Participated in multiple housing workgroups to address the statewide shortage of affordable, accessible housing which is a limiting factor for people who have recovered from injury or illness to be safely discharged from Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs).  - Provided verbal and written comment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regarding DHW adherence to the settings rule resulting CMS reconsidering a visit to monitor Idaho settings compliance with the rule.  Expectations met. | -Provided written and verbal concerns to policy makers and workgroups related to affordable, accessible housing issues across Idaho, and the loss of affordable housing options due to reduced inventory and exponential population growth and the Direct Care Workforce shortages’ impact on people who use Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)  -Provided written and verbal input regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of emergency preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery to appropriate volunteer organizations, local, state and federal agencies.  -Participated in multiple Medicaid workgroups focused on the response to the shortage of direct care workers without whom Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) cannot be provided to people with disabilities.  -Met with and provided information to policymakers on the negative impacts on people with disabilities due to Medicaid service restrictions and loss of access to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), low wages for direct care workers, staffing rations resulting in potential abuse and neglect and reduced services to people with disabilities, including eviction from care facilities.  -Participated in multiple housing workgroups to address the statewide shortage of affordable, accessible housing which is a limiting factor for people who have recovered from injury or illness to be safely discharged from Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs).  -Provided verbal and written comment to the Centers for Medicaid Services regarding DHW adherence to the settings rule resulting CMS reconsidering a visit to monitor Idaho settings compliance with the rule.  -Met with and provided information to policymakers on the impact and importance of ABLE accounts for people with disabilities in Idaho  Expectations met. |  |
| Conduct Studies and Analysis | - Reviewed and provided analysis of emergency management systems and practices across the state, with a focus on counties, regarding impact and inclusion of people with disabilities.  - Reviewed, analyzed, developed and disseminated plain language information in English and Spanish about the emergency preparation in the regions they reside using current demographic, geographic and weather resources, vetting through local resources, including county emergency managers.  - Conducted ongoing review analysis of emergency management systems and practices across the state, with a focus on counties, non-profits and health districts, regarding impact and inclusion of people with disabilities.  -Conducted ongoing analysis of statewide affordable, accessible housing shortages as related to transitioning people from facilities back to their communities,  collaborating with partner organizations and consulting elected officials from the local to the national level.  Expectations met | - Reviewed and provided analysis of emergency management systems and practices across the state, with a focus on counties, regarding impact and inclusion of people with disabilities.  - Reviewed, analyzed, developed and disseminated plain language information in English and Spanish about the emergency preparation in the regions they reside using current demographic, geographic and weather resources, vetting through local resources, including county emergency managers.  - Conducted ongoing review analysis of emergency management systems and practices across the state, with a focus on counties, non-profits and health districts, regarding impact and inclusion of people with disabilities.  -Conducted ongoing analysis of statewide affordable, accessible housing shortages as related to transitioning people from facilities back to their communities,  collaborating with partner organizations and consulting elected officials from the local to the national level.  -Completed analysis of information collected during the 2022-2023 statewide assessment of need for Idahoans with disabilities. Compiled report to be used in conjunction with other recent data to prepare the 2025-2027 SPIL.  Expectations met | -Reviewed and provided analysis of emergency management systems and practices across the state, with a focus on counties, regarding impact and inclusion of people with disabilities.  -Reviewed, analyzed, developed and disseminated plain language information in English and Spanish about the emergency preparation in the regions they reside using current demographic, geographic and weather resources, vetting through local resources, including country emergency managers.  -Conducted ongoing review analysis of emergency management systems and practices across the state, with a focus on counties, non-profits and health districts, regarding impact and inclusion of people with disabilities.  -Conducted ongoing analysis of statewide affordable, accessible housing shortages as related to transitioning people from facilities back to their communities, collaborating with partner organizations and consulting elected officials from the local to the national level.  Expectations met. |  |
| Participate in and lead, regional & local Workgroups related to the following: transportation opportunities for people with disabilities; ADA Training; Employer Training; Fair Housing; Legislature 101; the intersection of disability and abuse, financial literacy and emergency preparedness. | - Coordinated monthly meetings of the Idaho Inclusive Emergency Coalition sharing information and resources. The statewide group is made up of people with disabilities and responders focused on developing actionable materials and resources to address barriers for people with disabilities and their families during the COVID-19 health emergency as well as localized wildfire, flooding and other natural or manmade disasters.  - Provided community trainings on financial literacy, ABLE accounts and emergency preparedness.  - Collaborated with the Idaho Health Departments, County emergency managers, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM), FEMA and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) in relation to emergency mitigation, planning, response and recovery activities for people with disabilities and their families.  - Established the Idaho Health Equity Coalition, coordinating monthly meetings and participating in local projects. The Coalition brings together people with disabilities and their families, and people who provide an array of health and safety services to address inequity across health, social and safety service systems.  Expectations met | - Coordinated monthly meetings of the Idaho Inclusive Emergency Coalition sharing information and resources. The statewide group is made up of people with disabilities and responders focused on exchange of information, issues and resources related to the public health emergency as well as localized wildfire, flooding, extended heatwaves, severe winter weather and other natural or manmade disasters.  - Provided community trainings on financial literacy, ABLE accounts and emergency preparedness.  - Collaborated with the Idaho Health Departments, County emergency managers, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM), and FEMA in relation to emergency mitigation, planning, response and recovery activities for people with disabilities and their families.  - Coordinated the Idaho Health Equity Coalition, meeting monthly and participating in local projects. The Coalition brings together people with disabilities, their families and people who provide an array of health and safety services to address inequity across health, social and safety service systems. The project has successfully transitioned to management by the non-profit CIL, Disability Action Center-Northwest.  Expectations met | -Coordinated monthly meetings of the Idaho Inclusive Emergency Coalition sharing information and resources. The statewide group is made up of people with disabilities and responders focused on exchange of information, issues and resources related to the public health emergency as well as localized wildfire, flooding, extended heatwaves, severe winter weather and other natural or manmade disasters.  -Provided community trainings on financial literacy, ABLE accounts and emergency preparedness.  -Collaborated with the Idaho Health Departments, County emergency managers, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM), and FEMA in relation to emergency mitigation, planning, response and recovery activities for people with disabilities and their families.  Expectations met. |  |

***Part II – Performance Measures***

| **Performance Measure** | | **FY 2022** | **FY 2023** | **FY 2024** | **FY 2025** | **FY 2026** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Goal 1**  Assess the need for services for Idahoans with disabilities and advocate with decision makers. | | | | | | |
| 1. Develop, conduct and review statewide needs assessment public meetings at least every three years - used in conjunction with electronic surveys to develop the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). | actual | 26 | 9 | 4 |  |  |
| *target* | *10 Statewide mtgs* | *5 Statewide mtgs & 4 quarterly reviews of additional input* | *4 quarterly reviews of additional input* | *4 quarterly reviews of additional input* |  |
| 1. Review SPIL for effectiveness and emerging issues at quarterly in SILC public meetings. | actual | 4 | 4 | 4 |  |  |
| *target* | *4 Mtg rvws* | *4 Mtg rvws* | *4 Mtg rvws* | *4 Mtg rvws* |  |
| **Goal 2**  Support the Centers for Independent Living and advocate for Independent Living services provided through state and federal programs. | | | | | | |
| 1. Coordinate with the CILs to increase participation of people with disabilities in state and local emergency planning activities. | actual | 14 | 16 | 19 |  |  |
| *target* | *13 people* | *17 people* | *20 people* |  |  |
| *target* |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Goal 3**  Conduct training to people with disabilities and stakeholders on Independent Living (IL) philosophy and work to expand and improve IL services. | | | | | | |
| 1. Provide training on employment, financial literacy, emergency preparedness, healthcare, housing and transportation options; and community safety, participation and integration, including relevant laws, policies and rules that affect people with disabilities. | actual | 15 | 28 | 31 |  |  |
| *target* | *15 trainings* | *15 trainings* | *20 trainings* |  |  |
| **Goal 4**  Collaborate with disability service agencies/organizations and other stakeholders; advocating for expanded and improved Independent Living opportunities and services for Idahoans with disabilities. | | | | | | |
| 1. Participate in existing, or initiate new, workgroups, committees and councils/boards to provide reports, data and policy guidance toward improving employment, education, training, housing, health care coverage and community access and safety opportunities. | actual | 19 | 22 | 22 |  |  |
| *target* | *12* | *12* | *17* |  |  |
| 1. Provide written testimony and/or policy review to successfully aid in the implementation of policies/laws that positively impact Idahoans with disabilities at the local, state and national level. | actual | 10 | 12 | 11 |  |  |
| *target* | *10* | *10* | *10* |  |  |

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