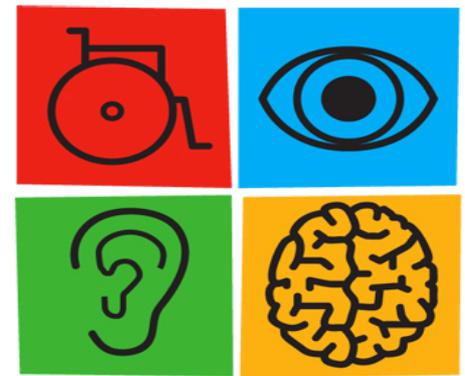


State Plan for Independent Living



Statewide
Independent Living
Council
of New Mexico

Public Hearings

Thursday October 15, 2015 – Farmington

Monday November 16, 2015 – Roswell

Friday December 11, 2015 – Las Cruces

Saturday January 9, 2016 - Albuquerque

Monday January 25, 2016 – Santa Fe

Sarah Michaud, SILC Chair
Ken Collins, SILC Vice Chair
Marcie Davis, SILC Coordinator

A Brief History of the Statewide Independent Living Council

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) was mandated by section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act passed in 1973, as amended in 1998.

The mission of the SILC is to provide leadership in guiding the state planning process for the availability of independent living services statewide.

The SILC envisions a political, social, and economic environment that plans for and actively promotes equal access and full integration of people with disabilities into society.

Organizational Structure

The SILC works in partnership with the Designated Service Unit, which is comprised of the New Mexico Division for Vocational Rehabilitation and the New Mexico Commission for the Blind.

The SILC provides support to Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in their implementation of core services, by coordinating a statewide effort to identify and address the Independent Living needs of New Mexicans with disabilities.

SILC Members

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- **Curtis Chong**

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- **Ken Collins, Vice-Chair**

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SILC Members – (continued)

- **David Hinkle**

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- **Jim Parker**

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- **Larry Rodriguez**

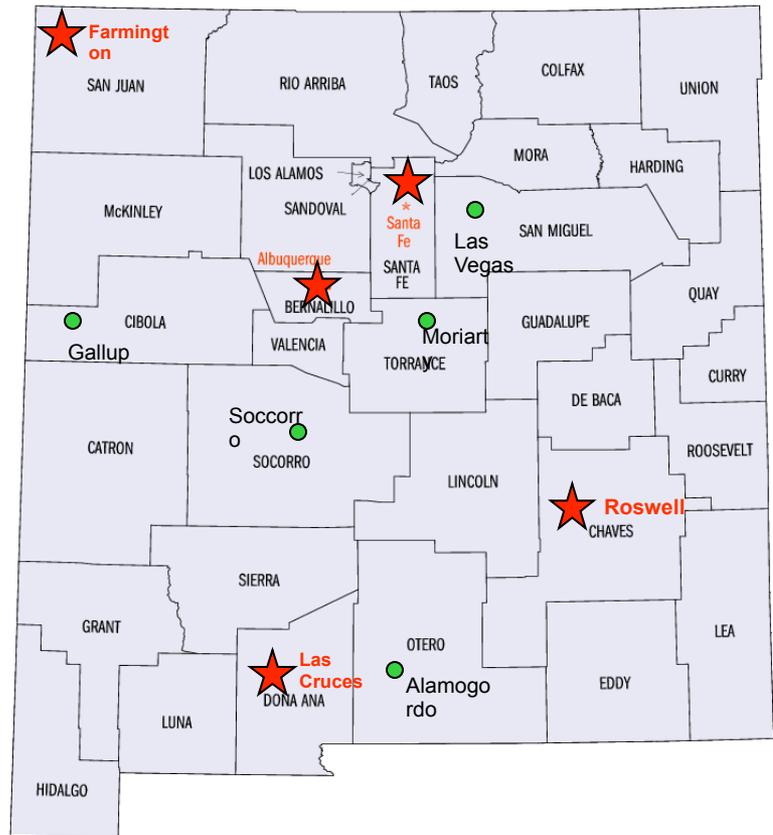
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What are Centers for Independent Living?

Centers for Independent Living provide services to individuals with all different types and severities of disabilities, and of all ages, as well as culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse populations. Centers are funded under provisions in Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1992.

All centers are consumer controlled, provide Independent Living Core Services, and may also offer additional services in order to serve the needs of their community, dependant upon their level of funding.

Where are CILs Located?



Core Services of CILs

The Core Services that all Centers for Independent Living provide are:

- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- Peer Counseling
- Information and Referral
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Addition of the fifth core service

Fifth IL Core Service

§705(17) [§7(17)] The term “independent living core services” means (A) information and referral services; (B) independent living skills training; (C) peer counseling (including cross-disability peer counseling); (D) individual and systems advocacy; **and services that-**

- **facilitate the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community-based residences, with the requisite supports and services;**
- **provide assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that the individuals may remain in the community; and**
- **facilitate the transition of youth who are individuals with significant disabilities, who were eligible for IEPs under section 614(d) of IDEA, and who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to postsecondary life.**

Fifth IL Core Service (continued)

There are three facets in new services.

1. Transition out of nursing homes and institutions.
2. Diversion, or prevention.
3. Youth transition.

Policy guidance will be provided for measuring, documenting and reporting on each component of the fifth core service, e.g., for 704 Report purposes.

New language in the law ... SPIL must describe how the State will provide independent living services ... that promote full access to community life for individuals with significant disabilities.

The Independent Living Philosophy

The Independent Living Philosophy promotes:

- Individual control over one's personal, professional, and public life;
- Self-help and self-advocacy;
- Development of peer relationships and peer role models;
- Promoting equal access of individuals with significant disabilities to all services, activities, or facilities, whether public or private, on the same basis as is provided to individuals without disabilities.

What is the State Plan for Independent Living?

It is a document that is submitted to the Health and Human Services (HHS) every 3 years that details the operation of independent living services for the state of New Mexico. The SPIL is developed cooperatively by the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and the Commission for the Blind with input from the centers for independent living and the disability community.

SPIIL Goal #1

Enhance the lives of New Mexicans with disabilities through communication and collaboration of the Network of Centers for Independent Living, the Statewide Independent Living Council and the DSU along with other disability service agencies.

- Objective 1: Establish a standardized reporting format by December 31, 2013 that measures and reports quality of life enhancement for New Mexicans with Disabilities that the Network of Centers for Independent Living will provide to the SILC on a quarterly basis.
- Objective 2: By 2016, establish a resource allocation plan to identify underserved, un-served, rural and tribal communities and potential collaborative resources.

SPIIL Goal #2

The Network of Centers for Independent Living will provide the four core services of independent living at a level that promotes a culture of excellence to people with disabilities in their communities.

- Objective 1: The Network of Centers for Independent Living, in conjunction with the SILC and DSU, will conduct quarterly reviews to ensure methodology is in place to provide support for people with disabilities to live independently in their communities through the provision of the four core services.
- Objective 2: Establish a baseline of the status of community reintegration supports through collaboration with Human Services Department Medical Assistance Division, Centers for Medicaid/ Medicare and the Network of Centers for Independent Living.

SPIIL Goal #3

Enhance the ability of the Network of Centers for Independent Living to deliver quality independent living services in their service areas.

- Objective 1: The SILC will communicate its support of funding increases to the Network of Centers for Independent Living, the DSU and other entities when necessary in order to best meet the identified needs.
- Objective 2: Provide annual updates regarding the success of each Center for Independent Living via the SILC website to promote transparency and awareness of IL services in New Mexico.

SPIL Goal #4

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) will identify a process to develop and maintain a full SILC membership to assist with services.

- Objective 1: The SILC will request increases in membership to achieve a full council by the end of FY2016.
- Objective 2: The SILC will participate in local events to increase visibility and knowledge of IL services.

SPIIL Goal #5

The Commission for the Blind will provide services and supports to people who are blind that promotes independent living in the community.

- Objective 1: Provide and strengthen independent living services and provide public outreach, so individuals who are blind or visually impaired can live and function more independently in their homes and communities, thereby avoiding unwanted, unnecessary, or inappropriate institutionalization.
- Objective 2: To provide services to consumers through the development of a coordinated Independent Living Plan (ILP) (unless a waiver is signed stating that such a plan is unnecessary) and to maintain records documenting efforts to serve each individual consumer who is blind.

SPIL Goal #5 (continued)

- Objective 3: Continue to provide training to consumers, peer support groups, consumer organizations, service providers and the general public on the philosophy and purpose of independent living and attitudes of blindness.
- Objective 4: Continue to reach out to the un-served, underserved and minority populations.
- Objective 5: Maximize cooperation, coordination and relationships with Network of Centers for Independent Living, the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), public and private agencies that address the needs of individuals who are blind, and specific disability groups.
- Objective 6: Maximize consumer satisfaction.

New Guideline from Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Additional Required SPIL Signatures:

- Chairperson of the SILC, on behalf of the SILC
- Director of DVR (Designated State Entity)
- A minimum of 51% of New Mexico CIL Directors

Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to request additional information, please contact:

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Marcie Davis, SILC Coordinator

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Please visit the SILC website at: nmsilc.org.

Questions or Comments?

If you have any additional comments you would like to make, please email, mail or fax:

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**You can also contact us through the SILC website at:
nmsilc.org.**