**SILCs contacted: New York, North Carolina, Tennessee and Pennsylvania**

*WHEN DID YOU BECOME A 501C3 (they had all answered they were a 501c3)?* This varied between 1999 through 2012.

*WHAT HAVE BEEN THE PROS/CONS OF BEING A 501C3?*

Every SILC contacted expressed satisfaction with being a 501c3 and indicated it was preferable to the alternative. All indicated they have at least one paid staff dedicated to the operations of the SILC, this being a positive. One person contacted indicated that there were strained relations with the Designated State Entity (DSE), but that would likely be the case whether they were a 501(c)3 or not. Autonomy from the DSE was a shared positive sentiment. Pennsylvania sited being in control of their own funding, with the ability to apply for grants and do fundraising as a positive, also the ability to conduct budgeting and membership decisions without direct government influence. There were no clearly indicated cons shared with those interviewed.

*WHAT WERE SOME OF THE REASON YOU DECIDED TO BECOME A 501C3?*

Autonomy from the DSE was a common theme for every SILC representative interviewed, reinforcing the answers to the previous question listed. Tennessee indicated the relationship with government oversight actually improved as a result of healthy boundaries with the SILC clearly being run by the members with disabilities.

*WOULD YOU DO ANYTHING DIFFERENTLY?*

Every SILC representative interviewed indicated they were pleased with being a 501(c)3 and wouldn’t change having done so. One of the SILCs indicated they wished they had begun the process sooner, one indicated they wished they had moved through the process quicker, the other two representatives were not around when the change was made.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ian Engle

NWCCI E.D. and SILC 501(c)3 committee member