



West Virginia Statewide
Independent Living
Council
Annual Report
October 1, 2007 -
September 30, 2008
www.wvsilc.org





As I look back on the past year, it is clear that many of the challenges of 2007 carried over into 2008. As I continued to deal with my health, we were faced with a very perplexing challenge. The Rehabilitation Services Administration, our federal funding source, implemented a very narrow interpretation of what SILCs are allowed to do. As a result, we were required to submit revisions to our previously approved State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) and eliminate many of the activities we have done for several years. The revised SPIL no longer includes a Disability Caucus, a Youth Disability Caucus, training or technical assistance for Centers for Independent Living, resource development, marketing activities, monitoring the legislature, or many of our other standard practices. This has put us in a position of re-visioning our purpose and finding new ways to advocate for people with disabilities. In the New Year, we will be conducting public meetings around the state, finding new ways to advocate with state agencies and policymakers, and redirecting many of our efforts. The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services has been

very supportive throughout this process and shares our frustration. As we continue to focus on developing a statewide network of centers for independent living and improving the lives of people with disabilities, we will increase our creativity and collaborations to accomplish these goals. Together, we can make a difference!

Ann McDaniel, Executive Director

It is my pleasure to serve another term as chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council. As a novice last year, I send a big thank you to the council members for their patience and guidance.

This year brought about some changes for the SILC, The Rehabilitation Services Administration, which oversees our federal funding, conducted an onsite visit to our state. After several months into our signed and approved three year state plan we were told we could not do some of the things we've been doing for years. During statewide public meetings, advocates and individuals with disabilities voiced their displeasure about these changes which include the SILC cannot take the lead in conducting a Disability Caucus and the SILC cannot go to the Capitol to educate our policymakers about issues. If the presence of the SILC members is missed during the legislative session at the Capitol that is why, although as individuals we will continue to inform our lawmakers about issues of concern.



West Virginia continues to have the highest percent of citizens with a disability, almost one fourth of the state's population. There are many individuals being forced to live in nursing homes and other institutions who wish to remain in their own homes and communities. Funding for independent living continues to be a problem. The RYPAS Program as well, as centers for independent living, have consistently growing waiting lists for services.

As an individual with a disability I am committed to the independent living philosophy. I envision a world in which people with disabilities are accepted, valued equally, and can participate fully in society. The world will not truly be equal until all individuals with disabilities are able to live how and where they wish. I leave with you a few words from the Pledge of Allegiance of our great country, "with liberty and justice for all."

Cindy Spinks, Chairperson

SILC History

The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council is a 30-member board created by the 1992 amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and codified by the WV IL ACT of 2001. The Governor appoints the voting membership of 24 people. Six ex-officio, non-voting members represent state agencies and providers that work with people with disabilities. The Council, organized in 1993, is an independent, non-profit corporation coordinating its operations with the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services. Funding for Council support and staff comes through the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (originating with the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education) and from donations and funds generated by council activities. The Council's primary task is developing and monitoring the 3 year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

VISION

“To be a Consumer-controlled council that is effective in leading a statewide independent living movement that empowers persons who have disabilities.”

MISSION

“To ensure persons who have disabilities have access to community based resources that promote personal choice and facilitate the achievement of their independent living goals.”

SILC Staff



Kathi Young, Administrative Assistant

Hired in 1998, Kathi has been with the SILC through many projects and changes. She is responsible for bookkeeping and coordinating the daily operation of the SILC office. Kathi also provides administrative support to the SILC and its committees. As the SILC shifts in response to the recommendations from RSA, Kathi's initiative and flexibility will be a true asset.

Carissa Davis, Program Assistant

Hired in 2003, Carissa has served various roles in her position at the SILC. Her duties have ranged from answering the phone and handling mail to coordinating public relations and resource development. Carissa also provides staff support to the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Program. During the coming year her duties will shift to include managing and updating the WVSILC Web site which will enable us to maximize this valuable resource.



Fiscal Information

For the State Plan For Independent Living
Fiscal Year 2008 - October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008

Resources

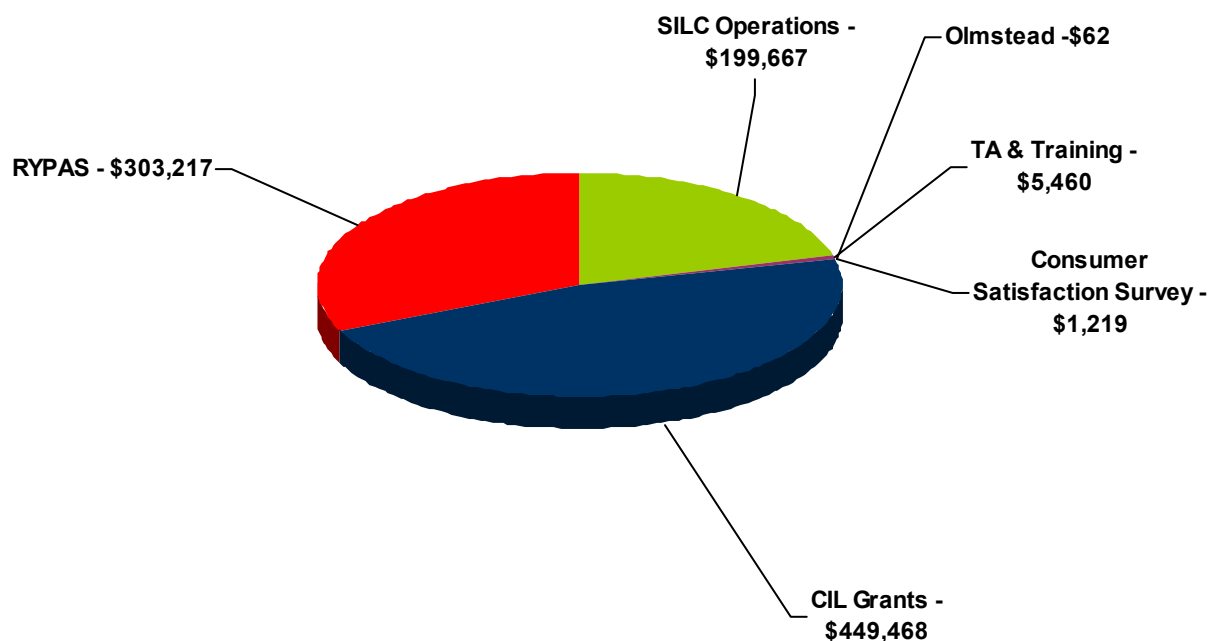
Beginning Net Resources (SILC).....	\$179,431
Federal Funding.....	\$441,577
State Funding.....	\$412,233
Donations.....	\$5,556
Program Income.....	\$6,730
I n-Kind	\$10,536

Total \$1,056,063

Expenditures

Total	\$959,093
Balance	\$96,970

Uses of Funding



Projects & Accomplishments

RYPAS

The Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services program, a state funded program under the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), helps people with disabilities who are not eligible for such services from Medicaid. This consumer-directed program reimburses eligible recipients, based on a sliding scale, to pay for the assistance they need to continue to live in their own homes and communities. In State FY 2008, the RYPAS program provided assistance to 23 individuals with disabilities from 14 counties. The average age of recipients was 65 and the average reimbursement was \$295 per week.

Consumer Satisfaction Survey

Each year the SILC, DRS, and the CILs conduct a survey of all individuals who received independent living services. As in past years, the reported level of satisfaction for FY 2008 was very high. Only one satisfaction item had less than 85% of respondents reporting that they agreed or strongly agreed (i.e. are satisfied). This item was “The CIL staff told me about job opportunities or independent living resources.” Of individuals who had completed their services, 96% said the services were excellent and that they were satisfied with the services.

CIL Expansion Grants

The SPIL continues to fund grants to maintain expanded service areas for the CILs. Northern WV CIL’s expansion project serves Berkeley, Hampshire, Jefferson, and Morgan counties. Appalachian CIL’s expansion project serves Calhoun, Jackson, and Roane counties. Mountain State CIL’s project provides IL services through a virtual, Web-based CIL at www.mtstcil.org which is available to anyone with access to a computer and the Internet. This project also includes computer recycling to get computers to individuals with disabilities in unserved areas of the state so they may access the Web-based CIL services.

Community Living Services Program

The SPIL serves as the conduit for both federal and state funding for IL services provided by the Centers for Independent Living. In addition to the CIL expansion grants, funding is used to provide the Community Living Services Program (CLSP) for individuals who are not eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. The CLSP provides specific services including home modifications, adaptive equipment, assistive technology, and training to make it possible for individuals with disabilities to remain in their own homes. This statewide project served 297 individuals in FY 2008 and as of February 15, 2008, 313 individuals were on the waiting list in need of these services.

Youth Caucus Reunion

The SILC and DRS collaborated to sponsor a summer reunion for delegates to the 2005 Youth Disability Caucus. Eight youth attended the reunion and developed a group advocacy plan to continue their efforts to improve their communities and the state. (Photos on report cover).

Other

The SILC supports and/or participates in many other projects, groups, boards, and councils with staff and members giving time and effort through collaboration, cooperation, and coordination.

West Virginia Centers for Independent Living:

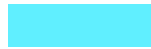
Appalachian Center for Independent Living

4710 Chimney Drive
Charleston, WV 25302
304-965-0376
1-800-642-3003

811 Madison Avenue
Spencer, WV 25276
304-927-4080



Base Counties - Boone, Clay, Kanawha, and Putnam



CLSP - Braxton, Calhoun, Doddridge, Greenbrier, Jackson, Nicholas, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Webster, Wirt, and Wood

Mountain State Centers for Independent Living

821 Fourth Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701
304-525-3324
1-866-687-8245

329 Prince Street
Beckley, WV 25801
304-255-0122
Virtual/Web-based CIL: www.mtstcil.org

PO Box 31
Sistersville, WV 26175
304-652-2116



Base Counties - Cabell, Raleigh, and Wayne



CLSP Counties - Brooke, Fayette, Hancock, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Ohio, Summers, Tyler, Wetzel, and Wyoming

Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living

601-603 East Brockway, Suite A&B
Morgantown, WV 26505
304-296-6091
1-800-834-6408

Eastern Panhandle Advocacy Project
P.O. Box 545
Rannells Acres
Romney, WV 26757
304-822-7099

Elkins Office
1109 US Route 33 E
Elkins, WV 26241
304-636-0143
1-866-262-2875



Base Counties - Barbour, Berkeley, Braxton, Doddridge, Gilmer, Hampshire, Harrison, Jefferson, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Morgan, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, and Upshur



CLSP Counties - Grant, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton, and Pocahontas

West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council

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2008 SILC Members

Pam Akers
Burl Anderson
Ronald Brown
Donald Carson
Bill Davis
Karen Davis
Luann Decker
Mark Derry
Erick Dowdy
Joyce Floyd
Brenda Goodfellow
Mark Jenkinson
Brenda Lamkin
Linda Maniak
Nathan Parker

Cathy Reed
David Sanders
Kelly Simpson
Cindy Spinks
David Stewart
Vanessa VanGilder
Anne Weeks
Odessa Williams
Ex Officio
Jon Sassi - OBHS
Brian Holstine - BOSS
Mary Pat Farrell - WVDOE
Bob Cary - WVHDF
Michael Meadows - WVDRS
Annette Francis - WVARF

SILC Staff

Ann Watts McDaniel, Executive Director
Kathi Young, Administrative Assistant
Carissa Davis, Program Assistant