

What is a SILC and why should I care?

Slide 1 – What is a SILC and why should I Care?

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Slide 2 – It has nothing to do with this...

Image: Three Bombyx mori surrounded by silkworm cocoons.

Image: Bolts of colorful silk fabric bundles stacked on a counter.

Slide 3 – SILC stands for

- **S**tatewide
- **I**ndependent
- **L**iving
- **C**ouncil

Slide 4 - The Council Part is Really Important

- Council members are appointed by the Governor
- SILCs work, partner, and collaborate with other boards, councils, and commissions
- SILCs are frequently in contact with both state and federal government entities

Slide 5 – Another thing to remember about SILCs

Even though it isn't part of the acronym, SILCs are their own thing. Autonomy is really important for a SILC to be effective.

- SILCs work with the government but are not part of the government
- SILCs work with CILs but are not an extension of the CILs

Slide 6 – There are 56 SILCs

- All 50 states, 5 permanently inhabited territories of the United States, and the District of Columbia have a SILC
- Each SILC functions a little differently, but they all have the same goal
- SILCs are authorized by the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, as Amended in 2015 by Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA, pronounced “we-owe-a”)

Slide 7 – Who would ever want to be on the SILC?

Slide 8 – Consumer direction is the most important thing

- IL is all about consumer control
 - Remember: Nothing about us without us!
- A majority (at least 51%) of the SILC members must be persons with disabilities

Slide 9 – SILCs don’t want too much interference

- A majority (at least 51%) of the council must be persons who do not work for a state agency
- A majority (at least 51%) of the council cannot work at a CIL
- The Governor appoints new SILC members, but they have to get recommendations from their SILC
 - Mileage may vary depending on state

Slide 10 – Statewideness is also a thing

- Seriously, that is the word we use.
- We try to get people from all over the state to join up, including:
 - Folks from TINYTOWN, pop. 1
 - Folks from Giantberg, pop. 1,000,000
 - Folks from Middleplace, pop. 50,000
 - Folks from the middle of nowhere
 - Folks from the middle of everything

Slide 11 – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are a big deal, too

- We need as many voices to be heard as possible; that means we want to hear from literally everyone...(ellipsis)
 - This includes different socioeconomic backgrounds, education levels, employment, racial identity, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, education level, age...(ellipsis)
 - We also want as many disabilities represented as possible
- ...(ellipsis) because everyone needs something a little different, and we want to make sure we make our states accessible for as many people as possible.

Slide 12 – ...(ellipsis) and we don't want things to get stale

- SILC members can only serve 2 consecutive 3-year terms, and then they have to take a break from the council

Slide 13 – On top of all that, all of this is required by the Rehab act...(ellipsis)

...(ellipsis) and there might be state laws that we have to think about too

Slide 14 – Keeping track of all this is a lot of work

- Most SILCs have at least one staff person. Making sure the council has the right people, keeping them well-trained, and active is a big part of what they do

Slide 15 – All that being said...(ellipsis)

...(ellipsis) we love it when CIL leadership, staff, and board members are a part of our team. It makes the SILC stronger and lets us know what's going on at the centers.

Slide 16 – So what does a SILC actually do?

Slide 17 – SILCs have two primary responsibilities

- Writing the SPIL with the help of the CILs
- Making sure that everything in the SPIL gets accomplished, or making changes when they can't be

Slide 18 – They also have to:

- Have regular meetings
 - Meetings have to be open to the public
 - People have to know about meetings before they happen
- Submit reports
 - and keep records that verify the information in the reports

- Work with other groups that provide IL services or similar services

Slide 19 – SILCs can choose to do other stuff too

- “Work with CILs to coordinate with public and private entities to improve services”
 - Read: work with others to make sure persons with disabilities get what they need
- “Conduct resource development activities”
 - Read: get more money for the SILC
- Slide 20 – Anything else, as long as it helps improve Independent Living in their state

Slide 20 – SILCs are not allowed to do some things

- They can’t help consumers directly
- They can’t tell persons that work with consumers how to do their job

Slide 21 – What is this SPIL thing about anyways?

Slide 22 – It has nothing to do with this:

Image: Milk spilled on a grocery store floor.

Image: A bottle of water spilled on the ground.

Slide 23 – The SPIL is kind of like a road map...(ellipsis)

Image: A map of the world from the 17th century with a wavy red line connecting A and B.

Slide 24 - The SPIL helps guide IL in your state by:

- Figuring out CIL service areas

- Making sure as many persons as possible have access to a CIL
- Deciding how to spend Part B funding
- Setting goals to help persons with disabilities be independent as possible

Slide 25 – The SPIL is a 3-year Plan

- We are currently in the 2020-2023 SPIL Cycle
 - There was an extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- SILCs are busy working on the 2024-2026 SPIL as we speak
 - The new SPIL is due to ACL June 30, 2023

Slide 26 – There are 9 Major Sections

Section 1: Goals, Objectives, and Activities

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangement of Services

Section 3: Network of Centers

Section 4: Designated State Entity (DSE) Responsibilities

Section 5: SILC

Section 6: Legal Basis and Certifications

Section 7: DSE Assurances

Section 8: SILC Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance

Section 9: Signatures

Slide 27 – Why is there a whole section for signatures?

- There are a bunch of people that have to approve the SPIL before ACL will even look at it:
 - The SILC Chair, after the council has given them approval to do so

- At least 51% of the state's CIL directors; depending on the state, this could be a lot of people
- The DSE

Slide 28 – Okay, but who is in charge then?

- The short answer is: nobody
 - IL should work as a network, not a hierarchy
 - CILs do the work of making sure people get what they need
 - The DSE makes sure the money goes where it needs to go
 - The SILC designs the SPIL and makes sure the state meets its goals

Slide 29 – Needless to say, it's a huge task.

Now it's time for the soap boxy bit...(ellipsis)

Slide 30 – So...(ellipsis) why should I care?

- The SPIL guides how we make IL stronger in its state
- Without everyone's perspective, we can never hope to see from everyone's point of view
- Even if you don't notice it, everything we do is guided by or influences our SPILs and our SILCs

Slide 31 – Most importantly, the more people we get involved, the stronger we can be.

Image: 300 Amish men moving a huge barn without any machinery.

Slide 32 – Okay, so what can I do?

- Read the SPIL

- At the very least, read the goals and objectives
- Ask questions if you don't understand
- Provide public comment and feedback
 - The more people we hear from, the more we can make sure we are doing the right things for our state
- Get to know your SILC members and staff
 - We are nice people; we don't bite.
- Help with SPIL development; see if there is a place for you on the SPIL team
- Join your SILC or work with one of the SILC committees

Slide 33 -Not tired of us yet? Give us a holler!

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a..r..s..i..l..c..d..i..r..e..c..t..o..r..a..t..a..r..s..i..l..c..d..o..t..o..r..g..

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