



2019
**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
**STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING
COUNCIL**
GOVERNOR’S REPORT

MISSION

To make independent living a reality for Montanans with disabilities by promoting and practicing a philosophy of consumer control, development of peer relationships and peer role models, self-determination, self-help, equal access, and advocacy in order to maximize independence, integration, and full inclusion of persons with disabilities into mainstream Montana.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) members are advocates for the independent living (IL) needs of Montanans with disabilities. The SILC promotes the IL philosophy that people with disabilities have the same civil rights, options, and control over choices in their own lives as do people without disabilities. The SILC develops, monitors, reviews and evaluates the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) every three years, writes an annual report to the Governor describing the status and effectiveness of IL services in Montana, and reviews and analyzes the satisfaction of the consumers served by the Centers for Independent Living (CIL). With the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA), additional focus is being made on transitioning people with disabilities from nursing homes and institutions into independent living facilities. Additional attention is being directed toward youth with disabilities transitioning from high school into adult life.

CURRENT SILC MEMBERS

Scott Birkenbuel: Helena/Bozeman, Chair, Julie Lane Tudor: Three Forks, Vice Chair, Barbara Davis: Missoula, Secretary, Tom Thompson: Missoula, Richard Scott Williamson: Ronan, June Hermanson: Helena, Brent Morris: Billings, Carlos Ramahlo: Billings, David Hood: Butte, Bonnie Kelley: Missoula, Leanne Beers: Missoula, Beverly Berg: Great Falls

CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

There are four Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in the State of Montana which incorporate and make active the SILC philosophy and mission. The CILs mandate is to provide 5 Core Services: Information and Referral, Independent Living Skills Training, Independent and Systems Advocacy, Peer Support, and Transition Services. These are done through direct services which identify barriers for persons with disabilities and promote the removal of those barriers. In 2019 the CILs reported 4562 persons with disabilities received General Fund and Part B services and activities. The four CILs in Montana are:

Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT), Billings
Montana Independent Living Project (MILP), Helena, with branch offices in Bozeman and Butte
North Central Independent Living Services (NCILS), Black Eagle, with a branch office in Glasgow

Number of People Served with State-Appropriated Money in 2019

Total = 4562 (General Fund = 2047, and Federal Part B = 2513)

Served by Disability Category

Mental/Emotional/Cognitive Disability

Physical Disability

Sensory Disability

Other Disability

Most Frequent Services Requested

- Information and Referral
- Advocacy Services
- IL Skills Training and Life Skills Training
- Housing, Home Modifications, and Shelter Services

Most Frequent Community Change Achievements Experienced by Those Seeking Services

- Transportation
- Disability Awareness
- Health Care Issues
- Legislative Collaboration
- Accessibility

(Examples of these achievements are demonstrated in the CIL narratives below.)

SILC Activities

-

Centers for Independent Living Activities

Additional activities done by the individual CILS are as follows:

Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT)

Montana Independent Living Project (MILP):

North Central Independent Living Services (NCILS):

Summit Independent Living Center (Summit):