

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

GENERAL INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL:

The Montana Statewide Independent Living Council (MTSILC or SILC) shall:

- Jointly develop and sign, in conjunction with the Designated State Entity (DSE) and Centers for Independent Living (CIL), the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) required in [section 704 of the rehab act](#). Note: [Disability Employment and Transitions \(DET\)](#), which houses Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services (VRBS), Pre-Employment Transitions Services (Pre-ETS), Montana Telecommunications Access Program (MTAP), and Disability Determination Services acts as the DSE in Montana.
- Monitor, review, and evaluate the implantation of the [SPIL](#).
- Coordinate activities with the [State Rehabilitation Council](#).
- Ensure that all regularly scheduled meetings of the MTSILC are open to the public with sufficient advance notice.
- Submit to the Commissioner such periodic reports as the Commissioner may reasonably request and keep such records.

MEBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL:

- The SILC consists of no fewer than nine members and currently consists of fifteen member positions, which represent a variety of disabilities, and different geographic locations.
- At least 51% of the voting members are individuals with disabilities and are not employed by a state agency or a center for independent living (CIL).

MEETINGS:

- The SILC meets four times per year. Often, in person meetings are held in Helena and all meetings generally have a virtual option. The Council will usually hold one meeting a year outside of Helena.
- Meetings are typically held in January, April, August, and November.
- Most meetings last 1 to 1 ½ days.
- SILC members may be invited to attend other meetings related to disability issues as a SILC representative.
- For SILC meetings, members are reimbursed for travel expenses and may receive a small honorarium.
- If a member fails to attend three MTSILC meetings in a twelve-month period, except for emergency or medical reasons, the MTSILC Executive Committee will meet to consider a recommendation of dismissal from the MTSILC to the Governor's Office.
- For a member to be excused for reasons other than emergency or medical, advance notice of two weeks prior to the SILC meeting must be sent to the Chair or the IL Program Manager.

ACTIVITIES:

- MTSILC writes an annual report to the Governor describing the status and effectiveness of Independent Living Services in Montana

- In partnership with the DSE and CILs, writes the State Plan for Independent Living every three years
- Reviews and analyzes the satisfaction of consumers served by the Centers for Independent Living (CILs)
- Organizes symposiums and rallies on legislative issues impacting people with disabilities.