



**Idaho State Independent Living Council**

**Strategic Plan**

**2023-2026**

July 1, 2022

Mel Leviton, Executive Director

Based in part on the 2021-2023 State Plan for Independent Living, approved by the Administration on Community Living (ACL), implemented October 1, 2020.



## Mission

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The Idaho SILC's mission is to promote the independent living philosophy for all Idahoans with disabilities: choice, self-determination and access for all.

## Vision

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The Idaho SILC promotes a philosophy of independent living, including the following:

- consumer control
- peer-support
- self-help
- self-determination
- equal access
- individual and systemic advocacy, maximizing opportunities for full inclusion of individuals with disabilities within the broader community

## Organizational Information

The Idaho SILC is actively engaged in activities that help provide Idahoans with disabilities a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer responsive, cost effective and community based. We are solutions oriented; working with many public agencies, private non-profit and for-profit organizations to improve the quality of life and independence for Idahoans with disabilities.

Council duties are directed in Title VII, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended:

- Develop, sign and submit the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for people with disabilities. The SILC will monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL.
- Support the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and advocate for independent living (IL) services provided through state and federal programs for individuals with disabilities.
- Gather and disseminate information, conduct studies and analyses, develop model policies, conduct training on IL philosophy, outreach to unserved and underserved populations and work to expand and improve IL services.
- Develop a plan for the provision of resources to the SILC.
- Develop and pursue a public policy agenda that results in positive systemic change for people with disabilities.

Additionally, Chapter 12, Title 56, Idaho Code, requires that the Council:

- Assess the need for services for Idahoans with disabilities and advocate with decision makers.
- Supervise and evaluate such staff as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the council.
- 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.
- Prepare reports and make recommendations, as necessary.
- Perform other activities the Council deems necessary to increase the ability of Idahoans with disabilities to live independently.
- Promulgate rules, as may be necessary in compliance with Chapter 52, Title 67, Idaho Code.

The Idaho SILC is funded through a combination of federal and state funds. It operates projects, monitors, conducts activities and reports within the context of both the state and federal fiscal years.

The Idaho State Strategic Plan mirrors the Idaho State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) which is required by federal mandate and reported to the Administration on Community Living (ACL). It is based on statewide assessment, conducted every three years and monitored quarterly, as well as regionally specific demographic data and geographical information. The 2021-2023 SPIL was approved by ACL and implemented October 1, 2020. We are in the midst of our three-year statewide assessment of needs of Idahoans with disabilities from which our 2024-2026 SPIL will be developed. We anticipate modification of our state strategic plan in the coming two years in concert with the SPIL.

## **External Factors Impacting the Idaho SILC**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act of 2014 (WIOA) 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 Independent Living Administration (part of the Administration on Disabilities) within 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, and their families and caregivers.

Ongoing structural changes within the Department of Health and Human Services continue to impact SILCs nationally. The transformation is ongoing as the Administration seeks to consolidate the Independent Living Administration, the Office on Independent Living Programs and other divisions within the Administration on Disabilities under ACL.

SILC's nationally have experienced unanticipated challenges in the last several years related to SPIL development and submission due to technical difficulties at ACL, U.S. DHHS. The Idaho SILC is no exception and it is for this reason full development of the 2020-2023 SPIL was delayed until 2020. The three-year assessment and SPIL cycle has been reset through the 2021-2023 SPIL due to delays at the federal level. The Council extended and amended the 2017-2019 SPIL for the year 2020 and it was approved by ACL September 27, 2019. The resulting one-year extended/amended SPIL served as bridge to the 2021-2023 SPIL after

vetting through a vigorous public meeting and 30-day public comment period. Though our federal timelines have changed, the SILC's duties remain consistent under both federal and state law.

We frequently monitor progress of the SPIL in response to the shifting demands related to the health emergency, shifting needs and Idaho's recent growth. Given that 13-24% of the U.S. population has a disability, the SILC continues to experience increased demand for independent living education and systemic services which enhance community living across Idaho. The SILC supports a move away from institutional care which is both financially and socially more costly than the provision of Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) and supports.

The SILC is rapidly responding to changing statewide needs, an evolving workplace, reduced resources and increased demand for community access and independent living opportunities for Idahoans with disabilities across the lifespan. Due at least in part to our statewide emergency preparedness activities in recent years, the SILC faces increased demands requiring flexibility, continuity and improved efficiencies.

**Strategic Goal 1:**  
Assess the need for services for Idahoans with disabilities and advocate with decision makers.

Objective	Performance Measure	Benchmark
Develop, conduct and review a statewide needs assessment at least every three years.	Conduct community meetings every three years, to gather information relevant to the disability community from people with disabilities, their families and providers during public meetings and electronic surveys.	Hold a minimum of 10 community meetings and increase participation in both electronic surveys and community meetings by 10% <sup>1</sup>
Continue to review SPIL for effectiveness and emerging issues at least quarterly in SILC public meetings.	Gather data and input from Council members and agency partners regarding the success and barriers of the SPIL goals.	Four or more reviews each year <sup>2</sup>

**Strategic Goal 2:**  
Support the Centers for Independent Living and advocate for Independent Living services provided through state and federal programs.

Objective	Performance Measure	Benchmark
Coordinate with the CILs to engage and support local and statewide advocacy efforts that reduce barriers that individuals with significant disabilities encounter during local, statewide and national disasters and emergencies.	Continue and increase participation with emergency management groups and in emergency activities that lead to the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all stages of emergency/disaster planning. Survey participants quarterly, requesting information about the value of participation, barriers addressed, successes and lessons learned.	Increase the number of people with disabilities involved with emergency planning by 25% annually. 2022 baseline: 14 people with disabilities. <sup>3</sup>

**Strategic Goal 3:**  
 Conduct training to people with disabilities and stakeholders on Independent Living (IL) philosophy and work to expand and improve IL services.

Objective	Performance Measure	Benchmark
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.	Potential community training opportunities are identified throughout the year, targeting populations and activities specifically identified in the SPIL and during quarterly reviews.	15 or more trainings provided annually <sup>4</sup>

**Strategic Goal 4:**  
 Collaborate with disability service agencies/organizations and other stakeholders; advocating for expanded and improved Independent Living opportunities and services for Idahoans across disabilities and lifespan.

Objective	Performance Measure	Benchmark
SILC staff 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.	Track the number of collaborative workgroups participating in activities specifically identified and targeted in the SPIL or quarterly reviews. Actual year numbers represent participation in more than 70% of meetings, calls for response and written correspondence.	Participation in 12 or more identified activities annually <sup>5</sup>
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.	Track the number of activities specific policy reviews, rule changes, laws or potential legislation identified by the Council as impacting Idahoans with disabilities. The provision of SILC written review, analysis or testimony is the basis of the measurement.	Written comment or review on 10 or more identified concerns annually <sup>6</sup>

**FFY Goals, 2021-2023 Idaho State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), implemented October 1, 2020.**

Goal Name	Goal Description
Advocacy	The Idaho IL Network will promote and advocate for the integration, inclusion and equity of all Idahoans with disabilities across communities, lifespan and cultures.
Network Support, Capacity and Sustainability	The Idaho IL Network will work to strengthen effective Network operations that are adequately funded and increase capacity.
Community Living	Idahoans with disabilities receive the community-based supports they need to live in their community of choice with greater independence.

Footnotes:

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<sup>1</sup> Benchmarks are set based on internal program measure and quarterly reviews. This benchmark is established in the 2021-2023 SPIL. The assessment is conducted every three-years and SPIL progress, success and barriers are reviewed quarterly as required by both state and federal law.

<sup>2</sup> Benchmarks are set based on internal program measure and quarterly reviews. This benchmark is established in the 2021-2023 SPIL. The assessment is conducted every three-years and SPIL progress, success and barriers are reviewed quarterly as required by both state and federal law.

<sup>3</sup> Benchmarks are set based on internal program measure and quarterly reviews. This benchmark is established in the 2021-2023 SPIL.

<sup>4</sup> Benchmarks are set based on internal program measure and quarterly reviews. This benchmark is established in the 2021-2023 SPIL.

<sup>5</sup> Benchmarks are set based on internal program measure and quarterly reviews. This benchmark is established in the 2021-2023 SPIL.

<sup>6</sup> Benchmarks are set based on internal program measure and quarterly reviews. This benchmark is established in the 2021-2023 SPIL.