**SILCs contacted: Florida, Missouri, Nebraska and Hawaii**

*WHEN DID YOU BECOME A 501C3 (they had all answered they were a 501c3)?*

This varied between 1998 through 2005.

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

None indicated any cons, they were all thrilled with being a 501c3. All of them have paid staff of, at least, an Executive Director. The length of time varied in terms of how long the EDs had been with the SILC (from under a year to over 20 years)

The answers echoed each other in almost every aspect. The first answer was ***always*** it reinforced/created autonomy from the DSE/State. Nebraska added that it empowered the members to learn and be more actively involved with running the SILC. Hawaii said they liked to be in control of their own funding (apply for grants, etc.)

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

This, again, was an overwhelmingly, across the board answer: The DSE was running the SILC (telling them what to do, over-controlling the budget). The state had too great a hand on the SILC.

*WOULD YOU DO ANYTHING DIFFERENTLY?*

No one said they would do anything differently. Even though there was more training on how to be an effective SILC, they all said it was worth it and they would do it again.