



Idaho State Independent Living Council

**Strategic Plan
2010 - 2014**



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July 1, 2010

Dear Idaho Citizens,

On behalf of the Idaho State Independent Living Council it is my pleasure to present the 2010-2014 State Strategic Plan.

The Idaho SILC's mission is to promote the independent living philosophy for all Idahoans with disabilities: choice, self determination, and access for all. It is the focus of the Idaho SILC to realize the philosophy of independent living in local communities where individuals with disabilities reside. The SILC's goal is to maximize opportunities and to incorporate individuals with disabilities into all walks of life by empowering them. The road to empowerment includes changes in the individual and systemic change. Changes in the individual include recognizing and using the power of peer support and self-help groups to raise awareness that self-determination is within reach.

The Idaho State Strategic Plan mirrors the Idaho State Plan for Independent Living that is required by our federal mandate.

We welcome any comments that you may have on this plan.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of all Idahoans,

Robbi Barrutia
SILC Executive Director

IDAHO STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC) STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-2014

PART 1: SILC MISSION, VISION, AND ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

MISSION

The Idaho SILC's revised Mission Statement was developed during the State Plan for Independent Living Planning Session June 21, 2010, and adopted at the SILC Quarterly Business meeting June 22, 2010. The Idaho SILC's mission is to promote the independent living philosophy for all Idahoans with disabilities: choice, self determination, and access for all. In developing the above statement, Council members committed to the following responsibilities as directed in Title VII, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended in 1998:

- Develop, sign and submit, in cooperation with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) and the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI), 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 un-served 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.

In 2004 the SILC became an autonomous governmental entity with the passage of House Bill 711. Council members committed to the following additional duties under Idaho state statute (Title 56 Chapter 12, 56-1204):

- 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.

VISION

The Idaho State Independent Living Council (SILC) aspires to promote a philosophy of independent living

- including a philosophy of consumer control
- peer-support
- self-help
- self-determination
- equal access
- individual and system advocacy in order to maximize opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and
- integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of society.

It is the focus of the Idaho SILC to realize the philosophy of independent living in local communities where individuals with disabilities reside. The SILC's goal is to maximize opportunities and to incorporate individuals with disabilities into all walks of life by empowering them. The road to empowerment includes changes in the individual and systems change. Changes in the individual include recognizing and using the power of peer

support and self-help groups to raise awareness that self-determination is within reach.

Systems change includes further de-medicalization, de-institutionalization, strengthened public policies for equal access and further utilization of individual and system advocacy. The SILC will continue to evaluate existing programs to determine their effectiveness, and then encourage redirection of resources to provide optimum opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The SILC will also work to promote greater program coordination in order to reduce inappropriate and unnecessary regulatory requirements, which will allow the state to utilize a greater portion of its resources for services to individuals with disabilities.

BARRIERS

Idaho has unique attributes such as beautiful scenery, land that is sparsely populated, and a sprawling geography. Idaho is rapidly growing, with its population growth estimated to have increased by 17.8% since 2000. Rural areas cover 88.3 percent of the state where 36.2 percent of the total population reside. Changes in federal funding have shifted responsibility for many social services from the federal to state and local government levels and has increased pressure on state and local budgets in Idaho.

Additionally, Idaho's aging population is rapidly growing, and is estimated at 11.7% of our population. This has increased the difficulty of providing quality social services. Economic difficulties in rural communities translate into increased problems for people with disabilities. Some barriers may be obvious, such as lack of ramped entrances for people who use wheelchairs, lack of interpreters or captioning for people with hearing impairments, or lack of Braille or taped copies of printed material for people who have visual impairments. Transportation within and between cities either doesn't exist, is inconvenient, inaccessible, or is too expensive to use. Accessibility of housing, public buildings and businesses are inadequate. Personal assistance services, occupational, physical and cognitive therapies are often not available in smaller communities or the service industry has too many people on their waiting lists to meet all the needs; couple that with poor transportation facilities to get to the metropolitan areas for these services, and people tend not to receive all services that may be available. We must also take into account the

increases in minority populations, including refugees, with the cultural and economic factors inherent in reaching these individuals.

Since the Idaho SILC's inception, it has been actively engaged in activities that assist in providing Idahoans with disabilities a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer-responsive, cost-effective and community-based.

Three focus groups were held at the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) to gather input for the new three-year State Plan for Independent Living. In cooperation with Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC), the SILC conducted focus groups in Boise in April 2010. In cooperation with Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE), the SILC conducted a focus group in Pocatello in April 2010. In cooperation with Disability Action Center-Northwest (DAC-NW), the SILC held a focus group in Coeur D'Alene in April 2010. The CILs recruited individuals with disabilities to attend and provided logistical support to organize the focus groups. The DSU and ICBVI were asked to distribute information about the focus groups throughout their organizations. A total of 56 people attended the focus groups. The SILC also held a Three-Year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) one and one half day planning session in June 2010. Council members, including representatives from IDVR, ICBVI and CILs voiced the concerns and priorities that they received from individuals with disabilities in their communities. The SILC and the DSU joint efforts in the development of the plan are evidenced by the DSU participation in the June 2010 planning session. In each of the three year planning cycles, the DSU participates fully in the SPIL planning sessions. The DSU sends representatives to the planning session and these DSU representatives participate fully in the development of the SPIL.

In addition, the SILC placed a survey, using the same focus group questions, on the SILC Website. Invitations to participate in the survey were sent to a listserv containing disability organizations, advocacy organizations, and individuals with disabilities. The SILC obtained 46 survey results. These results were included in the compilation of priorities and common themes.

A compilation of priorities and common themes from the focus groups and

the website survey are as follows: (1) increased availability of accessible affordable transportation statewide; (2) public awareness to reduce stigma and increase understanding of people with disabilities (3) access to and coordination of information and resources available to people with disabilities.

DESIGN FOR THE STATEWIDE NETWORK OF CENTERS

Idaho Coalition of Independent Living Centers — The Idaho Coalition of Independent Living Centers (ICILC) will, in this plan period, compare consumer record data gathered from each Center's annual report and make recommendations on how Centers can better serve minority populations.

Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC) — Is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) grassroots organization that incorporated in Idaho in 1988. LINC operates as a Center for Independent Living as provided for in Chapter 1, Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, as Amended. LINC is a consumer controlled, cross-disability, non-residential, community-based organization that provides Information and Referral, Peer Counseling, Individual and Systems Advocacy, Independent Living Skills training, Nursing Home/Other Institution placement prevention and relocation, and a consumer-directed Personal Assistance Services program. LINC also provides assistance in accessible home modifications, assistive technology, accessible transportation, and other individualized services designed to help people with disabilities maintain or regain their independence in the community. The organization has three offices, located in Boise, Caldwell, and Twin Falls, Idaho, and serves Ada, Canyon, Boise, Elmore, Payette, and Twin Falls counties. The service area includes 9,000 square miles (roughly the size of the State of New Hampshire), with approximately 46% of the state's overall population and 41% of the state's individuals with disabilities. Approximately 12% of the population is age 65+.

Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE, Inc.) – Is an independent living center located in southeastern Idaho and is charged with serving 19 counties as a result of two centers merging together. In 1980, the Center

of Resources For Independent People, Inc. (CRIP) was incorporated at Pocatello and in 1991 the name was changed to Access for Idaho, Inc. The Eastern Idaho Center for Independence was incorporated in Blackfoot in 1994.

These two centers then merged together in 1998 and became LIFE, Inc. The two largest cities of Idaho Falls and Pocatello along with the smaller communities of Blackfoot and Burley house the four offices of LIFE, Inc. from which the various counties are served.

LIFE, Inc. staff are very involved in the communities and counties they serve. The Blackfoot and Burley offices are staffed with bi-lingual Hispanic staff and serve the Shoshone-Bannock Reservation and the Native American population living in this area, as well as the southern counties to the border of Utah. The Idaho Falls office serves the northern counties of the LIFE, Inc. service area to the Wyoming border. This includes, Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Blaine, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Cassia, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Minidoka, Oneida, Power, and Teton Counties. This service area covers nearly 30,000 square miles (equal in land area to the State of South Carolina), with approximately 27% of the state's population and 24% of the state's individuals with disabilities. Approximately 17% of the population is age 65+.

Along with the four core services, LIFE, Inc. has strong programs in assistive technology, social and recreational weekly activities, consumer directed personal assistance services, transportation, home modifications, scholarships, and transition programs that assist individuals with disabilities to live as independently as they choose in this large rural area of Idaho.

Disability Action Center Northwest (DAC) - Operated as a program under another organization from 1981 through 1992, Disability Action Center Northwest (DAC) became a freestanding 501©3 corporation in 1993. In it's first independent grant cycle under the newly re-authorized Rehabilitation Act, DAC identified its service area as the top 10 counties in Idaho. As DAC's primary office is located in Moscow, Idaho right on the Washington state border, three counties in eastern Washington were also identified as being in DAC's potential service area, all of which are underserved counties in Washington, resulting in a very rural county service area consisting of thirteen counties. They include; Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, and Idaho Counties. This service area covers over 21, 000 square

miles (a bit less than the size of the State of West Virginia), with approximately 20.6% of the state's population and 24% of the state's individuals with disabilities. Approximately 17% of the population is age 65+. The newly formed Idaho SILC approved use of Idaho based Title VII funding to serve cross-border into Washington early in its existence. DAC now has offices in Moscow, Coeur d'Alene, and Lewiston, Idaho. The DAC NW mission is "building community, achieving equality, and creating independence in an accessible world."

****The combined service areas of the existing CILs covers 62% of the total land area of the State of Idaho, includes 87% of the state's population, and encompasses 89% of the individuals with disabilities who reside in Idaho.**

APPOINTMENT AND COMPOSITION OF THE SILC

Council members are usually referred as nominees by CIL directors or other Council members, disability advocates or the general public throughout the state. Nomination forms are accepted on an ongoing basis. Selection of a nominee is based upon one's knowledge of the independent living philosophy along with the desire and ability to serve. Full participation is crucial to the success of the Council, so candidates must carefully consider their time commitment and other factors when submitting a nomination form. When a vacancy occurs, nominations are reviewed by the Membership Committee. The Committee makes a recommendation to the full Council regarding its selection. The Council forwards its recommendation to the Governor. The Governor appoints all members.

Part II – Goals, Objectives, Activities, Performance Measures & Benchmarks 2010-2013

Goal #1 Public Awareness

Objective #1:

Create a speaker's bureau and provide three regional public events annually on independent living.

Strategic Activities:

- Present to local business or civic organizations.
- Present to local youth in transition.
- Participate in human/civil rights organization events.
- Participate/organize October Disability History Month Activities.

Objective #2:

Collaborate with disability organizations to provide two presentations to policy makers annually.

Strategic Activities:

- Participate in monthly meetings with the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities (CID).
- Host an awareness event for policy makers.

Objective #3:

Monitor and review all policy changes impacting individuals with disabilities quarterly.

Strategic Activities:

- Monitor the State of Idaho Administrative Bulletin monthly.
- Post a legislative update on the SILC Website.
- Network with CID to write position papers and assist individuals with disabilities to testify when appropriate.
- Create a list serve to send out policy alerts.
- Support wage equality for individuals with disabilities.
- Advocate for increased employment opportunities for individuals.

Performance Measures Goal #1:

- The SILC, at the June Quarterly Business Meeting, created a SILC Speaker's Bureau consisting of SILC Members. The Speaker's Bureau will be in place prior to the January 2011 SILC Quarterly Business Meeting.

- The SILC is currently collaborating with the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities (CID) on policy changes and the collaboration will be ongoing through 2014.
- The SILC, with the assistance of the MIG, is currently in the process of updating the SILC Website. The SILC has created the new website with the Idaho State Templates. The SILC is in the process of creating a listserv and has already created a new member sign up site on the website. The update will be an ongoing process through 2014.
- The SILC, with the assistance of the MIG, is currently working with the Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities and will continue through December 2011.

Benchmark Goal #1:

Stigma is reduced and quality of community life is enhanced for Idahoans with disabilities.

External Factors Goal #1:

The SILC anticipates no external factors to hinder this goal.

Goal #2 Community Resources

Objective #1:

Create at least two new accessible transportation options for Idahoans with disabilities by 2014.

Strategic Activities:

- Collaborate with Community Transit Authority of Idaho (CTAI).
- Partnership with Targhee Regional Public Transportation Authority (TRPTA) in Idaho Falls on increased operating hours of bus routes pilot site project.
- Partnership with Valley Regional Transit on pilot project to increase transportation to vital services.

Objective #2:

Increase SILC website activity by 10% per year.

Strategic Activities:

- Install a counter on SILC website and establish a traffic baseline by 2011.
- Increase information and resource content for individuals with disabilities on the SILC Website.
- Ensure links to the SILC website are located on partner organization websites.

Objective #3:

Conduct ten trainings for 150 PAS workers including domestic violence and abuse training at each of the CIL Offices by 2011.

Strategic Activities:

- Develop content for training.
- Outreach to recruit participants
- Collaborate with other agencies for additional training opportunities.
- Measure effectiveness of training using surveys or evaluations.

Objective #4:

In partnership with the CILs, conduct ten “train the trainer” sessions for employers and their personal assistants on self direction by 2011.

Strategic Activities:

- Develop content for standardized statewide training.
- Identify trainers and train.
- Measure effectiveness of training using surveys or evaluations.

Performance Measures Goal #2:

- The SILC is currently in partnership with TRPTA in Idaho Falls on a pilot project to increase hours of bus service routes to accommodate individual’s hours of employment. It also includes Saturday accessible service to individuals with disabilities that previously did not exist.
- The SILC is currently in collaboration with Valley Regional Transit on the Sky Ranch Project in Caldwell. This is a partnership with the SILC AmeriCorps Project and the SILC MIG Project. The MIG will allow the SILC to financially support the first year of new bus routes

available to vital services. Currently there are no existing bus service routes to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the Idaho Department of Labor, this project is scheduled to begin in 2011.

- The SILC website is currently in the revision process to address the outreach and resource options. The website will be ongoing, and updated through 2014.

Benchmark Goal #2:

Community resources enhance the independence of Idahoans with disabilities.

External Factors Goal #2:

The third year of the SILC AmeriCorps Project has been approved. The SILC AmeriCorps Project is in partnership on these projects with the SILC Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG). The third year MIG has not been approved at this time. The SILC is currently in the application process for the third year. The successes that the SILC has had with the MIG should ensure the third year application.

Goal #3 Knowledge Empowers

Objective #1:

In partnership with other disability organizations, advocate with at least three educational facilities to increase accessibility of technology and educational materials by 2014.

Strategic Activities:

- Identify educational facilities.
- Research models in successful educational facilities.
- Meet with key decision makers.

Objective #2:

In partnership with disability agencies, the SILC will take a leadership role to build stronger collaborative relationships with at least three state agencies that provide services to people with disabilities by 2014.

Strategic Activities:

- Work with Idaho Medicaid Division, targeting Fiscal Intermediary (FI) Personal Assistance Program.
- Target Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities Program.
- Identify other state agencies with which to collaborate and partner.

Objective #3:

Develop and conduct a statewide needs assessment for people with disabilities.

Strategic Activities:

- Locate funding source.
- Partner with other disability organizations to design and fund the survey.

Performance Measures Goal #3:

- The SILC will identify education facilities to participate in collaborations through 2011.
- The SILC is currently in collaboration with Medicaid to participate in enhanced training with 211 Care Line Operators on the Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities. The SILC is also inviting an additional state agency to participate in a partnership. The collaboration is a result of the third year MIG Funding to be completed by December 31, 2011.
- The SILC is currently in negotiation with a state partner to designate funding for an Idahoans with Disabilities Needs Assessment Research Survey to be completed in 2012.

Benchmark Goal #3:

Information and resources are accessible, coordinated and available to Idahoans with disabilities.

External Factors Goal #3:

Idaho's economic situation has resulted in budget cuts to state agencies that may limit the resources available to form collaborative partnerships.

Part III. EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STATE PLAN

The independent living objectives are guided by a philosophy that values all human beings equally and emphasizes the dignity and need for self-determination of all people with disabilities. It supports the right and the opportunity for each individual to pursue a course of action of their own choice.

Each Center for Independent Living (CIL) has in place requirements regarding standards and methodology of evaluation. The SILC will monitor the service delivery provided through the CILs and the functioning of Centers regarding meeting current standards and objectives by receiving and reviewing the 704 Reports provided by each CIL. The RSA regional office will be responsible for CIL Compliance with the standards and assurances outlined in the Act and any on-site visits.

The SILC will request from the CILs consumer satisfaction data obtained by surveys required by the Act. The SILC will monitor this data annually to determine gaps or needs in services identified by the consumer. This SILC will use this information to guide its own policies and program decisions.

The goals, objectives, and activities outlined by the State Strategic Plan will be evaluated annually. The SILC will review the present goals, objectives, and activities to determine their relevancy to the current independent living needs of the state. The SILC in this self-evaluation process; will review the plan, noting the following information:

- a. The activities conducted during the year that have a relationship to the stated goals and objectives, and
- b. The results of the activities conducted.

During this evaluation the SILC will determine the need to:

- a. Continue with existing goals, objectives and activities,
- b. Modify existing goals and objectives, and activities, or
- c. Terminate existing goals,
- d. Add new goals and objectives.