

Reporting Instrument

OMB Approval No.: 0985-0043
Expiration Date: January 31, 2021

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

**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: 2021

State: CO

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 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; 34 CFR 364.35 and 364.36

Indicate amount received by the DSU as per each funding source. Enter "0" for none.

Item 1 - All Federal Funds Received

(A) Title VII, Ch. 1, Part B	\$338717.00
(B) Title VII, Ch. 1, Part C - For 723 states Only	\$0.00
(C) Title VII, Ch. 2	\$146542.00
(D) Other Federal Funds	\$781561.00
Subtotal - All Federal Funds	\$1266820.00

Item 2 - Other Government Funds

(E) State Government Funds	\$6681739.00
(F) Local Government Funds	\$107702.00
Subtotal - State and Local Government Funds	\$6789441.00

Item 3 - Private Resources

(G) Fees for Service (program income, etc.)	\$435269.00
(H) Other resources	\$909828.00
Subtotal - Private Resources	\$1345097.00

Item 4 - Total Income

Total income = (A)+(B)+(C)+(D)+(E)+(F)+(G)+(H)	\$9401358.00
--	--------------

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.)	\$0.00
---	--------

Item 6 - Net Operating Resources

Total Income (Section 4) <minus> amount paid out to Consumers (Section 5) = Net Operating Resources	\$9401358.00
---	--------------

Section B - Distribution of Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds

What Activities were Conducted with Part B Funds?	Expenditures of Part B Funds for Services by DSU Staff	Expenditures for Services Rendered By Grant or Contract
(1) Provided resources to the SILC to carry out its functions	\$0.00	\$0.00
(2) Provided IL services to individuals with significant disabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00

What Activities were Conducted with Part B Funds?	Expenditures of Part B Funds for Services by DSU Staff	Expenditures for Services Rendered By Grant or Contract
(3) Demonstrated ways to expand and improve IL services	\$1050.00	\$0.00
(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	\$0.00	\$56625.00
(5) Supported activities to increase capacity to develop approaches or systems for providing IL services	\$0.00	\$0.00
(6) Conducted studies and analyses, gathered information, developed model policies, and presented findings in order to enhance IL services	\$0.00	\$0.00
(7) Provided training regarding the IL philosophy	\$0.00	\$0.00
(8) Provided outreach to unserved or underserved populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$1050.00	\$56625.00

Section C - Grants or Contracts Used to Distribute Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds

Sections 704(f) and 713 of the Act; 34 CFR 364.43, and 34 CFR 365 Subpart C

Enter the requested information for all DSU 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.

Name of Grantee or Contractor	Use of Funds (based on the activities listed in Subpart I, Section B)	Amount of Part B Funds	Amount of Non-Part B Funds	Consumer Eligibility Determined By DSU or Provider	CSRs Kept With DSU or Provider
Atlantis Community, Inc.	Provision of IL Services	\$0.00	\$755110.00	Provider	Provider
Center for Disabilities	Provision of IL Services	\$0.00	\$729348.00	Provider	Provider
Center for Independence	Provision of IL Services	\$723.00	\$675816.00	Provider	Provider
Center for People With Disabilities	Provision of IL Services	\$0.00	\$693195.00	Provider	Provider
The Independence Center	Provision of IL Services	\$22873.00	\$726504.00	Provider	Provider
Connections for Independent Living	Provision of IL Services	\$27988.00	\$664840.00	Provider	Provider
Disabled Resource Services	Provision of IL Services	\$0.00	\$738035.00	Provider	Provider
North West Colorado Center for Independence	Provision of IL Services	\$0.00	\$644612.00	Provider	Provider
Southwest Center for Independence	Provision of IL Services	\$5041.00	\$654543.00	Provider	Provider
SILC	Provided resources to the SILC to support its functions	\$0.00	\$34348.00	N/A	N/A

Name of Grantee or Contractor	Use of Funds (based on the activities listed in Subpart I, Section B)	Amount of Part B Funds	Amount of Non-Part B Funds	Consumer Eligibility Determined By DSU or Provider	CSRs Kept With DSU or Provider
DSE - Office of Independent Living Services	Provided resources to the DSE to support its functions	\$1050.00	\$280229.00	N/A	N/A
Total Amount of Grants and Contracts		\$57675.00	\$6596580.00		

Section D - Grants or Contracts for Purposes Other than Providing IL Services or For the General Operation of Centers

Section 713 of the Act; 34 CFR 365.1 and 34 CFR 365.20

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.

On September 30, 2019, the Office of Independent Living Services at the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) was awarded a five-year research project. The Office of Independent Living Services has contracts with five Centers for Independent Living to execute the research project. The goals for the project are to improve education and employment outcomes; increase gross monthly income; and, expand community participation for Coloradans with disabilities. The name of the project is called Securing Employment and Economic Keys to Stability (SEEKS) and is funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). SEEKS targets people applying for SSA disability benefits while concurrently receiving services from an employment specialist to obtain employment and a comprehensive benefits counselor through the Center for Independent Living system in partnership with DVR. This model combines the expectation that people with disabilities can contribute to the business bottom line in the competitive, integrated workforce, but also seeks to address limited economic resources and social isolation experienced by people with disabilities. The SILC was a key stakeholder that provided a letter of support with the initial application. The SILC continues to be an active contributor through their participation on the SEEKS Advisory Team. The SILC Chair also serves as the lead for the Advisory Team's Peer subcommittee. Through year two of the project over 60 individuals have been enrolled. Section 1.1, D is the amount of funding awarded to the Office of Independent Living Services for year 2 of the project. Not all the funds awarded go directly to the participating CILs.

Section E - Monitoring Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds

34 CFR 80.40(a)

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.

The Office of Independent Living Services (Office) provided program reviews for four (4) Centers for Independent Living (CILs) during the reporting period. Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S.) 8-85-105 states that CILs must be certified in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act as amended under Title VII, section 725. State rule 9.203.3.C. explains that the Office of Independent Living Services contained

within the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will conduct onsite reviews and provide CIL certification not to exceed thirty-six (36) months. The Office conducts these reviews with a CIL director serving as a peer reviewer. The Office typically conducts these reviews in person. Due to COVID 19 limitations, all reviews conducted during this time period were conducted virtually via zoom, google meets, and telephone when appropriate. The Office conducted reviews of the following four CILs: Atlantis Community, Inc.; Center for Independence; Southwest Center for Independence; and, The Independence Center. All four CILs were found to be in compliance with the Independent Living indicators as described under The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended.

As the pass through entity, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU) conducts fiscal compliance audits in collaboration with the Office of Independent Living Services. The purpose of these audits is to ensure financial compliance with Federal Uniform Guidance and State Fiscal Rules. The Office participates in the financial compliance audits, reviews all reports, and collaborates on corrective action plans with the CILs as appropriate. During the reporting period, the CDLE auditor completed nine fiscal compliance audits with all CILs. Additionally, each year CDLE requires the CILs to complete annual risk assessment forms. These risk assessment forms are used as required by federal uniform guidance and is a tool used by the CDLE FMU for the annual fiscal compliance visits with the CILs. The Office also conducts monthly financial manager meetings with all the CILs. These meetings include the CFO of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the FMU to answer any questions and provide technical assistance on financial management and compliance.

Section F - Administrative Support Services and Staffing

Section 704(c)(2) and 704 (m)(2) and (4) of the Act; CFR 364.22(a)(2) and 34 CFR 364.31

Item 1 - Administrative Support Services

Describe any administrative support services, including staffing, provided by the DSU to the Part B Program.

The Office of Independent Living Services serving as the Designated State Entity (DSE) consists of two full-time staff members; one Program Manager and one Independent Living Program Coordinator. These staff members oversee the execution and monitoring of the nine CILs' contracts with the State. The Office provides CIL certification reviews according to the Rehabilitation Act as amended, on Independent Living standards and indicators. CIL certification is required under State rules to be a contractor for Independent Living services. The Office supports the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) with administrative tasks such as note taking, SILC meeting logistics, invoice processing, and other duties as requested. The Office serves as the fiscal sponsor of the Colorado SILC. These staff provide guidance and technical assistance to the SILC on following federal uniform guidance and navigating the State process to procure needed items such as equipment and professional services. The Office staff meet regularly with the SILC chair to make sure all administrative tasks are being met as needed. The Office staff ensure that SILC nominees are processed through the DSE to the governor's office.

Item 2 - Staffing

Enter requested staff information for the DSU 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	16	14

Type of Staff	Total Number of FTEs	FTEs filled by Individuals with Disabilities
Other Staff	54	39

Section G - For Section 723 States ONLY

Section 723 of the Act, 34 CFR Part 366, Subpart D

Item 2 - Administrative Support Services

Section 704(c)(2) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.22(a)(2)

Item 3 - Monitoring and Onsite Compliance Reviews

Section 723(g), (h), and (i); 34 CFR 366.38, 366.40 - 46

Item 4 - Updates or Issues

SUBPART II - NUMBER AND TYPES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES RECEIVING SERVICES

Section 704(m)(4) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.53

In this section, provide data from all service providers (DSU, 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 704 Reports, Part II.

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	1153
(2) Enter the number of CSRs started since October 1 of the reporting year	510
(3) Add lines (1) and (2) to get the <i>total number of consumers served</i>	1663

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	38
(2) Withdrawn	71
(3) Died	26
(4) Complete Goals	281
(5) Other	219
(6) Add lines (1) + (2) + (3) + (4) + (5) to get <i>total CSRs closed</i>	635

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	1028

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	1016
(2) Number of consumers with whom an ILP was developed	647
(3) <i>Total number of consumers served during the reporting year</i>	1663

Section E - Age

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Under 5 years old	14
(2) Ages 5 - 19	50
(3) Ages 20 - 24	93
(4) Ages 25 - 59	886
(5) Age 60 and Older	590
(6) Age unavailable	30
(7) <i>Total number of consumers served by age</i>	1663

Section F - Sex

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Number of Females served	933
(2) Number of Males served	730
(3) <i>Total number of consumers served by sex</i>	1663

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 704 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	48
(2) Asian	10
(3) Black or African American	44
(4) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	5
(5) White	1147
(6) Hispanic/Latino of any race or Hispanic/Latino only	183
(7) Two or more races	60
(8) Race and ethnicity unknown	166
(9) <i>Total number of consumers served by race/ethnicity</i>	1663

Section H - Disability

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Cognitive	226
(2) Mental/Emotional	284
(3) Physical	716
(4) Hearing	54

	# of Consumers
(5) Vision	183
(6) Multiple Disabilities	159
(7) Other	41
(8) <i>Total number of consumers served by by disability</i>	1663

SUBPART III - INDIVIDUAL SERVICES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FUNDED THROUGH TITLE VII, CHAPTER 1, PART B FUNDS

Sections 13 and 704(m)(4); 34 CFR 364.53; 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 DSU 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
Advocacy/Legal Services	1747	1714
Assistive Technology	242	216
Children's Services	35	33
Communication Services	146	139
Counseling and related services	35	27
Family Services	45	45
Housing, Home Modification, and Shelter Services	654	602
IL Skills Training and Life Skills Training	1455	1431
Information and Referral Services	7036	6911
Mental Restoration Services	32	32
Mobility training	27	27
Peer Counseling Services	782	745
Personal Assistance Services	189	187
Physical Restoration Services	11	11
Preventive Services	182	182
Prostheses, Orthotics, and other appliances	25	25
Recreational Services	40	37
Rehabilitation Technology Services	5	5
Therapeutic Treatment	8	8
Transportation Services	3022	2991
Youth/Transition Services	349	348
Vocational Services	379	352
Other	1062	1032
Totals	17508	17100

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	492	73	401
Communication	44	6	37
Mobility/Transportation	168	28	131
Community-Based Living	553	74	452
Educational	99	6	86
Vocational	222	22	174
Self-Care	191	57	120
Information Access/Technology	121	28	85
Personal Resource Management	710	130	575
Relocation from a Nursing Home or Institution to Community-Based Living	70	9	58
Community/Social Participation	111	20	68
Other	158	54	85
Totals	2939	507	2272

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	158	90	66
(B) Health Care Services	710	465	244
(C) Assistive Technology	1466	1303	160

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 **X** / did not ___ 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.

NorthWest CO Center for Independence (NWCCI):

NWCCI continues to be an integrated part of the community on a professional and leadership level. We participate in monthly meetings in all five counties of our catchment area and receive requests to collaborate on a regular basis. Professionals and community-based organizations from a wide variety of interests and purposes look to us to partner in coordinating complicated situations involving multiple agencies in the communities we serve. We are known for advocating to increase accessibility in the community, and are recognized for our expertise in assisting people to navigate benefits systems such as SSI/SSDI and Medicaid. The general public looks to us as a resource when having difficulties with service providers for assistance addressing life's challenges and figuring out solutions. We have a reputation built upon being professional, reliable, and committed to accommodating access to our consumers.

COVID-19

Restrictions changed significantly week by week and in different ways in each of the five (5) counties we cover. Keeping up with requirements continued to take extra time to parse through the information, develop a policy and in-service staff on the protocols and keep everyone apprised of changes in public health contingencies. Possibly the biggest impacts for NWCCI have come from secondary and tertiary effects from Covid-19. The taxing of our staff's bandwidth related to increased demands of the positions, coupled with increased effects of compassion fatigue, took a noticeable toll.

In June our transportation program lost both drivers (2 of 2) and experienced the changes in the job market first hand. We had a substantial and immediate response to our job postings and were hopeful to fill the positions with quality candidates quickly. We scheduled dozens of interviews and 2 people showed up. Ultimately, we hired a full-time driver and found a second person willing to do gap fill drives via contract work. We kept our second driver position posted and have not had a single applicant since July.

Partner organizations, particularly in human services and government agency sectors, began reporting lack of capacity to provide some services due to staffing shortages. In a related contingency, we also began receiving more reports from the consumer of struggling due to an increased lack of services and resources. Housing became even harder to find and the prices rapidly increased through the year. People relocating from out of state and the urban areas within Colorado factored into the changes making for a severe lack of affordable, accessible, integrated housing in our communities. Covid-19 achievements particular to impacts of the pandemic include:

Met with Rep Boebert to discuss Covid mandates having a disproportionate effect on people with disabilities, impacting access to services and resources, exacerbating isolation and further marginalizing people already struggling on the fringes. We also discussed individual rights, safety concerns and avoiding moving into nursing homes

Continued to utilize pandemic procedures and only opened offices to meet with consumers by appointment

NWCCI continued to participate in remote meetings with, elected officials, key decision-makers in the

private and government sectors as well as partner organizations in the communities we serve

Achievements

Worked with an individual who was denied housing in Summit County to officially dispute the decision. We worked with her to submit a report to the Colorado Civil Rights Division against the town of Silverthorne for how they were setting rules for accessing the housing. The decision recently came in that the Colorado Civil Rights Division found that the individual was discriminated against. She is now continuing to work with us on systems level changes by engaging with elected officials.

NWCCI established the Angel Fund based on a solid relationship with funders in Routt County to assist consumers with small financial needs that are not recurring. We worked closely with the Women's Giving Circle and the WZ Giving circle and have made many requests through the years. They specifically praised us for stewardship of the funding we received for consumers and follow through on bringing the promised results of the proposals. They decided to collaborate with us and establish an internal fund to make the process even more streamlined for consumers

During the nursing home transition process we ran into a roadblock with the status of the individual's trust. It was not done in a way that Colorado Medicaid would accept it, so if he transitioned, he would not be able to access Medicaid services in the community. NWCCI's transition coordinator worked with the individual, his family, Department of Human Services Routt County, and a variety of banks and other private sector organizations involved with the trust to get things in order and get the trust approved for Colorado Medicaid

Strengthened partnerships with Grand County partners: Adult Protective Services Team, Health and Human Resource Coalition, Patient Navigator Team with the Grand County Rural Health Network, Member of Outbreak of Kindness (hunger and housing relief during Covid-19 and the East Troublesome Fire)

We connected with transition age students from Middle Park High School for the 2021-2022 school year, building the Choice of Life Program. We will be partnering with DVR to explore local business and cater community service hours (required to graduate) to individual interests. Services include: Job Exploration Counseling and work based experiences, Counseling on college and education opportunities, Work readiness training and goal setting, Instruction in Self Advocacy

Increased collaboration with the ARC of Colorado in northwest Colorado

The Concert in the Park fundraising event was a resounding success for both fundraising and increasing NWCCI's visibility in the communities of Summit County

Transitioned an individual out of the nursing home. We had been working with him for years off and on around transitioning. When the nursing home lockdowns went into effect he was determined to move back home, regain his freedom, be a part of the community and experience life again

Facilitated the provision of iPads through Northwest Colorado Options for Long Term Care into the hands of multiple consumers who could use them.

Established connection with ESG funds in collaboration with Division of Housing to assist people who are homeless in securing housing

Developed a new consumer satisfaction survey in collaboration with the CIL Metrics committee with the added option of online or paper surveys. This survey has increased the volume of responses we are getting from consumers by 100%

Major Obstacles

Interest in remote peer groups collapsed mid-year

Most in person peer activities remained cancelled through the year. Attempted to restart the Routt Co peer group last November and had to shut it back down due to pandemic restrictions

Annual Hungry for Independence fundraiser cancelled for the second straight year

Benefits Navigator program (HB 19-1223) was reinstated, but with minimal funding. None of the Department of Human Services agencies in our area were willing to partner and participate, for understandable reasons having to do with the pittance of funding and a bureaucratic administrative burden

Have been trying to hire a resource coordinator since 7/2021 with only 1-2 responses. We offered the position to one applicant, who resigned within a week after not being able to secure housing in our area

The Nursing Home Transition program stalled and sputtered, primarily due to lockdowns at the nursing

home and secondarily, the lack of community service providers lacking staff to provide services Encountered refusal of service delivery due to safety concerns from community home health providers who fell into unfounded liability concerns and lack of capacity. The result of the judgmental screening was to establish a position determining the person should not be allowed to live at home and deny services

The Independence Center (IC):

The IC staff is especially proud of an achievement for FY21, in which they were able to serve consumers during the lockdown and confinement the pandemic has caused in a unique way. In part through funding available under the Aging and Disability Resources for Colorado (ADRC) program, The IC staff were able to reduce and often eliminate social isolation of our consumers, which had resulted from the physical isolation brought on by the conditions of the pandemic. Using ADRC funds to purchase the equipment and IC staff expertise and ability to travel out in the community, The IC provided laptop computers, tablets, mobile hotspots, smartphones, prepaid internet access (and even money to partially cover the repair cost of an electrical panel destroyed by a lightning strike) to improve electronic connectivity. From consumers living in the rural corners of our catchment area receiving mobile hotspots to nursing home residents in urban settings receiving their own computers to home-based internet access, each element of technology awarded to these consumers allowed them to connect or reconnect with their peers, social groupings and families in a time when travel was impossible or too risky to consider.

Disabled Resource Services (DRS)

LOVELAND

In FY21 DRS' Loveland office had several highlights. One of the highlights was that staff were able to stay in contact and reach out to more consumers via phone than in previous years. Many consumer enjoyed and appreciated a call so they could hear a caring voice and know that they were not alone. DRS Loveland was able to help families and individuals with past due bills, groceries and other needs through Loveland COVID Cares Funds.

Other highlights were in collaboration with the Larimer County Public Health - We held a vaccination clinic at the Loveland office for the community, consumers, and staff. This was the first clinic of the Centers for Independent Living in CO. Nurses were able to vaccinate 40 individuals and not one dose was lost.

The Loveland office continued with assisting the Loveland Municipal courts with their Jumpstart Programs for disabled at risk individuals.

A new partnership was formed with the Loveland Police Department's Community Engagement program to provide services to disabled individuals prior to becoming involved with the justice system An additional agency that DRS Loveland collaborated with is the AIIMS program through the Larimer Department of Corrections, to provide services to disabled individuals who are in their program Securing Employment and Economic Keys to Stability (SEEKS)

As the intervention side of the project, SEEKS has two positions: a certified benefits counselor and an employment specialist. Under the SEEKS research project, consumers are assisted in a substantial and profound way--assisting in financial stability. Assisting consumers with their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits applications is a major task within the program. Many of our consumers live at, or below, the Federal Poverty Line and look at disability benefits as a necessity to sustain some semblance of normalcy in their lives.

Through financial planning discussions, the SSI/SSDI application process, and regular meetings with consumers, SEEKS staff have been able to watch several consumers make objective changes in their daily life to improve their financial well-being. In addition to working with consumers about their financial situations, our employment specialist has been a great parallel assistance to each consumer. We have several consumers that are not only now working fulfilling jobs, but also have medical insurance, food assistance, and other benefits to help those live lives at the level of independence they desire.

FT COLLINS

The biggest highlight this year has been that many of our consumers are feeling safe enough to return in person to Disabled Resource Services (DRS) for appointments. In 2020 when COVID first showed up it was devastating. The DRS staff had to start working from home, some were sick with the virus. During the following months and up to October 2021 DRS staff found other ways to assist our consumers.

DRS had phone appointments, Zoom for those consumers who have a computer and able to afford Wi-Fi hook ups and, as the weather warmed up, we could meet our consumers in the park at picnic tables or even in a private area of a parking lot where windows could be rolled down and we could meet through open windows.

Most of our consumers have very limited income. In addition, we meet with individuals who are homeless at the Murphy Center (a homeless shelter). This has been a tremendous collaboration. In 2021, more and more staff returned to the DRS Office. Some still worked from home. Some of our DRS consumers have died from COVID and the rest are trying to get a new start and new perspective on the coming year. Individuals are still in need of housing and incomes.

We also have four staff in the Control side of SEEKS. These staff provide the "business as usual" for consumers applying for SSI/SSDI and seeking employment so they may elevate their living situations. DRS provides Medical Equipment for lease or in some case "give away." During COVID, we had months where we had the highest amount of rentals in the history of the program.

DRS assists with Individual goals, Information & Referrals, Independent Living Skills Training, Individual & Systems Advocacy, Transition Services and Peer Support.

DEAF/HARD OF HEARING

This year was challenging because of COVID, but the program learned and adapted to zoom technology for meetings, and it ended up benefiting people with transportation challenges. We collaborated with Connections for Independent Living on three trivia nights with our Emcee being from Colorado Springs. This also involved publicity and setting up zoom for the social interactions. The Bridging Communications group was able to meet, and get a \$10,000 grant to make five short movies. These will be distributed to Doctor's offices through Rocky Mountain Health Plans. We are now working on getting clear masks distributed to Doctor's offices. In addition, Bridging Communications was instrumental in getting two laws passed and codified: 1. In rural Colorado to have accessible appointments (either Interpreted or CART), and 2. To initiate the Colorado Commission for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Deafblind to authorize Interpreter tests to be accepted, which lead to an increase in Interpreters being certified in Colorado.

The Direct Service Independent Living Specialists that serve the Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Deafblind communities are meeting and planning statewide events. The most important highlight of the year was to serve several Consumers by working together to get adaptive equipment, navigate governmental systems and collaborative ways to advocate for accessible spaces where they live and work.

VISION MATTERS

This program demonstrates consumers are able to continue living more independently because of the low-vision education and technology that they have received through our Vision Matters Program.

YOUTH PROGRAM

In the youth program specifically, that there has been a resurgence of partnerships that have rekindled our work together. The Poudre and Thompson School Districts in Ft Collins and Loveland asked us to hold meetings and share resources throughout the past year. A hearing specialists meet and greet was held in the early fall of this year, and a vision specialist meeting is set for this holiday season. Through these meetings, we are able to offer services to the youth in our local high schools who are eligible for Youth/Transitions Services, or Pre-Employment Transition Services. The Youth Specialist was elected to serve on a national board, the Association of Programs for Independent Living. He has also been invited to be a guest speaker on youth initiatives as well as youth transitions across Colorado and nationally.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The COVID pandemic had a big impact on resource development activities, as it did with every facet of DRS during this 12-month period. We are grateful for a caring community that gave generously so that we could keep our doors open, be fully staffed, and assist all who came to DRS looking for a

higher quality of life and more independence.

Highlights include our 2020 year-end fund drive--which ended with more money raised and more people participating.

We also held a virtual fundraiser in March - a beer tasting that generated a net profit of \$3,000 and proved that this is a viable fundraising strategy.

Wine Fest, our premier resource development activity, was held August 6, 2021. We had a large turnout and broke records for event night sales (raffles, auctions, paddle raiser) and sponsorship support.

Additionally, instead of holding our private wine tasting during the event as we have done in the past, we held it in September. During COVID, we were not able to hold WineFest due to the gathering restrictions; however, we were able to host the private wine tasting we usually have during the event with some changes. Instead of indoors it was at the home of one of our stakeholders in their lovely garden. It was such a hit that we decided to have the private wine tasting usually associated with WineFest outside this year. That added a net of \$2,340 to our Wine Fest total.

Grant writing was another important factor in our success--18 funders awarded over \$40,500.

Southwest Center for Independence (SWCI):

Achievements and success:

Resumed online classes on Thursday afternoons on varying disability and wellness topics. We hosted more online classes in November, December, and January

All IL staff completed training on Consumer Information Files

We received a \$50k grant from Caring for Colorado for a youth leadership program

In January, we began offering an in-depth class on how to apply for Social Security, which has been offered once or twice a month

We formed a JEDI Committee (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) to look inward and outward

Approved by SJBAAA/EEP to spend \$5000 on emergency equipment for consumers

A youth volunteer started a mental health peer group (Young at Heart)

We opened two new intake consumers in San Juan County

Our team helped the Visitors' Bureau develop a web page indicating the accessibility of local businesses and tourist activities

We opened up the office for Wednesday drop-in hours, allowing consumers to communicate with us in-person during a pandemic

We started offering in-person low vision groups for seniors in La Plata, Montezuma, and Dolores counties

Southwest Rides purchased a new van and will start doing out of region medical rides in the near future

Both websites were revamped (<https://swindependence.org/> and <http://southwestrides.org/>)

Southwest Rides gave 2,566 rides to consumers

15 housing vouchers were distributed to consumers

Obstacles:

The global pandemic made communicating with consumers more difficult

Social isolation for consumers

The Social Security Disability Navigator contract should have started in July, but was delayed by several months

Staff turn-over in several programs. Our Nursing Home Transitions position has been vacant since January 2021

In-person classes and groups were not feasible due to the pandemic. Online classes are not super accessible for many consumers

A lack of resources (housing, medical care, broadband, etc.) in Southwest Colorado

SUBPART IV - COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND COORDINATION

Section 704(i), (l), and (m)(4) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.26, 364.27, and 364.32

Section A - Community Activities

Item 1 - Community Activities Table

In the table below, summarize the community activities involving the DSU, 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)
Benefits	Community & Systems Advocacy, Collaborating & Networking	CILs	125.50	For staff to gain updated information on national and local benefits programs; To gain self-advocacy skills related to individual benefits	Staff are informed about updated programs and services related to disability benefits and can provide informed assistance to consumers in need of benefits counseling
Social/Recreation/IL Programs	Collaborating & Networking/Outreach Efforts	CILs	269.20	To increase staff awareness and involvement in community activities and events. Staff and CIL consumers participate in social and recreational events as they become aware of them and as consumers show interest	Staff are more informed about events and opportunities in their catchment area and consumers are connected to these events, further contributing to their participation in their community
Vocational/Employment	Collaborating & Networking	CILs	391.40	To increase consumer access to employment opportunities and to provide employment services based on individual consumer need	People with disabilities have increased income and have access to greater quality of life

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
COVID Prevention	Community & Systems Advocacy, Community Education, & Public Information	CILs	88.00	To provide people with disabilities with a free opportunity to receive a covid vaccination	People with disabilities receive information about covid prevention and receive a free vaccination if they so desire
Healthcare	Community & Systems Advocacy, Community Education, and Public Information	CILs	803.00	To increase access to HC & home health options so PWDs can remain in their homes &/or community of choice	People with disabilities have options in how their HC is provided
Transportation	Community & Systems Advocacy, Community Education, and Public Information	CILs	40.25	Improve access to affordable and accessible transportation	PWDs are able to travel to desired location w/ the appropriate accessibility either w/ trans or by foot
Housing	Community & Systems Advocacy, Community Education, and Public Information	CILs	298.25	To ensure that communities have the appropriate amount of affordable & accessible housing options	People with disabilities are living in integrated Housing settings
Assistive Technology	Community & Systems Advocacy, Community Education, and Public Information	CILs	981.25	To increase access, knowledge of and use of assistive technology	People with disabilities Have increased access to AT
Youth Transitioning	Collaborating & Networking	CILs	85.75	To provide youth with disabilities the support and services they require to access: community integrated employment, independent living, and community social activities	Youth with disabilities gain the skills necessary to transition into leading independent lives after high school
Education	Community & Systems Advocacy, Community Education, and Public Information	CILs	94.00	Educating consumers on a variety of independent living topics	Consumers have better options on how to live more healthily

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Emergency Management	Collaborating & Networking	CILs	12.75	To work with local emergency broadcasters to ensure messaging is accessible to the DHOH community by providing ASL interpreting services and web videos about covid in ASL	DHOH individual could access covid information online and on TV with ASL captioning. Accessible information about covid was shared, clear masks provided to doctors offices, etc. for the benefit of DHOH individuals
ADA Compliance	Collaborating & Networking	CILs	3.00	Facilitation of the installation public and private ramps; To provide consultation on the building of a new city rec center	Accessibility of private residences and public spaces; provided resources to contractors about ADA compliance
Outreach Related Needs	Outreach Efforts	CILs	213.25	To share resources with other local organizations who serve underserved communities; To attend meetings with councils and groups who serve underserved communities; To facilitate information and resource sharing among agencies	People with disabilities in Colorado are more likely to be presented with CIL services while working with other social service agencies, and are more likely to have access to accessible information about CIL services/receive CIL services
Staff Training	Staff Education/Training	CILs	4.50	To train staff on: how to recognize warning signs of Alzheimer's and dementia, home modifications, and advanced care directives	Consumers served by the CIL are working with more informed staff trained in a variety of relevant areas
Community Services Issues	Community & Systems Advocacy, Collaborating & Networking, Outreach Efforts	CILs	235.00	Work with other entities to make services better for PWDs; Advocate for other entities to make services better for PWDs; Reach out to other entities with info about what services CIL provides to improve lives of PWDs	Presentations at meetings about disability rights and best practice; Creating spaces for disabled BIPOC to discuss mental health; Work with other entities on combining & coordinating efforts towards groups with similar needs

Item 2 - Description of Community Activities

For the community activities mentioned above, provide any additional details such as the role of the DSU, SILC, CIL, and/or consumers, names of any partner organizations and further descriptions of the specific activities, services and benefits.

NWCCI

We had a couple of events where NWCCI collaborated with statewide agencies to bring events to our area. Colorado Cross Disability Coalition partnered with NWCCI to put on an event to engage the community about upcoming changes to Medicaid and Long-Term Care services. NWCCI also partnered with The ARC of Colorado to put on a town hall meeting to engage parents about what difficulties they are experiencing with the schools.

NWCCI had an ASL Class based in Craig, CO that included community participants and ended with a dinner where participants had to spend the evening only communicating with ASL. Similarly, NWCCI had 2 language deprivation trainings focused on engaging teachers and parents to understand the importance of developing language early for children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. NWCCI also facilitated events in all 5 counties around community accessibility. These events ranged from doing Community Health Environment Checklist (CHEC) assessments with businesses to attending city council meetings to discuss infrastructure upgrades in the community.

NWCCI engaged with a multitude of organizations throughout the year. A brief list highlighting the major interactions is listed here:

- County Department of Human Services
- Single Entry Point
- Social Security Administration
- Housing and Urban Development
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Office of Community Living
- Routt, Moffat, Grand, and Summit County School districts
- Local nonprofits who provide services to our consumers
- United Way
- Hospitals and clinics in Routt, Moffat, Grand, Summit and Rio Blanco
- Housing Authorities in Routt, Moffat, Grand, and Summit
- Local government in Routt, Moffat, Grand, Summit, and Rio Blanco
- Horizons Specialized Services
- Colorado Cross Disability Coalition
- The ARC of Colorado
- Colorado Youth Leadership Forum

The Independence Center:

The Independence Center staff pride themselves on effectively providing a multitude of different services to people with disabilities and to others - locally, statewide, and nationally. We continue to maintain strong connections with other nonprofits serving consumers in our six-county catchment area. We have an especially strong relationship with a number of local nonprofit agencies, including our local Area Agency on Aging, which also serves as the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC) for three of the counties in our catchment area. As an example of this, in early 2021 Independence Center staff worked closely with Colorado Community Health Alliance (CCHA), the Regional Accountability Entity (RAE) serving eight counties and the majority of The Independence Center's consumers. Deaf staff at The Independence Center had both experienced and received feedback from Deaf consumers that there were barriers to communicating with CCHA to establish much-needed appointments. Through a series of meetings with CCHA leadership, The Independence Center staff was able to establish the need for training of CCHA resource navigators on Deaf culture and communication needs. The Independence Center staff then developed a series of trainings for

CCHA staff, all provided virtually at the height of the lockdown during the pandemic. The PowerPoint presentation and demonstrations of ASL interpretation illustrated the difference in communication needs for Deaf consumers, while explanation of the newer technologies of VRI and VRS gave CCHA staff the tools they lacked to communicate effectively with their Deaf consumers. The feedback from CCHA staff and leadership was overwhelmingly positive and the door remains open for The Independence Center staff to offer this training again, perhaps on an annual cycle.

DRS:

Staff and consumers are active in achieving the outcomes outlined in Community Activities. For instance, in the area of Assistive Technology, the Vision Matters peer groups are another example of how consumers, staff and outside agencies are working toward assistive technology outcomes. Peer groups focus many of their meetings on the latest technology for people who are blind or visually impaired. Staff and outside representatives demonstrate use of the equipment. Staff also provide additional one-on-one assistance when needed. This is for our consumers who are blind or visually impaired and for our consumers who are deaf or hard of hearing. Additionally our Loan Closet not only provides Durable Medical Equipment to the community and people with disabilities, but also provides technical assistance on Assistive Technology

- * Deaf/Hard of Hearing Specialist provides approximately ten (10) hours a month acquiring assistive technology for Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals and demonstrating the equipment once it's acquired.
- * The Program Manager of Vision Matters provides assistance to consumers in acquiring and demonstrating equipment for low vision and blind individuals. Vision Matters assessed and consulted on the equipment then ordered it and provided initial demonstration training and follow up services for these individuals.

In the area of Housing and Community Transitions, DRS Loveland staff helps manage a waitlist for Loveland Housing Authority. They put people on the waitlist and refer them over with disability verification once their names come up on the list. DRS Loveland staff also participate in a program call North Colorado Continuum of Care Rapid Re-Housing program where they complete intakes for people to be placed on a regional waitlist for high risk homeless individuals who need housing. These activities average about ten (10) hours a week in the Loveland office. In addition all staff collaborate with many landlords and other community organizations around access and advocating for our consumers. DRS provides assistance with housing applications, deposits and other aspects of acquiring and maintaining housing.

DRS manages a shared home for previously homeless people with disabilities. These individuals receive supportive services through DRS and ongoing advocacy if issues come up with their main landlord. This is called Neighbor to Neighbor. DRS provides a great deal of advocacy with landlords regarding Fair Housing laws, particularly related to companion animals in housing.

In the area of Health Care, DRS staff provide guidance and information to people with disabilities related to health insurance. They assist in applications for various Medicaid programs (and other health insurance). In addition to this assistance, they provide a great deal of advocacy by connecting with Human Services when individuals are unfairly dropped from programs or there are other issues with applications or re-certifications. This advocacy and assistance totals eight (8) hours per week total in both offices. Outside of insurance though, DRS considers "healthcare" to include anything that impacts ones mental or physical health. This has been particularly obvious during the pandemic.

In the area of Youth Transitions, DRS' Youth Coordinator is not only an alumni of the initial Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) a number of years ago, he is also part of the core group that plans and coordinates the YLF. The Youth Coordinator leads by example and is part of the national Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) Board of Directors, but is also locally on the Housing Authority Board of Directors. We have had multiple trainings with Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).

SWCI:

- * Assistive Technology: This is primarily to do with collaborating and outreach efforts around low vision

technology. We can provide through the AAA grant. We also operate a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) loan program.

* Community Services Issues: Major focuses were on emergency response, accessibility, regional planning with the SW Council of Governments, food box distribution, and educating service providers about IL philosophy.

* Health Care: Working to ensure that local health care is available, accessible, and appropriate for people with disabilities.

* Housing: Working with other organizations that work in housing to collaborate and coordinate, teaching classes on how to find and maintain housing, teaching about Fair Housing.

* Transportation: Providing free transportation for people with disabilities, those who are aging, and Veterans. Hooking people up with transportation that meets their needs. Advocating for more options.

Section B - Working Relationships Among Various Entities

Describe DSU and SILC activities to maximize the cooperation, coordination, and working relationships among the independent living program, the SILC, and CILs; and the DSU, 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.

Working relationships with the Colorado Independent Living Network continues to grow stronger. The Centers for Independent Living attend SILC meetings regularly and currently three (3) SILC members are employed by a CIL. SILC members also participate at other functions and statewide meetings. These events include the Association of Colorado Centers for Independent Living (ACCIL), the Stakeholder Advisory group of the federally funded SEEKS research project, the Colorado State Rehabilitation Council, and Diner Dialogue meetings hosted by the Designated State Entity with the nine CIL executive directors monthly.

The Office of Independent Living Services as the DSE provides the following activities:

* Provides administrative support to the operation of the SILC as requested;

* Manages zoom meetings and provides technical oversight in order to allow SILC members to participate uninterrupted by any virtual mishaps that can occur with technology;

* Serves as fiscal sponsor the SILC (financial tracking, reports, and ensures federal fiscal compliance);

* Disseminates 30-day notice of SILC meetings across the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and disability provider network; and,

* Meets weekly with the SILC chair to ensure all administrative activities are monitored and addressed.

* Participates in weekly meetings that are attended by the SILC Chair, the Incoming SILC Chair (for training), and additional guests by invitation. These meetings ensure smooth functioning of the SILC.

Despite COVID-19 related barriers, the Office assisted in the coordination of a successfully executed strategy planning session in September 2021 that included SILC members, the DSE, and eight of nine CILs. The primary focus was the transition planning necessary for the SILC fully functioning as a nonprofit. This strategy session was facilitated by a SILC selected contractor.

During this period, the SILC chair in collaboration with the Office, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the governor's office met to build support for the SILC being a nonprofit as a governor appointed board. Although the SILC had approval from the previous governor, the new governor's office had questions. These activities led to the governor's office offering a letter of support for the SILC moving forward to fully transition into an operational nonprofit on April 29, 2021.

One more ongoing collaborative effort among the SILC, DSE, and CILs is building a Colorado Youth Leadership Forum. This collection of individuals met regularly as a committee of the SILC

known as the Youth Committee. This group has representation from alumni of previous Youth Leadership Forums. Initially, this group organized and planned an in person Youth Leadership Forum for the summer of 2021. Unfortunately, due to ongoing health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, the committee recommended to the SILC to cancel this year's Youth Leadership Forum. The Youth Committee is continuing to gather on a regular basis for planning the Youth Leadership Forum for summer of 2022.

The Office initiated and established a regular meeting across the state with Administration for Community Living funded partners including: JFK Partners, State Unit on Aging, Disability Law Colorado, Assistive Technology Partners, Projects of National Significance, Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council, CILs, SILC, SEEKS research project, and SAMHSA. The aim for this group is to identify each organizations federally approved plan goals and examine where there is commonalities and opportunities to improve opportunities for people with disabilities.

The Office hosts monthly CIL metrics committee meetings. This group meets with the DSE, CILs and a SILC representative. The purpose of this group is to develop an annual CIL metrics report and CIL information sheets to educate the public. This is the first year the SILC has joined. During this year, this committee also established five consumer satisfaction survey questions that was piloted by the CILs to measure system wide satisfaction.

SUBPART V - STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

Section 705 of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21

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
Martha Mason	CIL	Employed by CIL	Voting	10/01/2019	10/01/2022
Joan Labelle	CIL	CIL Dir. Rep	Voting	10/01/2019	10/01/2022
Staci Nichols	CIL	Employed by CIL	Voting	10/01/2019	10/01/2022
Charlotte Morgan	Neither	Ind. w/ Dis not employ	Voting	10/01/2019	10/01/2022
Jennifer Scilacci	State Agency	Colorado DVR	Non-Voting	10/28/2018	09/30/2021
Ty Smith	Neither	Ind. w/ Dis not employ	Voting	10/08/2021	10/01/2024
Bill Wood	Neither	Ind. w/ Dis not employ	Voting	10/28/2018	09/28/2021
Louise Wilson	Neither	Vocational Southern Ute Indian	Voting	10/17/2018	09/30/2021
James Triplett	Neither	Ind. w/ Dis not employ	Voting	10/05/2017	10/30/2020
Olivia Tonti	Neither	Ind. w/ Dis not employ	Voting	08/28/2018	09/30/2022
Sam Jarris	Neither	Ind. w/ Dis not employ	Voting	08/28/2018	09/30/2021

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?	11
(B) How many members of the SILC are individuals with disabilities not employed by a state agency or a center for independent living?	6
(C) How many members of the SILC are voting members?	10

SILC Composition	# of SILC members
(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?	6

Section B - SILC Membership Qualifications

Section 705(b)(4) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21(c)

Item 1 - Statewide Representation

Describe how the SILC is composed of members who provide statewide representation.

The SILC is comprised of members from across the State of Colorado. Five (5) members, or 45%, are from the Denver Metropolitan area with a population of 3.1 million. One (1) is from the mountainous region, or 9%. One (1) is from northeastern Colorado, or 9%. Two (2) are from northwestern Colorado, or 18%. Two (2) members are from southwestern Colorado, 18% of the Council. 55% of the Council members identify as coming from an urban area, 36% are from a rural area and 9% are from frontier areas.

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.

The SILC members have a range of disability types. There is a representation from the following disability groups: Behavioral Health, Blind, Deaf, Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Anxiety, Spinal Cord Injury, Autism, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Developmental Disabilities.

Item 3 - Knowledgeable about IL

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

* SILC members attended a retreat with the CIL directors where members learned about how the SILC plans on transitioning into both a 501c3 non profit Board of Directors and a gubernatorial statewide council.

* There are 3 members of the SILC working at CILs, and the CIL rep provides updates and information related to CIL issues and services.

* CIL Directors in attendance at SILC share about CIL highlights within their catchment area ensuring that SILC members were kept up to date about CIL issues and services.

* Ongoing training includes: open records act/sunshine, 501c3, operating as a board of directors

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.

N/A on paid staff but the SILC Chair steps in and provides a lot of administrative support and we have SILC cell phone (303)902-5897

Item 2 - SILC Support

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

The Office of Independent Living Services consists of two full-time staff members; one Program Manager and one Independent Living Program Coordinator. The Office supports the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) with administrative tasks such as note taking, SILC meeting logistics, invoice processing, and other duties as requested. The Office serves as the fiscal sponsor of the Colorado SILC. These staff provide guidance and technical assistance to the SILC on following federal uniform guidance and navigating the State process to procure needed items, equipment and professional services. The Office staff meet regularly with the SILC chair to make sure all administrative tasks are being met as needed. The Office staff ensure that SILC nominees are processed through the DSE to the governor's office.

Section D - SILC Duties

Section 705(c); 34 CFR 364.21(g)

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.

During the first quarter of the reporting period, the DSE and SILC received feedback from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) on the SPIL for 21-23. The SILC and DSE met to

coordinate a response to ACL to address requested revisions. The SILC and DSE submitted SPIL revisions for ACL approval by the required deadline.

(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 SILC has many working committees that meet before SILC's quarterly meeting and at times monthly. The Committees of the SILC are: Executive Committee, SPIL and SPIL Evaluation, Finance, Membership and Training, Communications, Public Policy, and the Youth Committee.

- * The Executive Committee sets the agenda for the SILC meetings

- * The SPIL and SPIL Evaluation Committee facilitates the organization, writing, implementation, and evaluation of the SPIL

- * The Finance Committee develops the Resource Budget, monitors SILC expenditures, and makes recommendations for changes in spending

- * The Membership and Training Committee recruits to fill SILC vacancies and nominates officers for fall elections; provides training to new and current SILC members to ensure members are knowledgeable

- * The Communications Committee reviews, standardizes, monitors, updates, researches, and distributes all forms of SILC communication.

- * The Public Policy Committee advocates for issues identified in the SPIL, researches and presents information and position statements, and drafts advocacy letters

- * The Youth Committee increases and improves services to youth with disabilities who are served by Colorado CILs; the Youth Committee has a sub-committee, the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) Committee that focuses on operating the annual Youth Leadership Forum.

(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.

The SILC has a member governor appointed to serve on the SRC. The SILC has another member that sits on the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness, the Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council, Mental Health Disorders in the Criminal & Juvenile Justice Systems, and the Securing Employment and Economic Keys to Stability Advisory Team. All of these councils have a disability focus and a state wide presences.

(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.

The SILC complies with the Colorado Open Records Act. The SILC not only posts our meetings on our website a minimum of 30 days in advance, but the DSE also sends the notice out to their network of over 200 stakeholders, organizations and individuals.

Item 2 - Other Activities

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

N/A

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
<p>Advocacy/Leadership Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Overview Community/Grassroots Organizing Individual Empowerment Systems Advocacy Legislative Process <p>Applicable Laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General overview and promulgation of various disability laws Americans with Disabilities Act Air-Carrier's Access Act Fair Housing Act Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act Medicaid/Medicare/PAS/waivers/long-term care Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended Social Security Act Workforce Investment Act of 1998 Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 Government Performance Results Act of 1993 <p>Assistive Technologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Overview <p>Data Collecting and Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Overview 	

Training And Technical Assistance Needs	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs --- Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
<p>Our number one priority Recruiting/Increasing Involvement applies to both the CILS and the SILC.</p> <p>Section A Item 1 indicates that you have four SILCs members with expired term dates. Please notify me if this has been resolved since the submission of this PPR or email me your plans your plans to become a fully compliant board by June 30, 2022.</p> <p>Colorado Response: The term for Jennifer was replaced by Susan Dameron. Jennifer's term expired on September 30, 2021. Susan has been appointed by the governor to serve 10/1/2021-9/30/2024. Louise Wilson's category should not be "state". It should be changed to "neither". Louise was appointed by the governor to serve another term from 10/1/2021-9/30/2024. Bill Wood was replaced by Caity McManus. Caity was appointed by the governor to serve 10/1/2021-9/30/2022. The Colorado SILC has a membership committee that meets monthly. The membership committee's role is to continue recruitment and offer nominees to the governor. In the last month, the SILC has put forth two names to be appointed by the governor: Linda Taylor, CIL director to replace Joan LaBelle as CIL director. Joan LaBelle will complete her term representing a person with a disability. Jeremy Chatelain is awaiting appointment to the SILC as a person with a disability. This term will be from present - 9/30/2024.</p>	

SUBPART VI - SPIL COMPARISON AND UPDATES, OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF THE REPORTING YEAR

Section 704(m)(4) of the Act; 34 CFR 76.140

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.

The most important activity under this section was to attain federal approval for the 2021-2023 State Plan for Independent Living. On January 6, 2021, the SILC chair was notified that the Administration for Community Living (ACL) reviewed and approved the State of Colorado's FY2021-2023 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

Since this is a new SPIL, this section identifies actions and outcomes on the most recently approved SPIL. The SILC is working on four goals as written under the existing SPIL:

1. Developing a strong and effective IL Network

a. Continue with the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) while additionally exploring the possibility of: 1. Holding a virtual YLF; 2. Holding a hybrid of virtual /in-person YLF; 3. Adding another location in the Wester/Central area of the State.

Actions:

- * Planned and organized Strategy Planning retreat in person with DSE, SILC and CILs for September 2021.
- * SILC Youth Committee planned and organized in person Youth Leadership Forum for the summer of 2021 through monthly meetings with youth alumni, CIL representation, SILC, and DSE.
- * SILC planned and organized four SILC meetings
- * SILC Youth Committee measured pros and cons of hosting a virtual Youth Leadership Forum.

Outcomes:

- * Achieved support from the Governor's office to pursue nonprofit implementation
- * Hosted Strategy Planning session September 2021 with participation from SILC, nine CILs and DSE.
- * Due to COVID-19 health and safety risks, Youth Committee recommended cancelling in person Youth Leadership Forum for the summer 2021.
- * Implemented four virtual SILC meetings
- * Selected new SILC officers for next FFY including two CIL staff as secretary and treasurer.

2. Increasing the Colorado Centers for Independent Living influence in state and national systems advocacy efforts to ensure public policies represent all members of the disability community

Actions:

- * Representative identified by the SILC to participate on the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
- * SILC hosted Public Policy Committee meetings
- * SILC members participate in the Advisory Team meeting of a federally funded research project called Securing Employment and Economic Keys to Stability (SEEKS)
- * SILC member chairs the Peer Committee of the SEEKS research project

Outcomes

* SILC member attended SRC meeting and submitted application to be appointed by the governor to the SRC.

3. Increasing outreach, community education and employment efforts

Actions:

* SILC participates in monthly CIL metric committee meetings

Outcomes:

* CIL metrics committee produced two Information Sheets: Colorado's Center for Independent Living System COVID-19 Vaccination Response Information Sheet and A Key Core Service Provided by Centers for Independent Living is...Systems Advocacy.

4. Exploring whether to become a 723 State

Actions: SILC hosted discussion on what is a 723 state and generated list of pros/cons in March 2021 with DSE and CILs.

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 DSU administration of the SILS program.

On April 29, 2021, the SILC received the governor's office support in fulfilling the Colorado SILC's 501c(3) nonprofit status. The SILC is both a gubernatorial board of the state and a 501c(3) non-profit organization. This will allow us to fulfill our duties as a SILC and allow the SILC to be an autonomous organization.

On September 8th and 9th 2021, Colorado SILC hosted a two day strategic retreat with 8 CILs to help develop next steps to becoming a successful 501c(3) nonprofit. During that time, Joan the former Chair and Ty the then Vice Chair and the Office for Independent Living Services met with the Governor's Boards and Commission to help transition our members more smoothly on the SILC.

Colorado SILC performed two documented quotes for the SILC Coordinator position. One was executed in October 2020 and one in February 2021. Colorado SILC also started a contract with the Office of Independent Living to act as an independent 501(c)3. However, without the cash reserves and other priorities, the SILC decided not to pursue the contract at that time.

Colorado SILC has recruited 4 new people to join. These people represent different parts of the state and diversity for the SILC. We also had 2 people commit to another 3-year term. Finally, we had a transition of our leadership.

Section B - Significant Activities and Accomplishments

If applicable, describe any significant activities and accomplishments achieved by the DSU and SILC not included elsewhere in the report, e.g. brief summaries of innovative practices, improved service delivery to consumers, etc.

The Office of Independent Living Services was awarded a National Institute on Disability Independent

Living and Rehabilitation Research grant. During this reporting period, the federally funded research grant completed year two of a five year research project.

The name of the project is called Securing Employment and Economic Keys to Stability (SEEKS). SEEKS works with people applying for SSA disability benefits while concurrently receiving services from an employment specialist to obtain employment and a comprehensive benefits counselor through the Center for Independent Living system in partnership with DVR. This model combines the expectation that people with disabilities can contribute to the business bottom line in the competitive, integrated workforce, but also aims to address limited economic resources experienced by people with disabilities.

The goal of this research project is to increase monthly income, employment for persons with disabilities and reduce social isolation of individuals with disabilities.

* Objective 1: Connect persons with disabilities applying for SSI/SSDI with competitive employment.

* Objective 2: Provide comprehensive benefits counseling to persons with disabilities applying for SSI/SSDI.

* Objective 3: Increase connections for persons with disabilities who are seeking independent living services.

The Office contracts with five CILs to implement and test the intervention. A key element to this project involves an Advisory Team represented federal, state, and local agencies including representation from people with disabilities from all communities. The SILC has three members who regularly participate in the Advisory Team including the SILC chair that is the lead for the Peer Committee.

The purpose of this Stakeholder Advisory Team is to provide input and inform the research project throughout the duration of the program. The Stakeholder Advisory Team offers input in recruiting participants; creating the data collection tools; and, developing protocol for the Institutional Review Board.

Additionally, the SILC with the DSE and CILs were accepted to present at the 2020 Association of Programs on Rural Independent Living (APRIL) Conference.

26th Annual APRIL Conference, "2020 and Beyond: Building the Next Generation of IL".

Colorado Office of Independent Living Services, "Colorado CIL Network Resource Development", virtual, Loveland, Colorado October 2020.

26th Annual APRIL Conference, "2020 and Beyond: Building the Next Generation of IL".

Colorado Office of Independent Living Services, "IL Among the Generations", virtual, Loveland, Colorado, October 2020.

Section C - Substantial Challenges

If applicable, describe any substantial problems encountered by the DSU 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 DSU; complications recruiting SILC members; complications working with other state agencies or organizations within the state.

One challenge area during this year was related to becoming a 501c3 while remaining a governor appointed committee. The SILC through the State Plan for Independent Living and in collaboration with the DSE developed a plan for the SILC to become a 501c3. Since the implementation of the plan, a new governor was elected. The governor's office expressed a number of concerns about the governor appointing a board of a 501c3.

The SILC chair and the DSE worked together to plan on how to resolve the questions posed by the governor's office. The SILC Chair, DSE Director, along with the CDLE legislative liaison, and the Office

of Independent Living Services developed a presentation for the Governor's Boards and Commission Division. The presentation included the federal perspective, the SILC justification, and citations of the federal law. On April 29, 2021, governor's office offered a letter of support for the SILC moving forward to fully transition into an operational nonprofit.

Section D - Additional Information

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

ACL Feedback:

Colorado received \$383,717 in Part B in this reporting year. Please explain the discrepancy in the amount distributed and the amount received.

Colorado Response:

We provided the the federal award that showed our award amount of \$338,717.00 for federal fiscal year 2021. Our records indicate we received \$338717.00 for 2021 Part B funds that these funds were distributed to the Centers for Independent Living, SILC, and administration.

In Section 1, the label reads "Section B - Distribution of Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds" The subsection under this label reads "What Activities were Conducted with Part B Funds? Expenditures of Part B Funds for Services by DSU Staff Expenditures for Services Rendered By Grant or Contract"

This information requests spent Part B funds and not distribution. So the report shows expenditures. The 2021 Part B funds were distributed.

SUBPART VII - SIGNATURES

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

SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON DATE

NAME AND TITLE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON PHONE NUMBER

SIGNATURE OF DSU DIRECTOR DATE

NAME AND TITLE OF DSU DIRECTOR PHONE NUMBER