



## **Idaho State Independent Living Council**

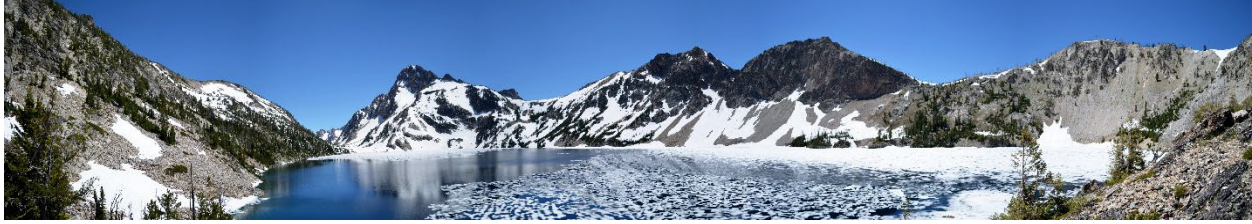
### **Strategic Plan**

### **State Fiscal Years 2025-2028**

July 1, 2024

Mel Leviton, Executive Director

Based in part on the 2025-2027 State Plan for Independent Living, submitted to the Administration on Community Living (ACL) May 15, 2024, pending ACL approval for implementation October 1, 2024.



## **Mission**

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The Idaho SILC's mission is to promote, advocate for and enhance the ability of Idahoans with disabilities to live independently, direct their lives and participate fully in their community.

## **Vision**

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Idahoans across disabilities and lifespan live in their community with the services and supports they need.

## **Organizational Information**

The Idaho SILC engages 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 funds that pass through our designated state entity, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) and state general funds. The SILC coordinates and collaborates on statewide projects, monitors quarterly SPIL progress, conducts outreach and advocacy activities and reports on systemic issues, successes and challenges within the context of both the state (July 1 – June 30) and federal fiscal years (October 1 – September 30).

The Idaho State Strategic Plan mirrors the Idaho State Plan for Independent Living which is required by federal mandate and reported to the Administration on Community Living (ACL). The Plan is based on a statewide assessment conducted by the SILC and the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) every three years, as well as regionally specific demographic data, geographical information and review of quarterly SPIL progress surveys. The 2025-2027 SPIL was submitted to ACL in May 2024, and pending approval will be implemented October 1, 2024. The most recent three-year statewide assessment of the needs of Idahoans with disabilities was completed in 2023.

The Idaho Independent Living (IL) Network:

The Idaho SILC works closely with the three non-profit CILs staffed in ten offices located regionally across Idaho. The CILs provide direct services that help people with disabilities live and remain active in communities large and small. The Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI) round out the Idaho IL network as we collaborate to systemically improve services, access and resources for Idahoans with disabilities through the Plan.

## **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.

Structural changes within the Department of Health and Human Services impacted SILCs nationally. The transformation has been both challenging and rewarding as the Administration consolidated the Independent Living Administration, the Office on Independent Living Programs and other divisions within the Administration on Disabilities under ACL. We are excited to be part of the innovative work being done nationally to improve the lives of people with disabilities across our nation.

Nationally, SILC's experienced unanticipated challenges in recent years related to SPIL development and submission due to technical difficulties at ACL, U.S. DHHS. The three-year assessment and SPIL cycle has been reset twice through the 2017-2019 and the 2021-2023 Plans due to delays at the federal level as well as software system updates. The Council extended and amended both above mentioned SPILs for the years 2020 and 2024. The Council

made technical amendments and extended the Plans as directed by the Administration on Community Living (ACL). Upon approval by ACL, the extended 2021-23 SPIL was implemented on October 1, 2023. Though our federal timelines have changed, the SILC's duties remain consistent under both federal and state law. New federal reporting systems and platforms are now firmly in place and we're excited to move forward with our updated 2025-2027 Plan on October 1, 2024.

We monitor progress (through survey, review and reporting) of the SPIL in response to the shifting demands related to public health, the personal attendant and direct care workforce shortage, housing shortages, shifting resources and Idaho's recent growth. Given that 13-27% of Idaho's population has a disability, the SILC continues to experience increased demand for independent living education and systemic services which enhance community living opportunities 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 Idaho SILC is staffed by three classified employees, an unclassified executive director and governed by a gubernatorially appointed Council of 17-24 members. The executive director is supervised by and serves at the pleasure of the Council. SILC staff respond to shifting state agency requirements and systems upgrades, including Transparent Idaho and LUMA, as well as an evolving workplace and reduced resources related to inflationary costs. Loss of services for people with disabilities, increased population, the need for improved community access and independent living opportunities for Idahoans with disabilities across the lifespan have resulted in increased demand for outreach and education services provided by the SILC. Furthermore, statewide emergency preparedness, ABLE and systems advocacy activities require the SILC to provide continuity through flexibility and ever improving efficiencies.

**Strategic Goal 1:**

Assess the need for services for Idahoans with disabilities and advocate with decision makers.

Objective	Performance Measure	Benchmark
Develop, conduct, review and report out a statewide needs assessment at least every three years.	Conduct community meetings every three years gathering information relevant to the disability community from people with disabilities, their families and providers during public meetings and electronic surveys. Analyze the information gathered to formulate the SPIL and advocate with decision makers.	Hold a minimum of 10 community meetings every three years and increase participation in both electronic surveys and community meetings by people with disabilities by 10% <sup>1</sup> .
Continue to the review SPIL for effectiveness and emerging issues at least quarterly in SILC public meetings.	Gather data and input from Council members, the public and agency partners regarding the success and barriers of the SPIL goals. Based on information gathered, advocate with decision makers <sup>2</sup> .	Four or more reviews each year <sup>3</sup> Revise the SPIL or Plan activities as needed based on barriers encountered and outcomes achieved as reported quarterly.

**Strategic Goal 2:** The Idaho IL Network will promote and advocate for the integration, inclusion and equity of Idahoans with disabilities across lifespan and cultures.

Objective	Performance Measure	Benchmark
State and local emergency officials include individuals with disabilities and address their unique needs in emergency planning: mitigation, preparation, response and recovery.	Quarterly SPIL surveys will review barriers addressed, successes and lessons learned by SILC and CILs participating in local, statewide and national emergency planning activities.	Identify and report (via quarterly reports) on the implementation of one best practice annually.
Objective	Performance Measure	Benchmark
The IL Network will represent the voice of individuals with disabilities in improving the availability of housing, transportation, financial security, health care and community access.	IL Network members complete the SPIL quarterly survey identifying activities, barriers, best practice and innovation. Surveys are reviewed quarterly by the SILC planning	At least one best practice(s) or barrier(s) overcome or being addressed, will be identified annually by the IL Network.

	committee and the Council for effectiveness and potential revision.	
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>
The Idaho SILC and identified community partners and stakeholders will explore opportunities for potential legislation establishing an Idaho ABLÉ program.	SPIL quarterly surveys demonstrate that stakeholders convened at least once quarterly, identifying best practice, engaging policy makers and providing analysis regarding establishment of an Idaho ABLÉ program by the end of the SPIL cycle.	Idaho will have laid the groundwork for an Idaho ABLÉ program, passed legislation allowing for the creation of an Idaho ABLÉ program or provide reasoning why an ABLÉ program is not feasible in Idaho.

**Strategic Goal 3:**  
 Conduct training to people with disabilities, community members and other stakeholders on Independent Living (IL) philosophy, the intrinsic value of people with disabilities and work to expand and improve IL services, including Home and Community Based Services.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>
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. Participants are surveyed following activities, workshops and presentations.	15 or more trainings provided annually <sup>4</sup> 60% or more participants surveyed indicate that they learned something new or connected with a previously unknown resource. Surveyed and reviewed quarterly.

**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.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>
SILC staff and Council members participate in existing, or initiate new, workgroups, committees and councils/boards to provide reports, data and policy guidance toward improving employment, education,	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	Participation in 12 or more activities annually <sup>5</sup> in which barriers were addressed, encountered and/or overcome. Surveyed and reviewed quarterly for barriers

training, housing, health care coverage and community access and safety opportunities.	70% of meetings, calls for response and written correspondence. Quarterly reports indicate barriers addressed and outcomes of participation.	addressed and outcomes achieved.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>
Provide written and oral comment 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 or oral comment or review on 10 or more identified state, local or federal concerns annually Surveyed and reviewed quarterly.

<b>FFY Goals, 2025-2027 Idaho State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), to be implemented October 1, 2024. Pending ACL approval</b>
<b>Goals</b>
The Idaho IL Network will promote and advocate for the integration, inclusion and equity of Idahoans with disabilities across lifespan and cultures.
The Idaho IL Network will work to strengthen effective network collaboration, leadership development and resources.
Idahoans with disabilities receive the community-based support and services they need to live in their community 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 2025-2027 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> See goal 2 and 4

<sup>3</sup> Benchmarks are set based on internal program measure and quarterly reviews. This benchmark is established in the 2025-2027 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>4</sup> Benchmarks are set based on internal program measure and quarterly reviews. This benchmark is established in the 2025-2027 SPIL.

<sup>5</sup> Benchmarks are set based on internal program measure and quarterly reviews. This benchmark is established in the 2025-2027 SPIL.