



MINNESOTA

Statewide Independent
Living Council

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2016



The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council (MNSILC) is authorized under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Members are appointed by the governor to provide guidance to Minnesota’s independent living services. The council’s main responsibilities are to develop, monitor, review, and evaluate a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). For more information on the Council, including how to join, see the MNSILC website at mn.gov/deed/silc.

MNSILC Mission

The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council advances the philosophy of independent living and promotes the integration and full inclusion of people with disabilities into Minnesota communities.

MNSILC Vision

The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council will engage Minnesota communities to recognize and champion the critical needs of people with disabilities and promote statewide coverage by Centers for Independent Living.

Council Members

Heather Allyn	Cynthia Moore
Tammie Campbell	William Negaard
Rose Ann Faber	Maridy Nordlum
David Fenley	Anita Olson
Heidi Johnson	Shelly Pflaum
Margaret Klein	William Rudolph
Meredith Kujala	Renee Solomon Wise
Mickey Kyler	Randy Sorensen
Larry Lura	Annette Toews
Mitzi Mellott	Brian Wagner
Mark Mertens	Brad Westerlund



Heather Allyn

As I reflect on the past year I am filled with many thoughts and feelings. Feelings of accomplishment for all the work that has been accomplished, excitement for what the future holds, and gratitude for all the people and organizations we have had the pleasure of collaborating with this year.

Much of the council's time was spent on developing our next three-year Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Through some wonderful collaboration with Centers for Independent Living, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, State Services for the Blind, and the University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration, members of the council have really set forth an ambitious plan for the next three years. It will be exciting to see the effects of everyone's efforts on the citizens of Minnesota with disabilities including veterans, seniors, and youth.

MNSILC and the network of Centers for Independent Living continue to collaborate with State Services for the Blind on the Aging Eyes Initiative. As a result, staff at six of the eight centers have been trained to provide services through this initiative, which will assist in reaching more individuals who are experiencing some vision loss.

MNSILC continued to work with the Minnesota State Council on Disability (MSCOD). We stayed abreast of the happenings

surrounding many Americans with Disabilities (ADA) law suits being brought up on Minnesota businesses. We kept our network informed and reached out to bring education and awareness to our local communities. We supported and participated in the ADA celebration and focus on employment in October 2015.

We completed three major projects this year:

1. With the help of the Wilder Foundation we were able to put together a needs assessment that would give more information about the experiences, including barriers or inequities, and needs of individuals with disabilities, across the state. The assessment asked about housing, transportation, employment, and support and community participation. We had responses from all across the state and were able to break the information out in some very helpful ways such as identifying the similar and different needs of urban, suburban, and rural populations.
2. MNSILC hired McKinney Statistical Services and Patricia Yeager and Associates to do the research and development of the funding formula for Minnesota. These groups assisted MNSILC and the Minnesota Association of Centers for Independent Living (MACIL) in the development of a data-

driven way to look at the distribution of people with disabilities in the State and how much money it would take for the Centers to provide services to all people with disabilities in Minnesota. We are excited about this as it allows us to think strategically about the Independent Living System from a statewide perspective. With these two very large tools in hand we were able to build a strong Statewide Plan for Independent Living.

3. The third project was hosting a professional development conference for MNSILC members. This conference helped members build a common base of information quickly as the Council had a large number of new members.

As this Council moves forward with the new State Plan, I want to thank our members for their time, energy, hard work, and commitment to their duties. I also want to thank the Executive Directors of the Centers for Independent Living and their staff for their time and collaborative efforts over the last year. We are excited about working with you on the plan we have developed together.

Gratefully,

Heather J. Allyn



State Plan for Independent Living

This past year was a very busy, exciting, year as we did our three-year Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) from creation to completion. In 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)¹ changed how we did this. In the past, SPILs were signed by the chair of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) on behalf of the council and the executive directors of the Designated State Units (DSU). With the passage

of WIOA, the designation of DSU changed to DSE (Designated State Entity) and there can be only one. The DSE still signs this document, but it only indicates their agreement to do their assigned tasks that are in the law, not their agreement with the plan. The chair of the SILC still signs on behalf of the SILC. Now at least 51 percent of the federally established Centers for Independent Living (CIL) must also sign the SPIL. This change necessitated a closer collaboration between MNSILC and the centers. Finally, there was uncertainty because the rules of WIOA had yet to be published. Strong commitment and involvement were needed to make this happen.



MNSILC members and CIL executive directors work on the SPIL

Thanks to the Institute on Community Integration (ICI) at the University of Minnesota for assisting us in locating a great

facilitator, Barb Kleist. Thank you Barb for your invaluable facilitation during our three-day retreat. The retreat was just the beginning of our process. We spent over 1,000 hours working on the plan, from developing mission and vision statements to prioritizing wants and needs for people with disabilities in Minnesota. In the end, there are three strong goals and eight objectives to the plan.

GOAL 1: Strengthen the Infrastructure of Minnesota’s Living Program

Objective 1: Strengthen the CIL network

Objective 2: Expand the diversity and capacity of MNSILC²

Objective 3: Strengthen the partnership between DEED/VRS³, SSB⁴, MNSILC, and CILs

GOAL 2: Create and Promote the Minnesota Independent Living brand

Objective 1: Develop and implement a plan/strategy for universal recognition

Objective 2: Recognize and celebrate IL Philosophy

Objective 3: Energize the disability community to advocate for themselves

GOAL 3: Position MNSILC/CILs as Leaders and Champions of Independent Living

Objective 1: Create a shared public policy agenda for IL in Minnesota

Objective 2: Expand the MNSILC/CIL educational contacts or opportunities in communities

While this is an ambitious plan, with the involvement of our dedicated MNSILC members, CIL executive directors, boards, and staff, along with collaborative partners we will work to see every Minnesota citizen with a disability THRIVE in their community!

¹Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Legislation signed into law on July 21, 2014. This legislation reauthorized the Rehabilitation Act as Amended.

² This is in order to better enable the council to do the requirements laid out in WIOA.

³ DEED/VRS: Department of Employment and Economic Development/Vocational Rehabilitation Services. This is the identified DSE for Minnesota.

⁴ SSB: State Services for the Blind. SSB was formerly MNSILC’s Designated State Unit and remains a key partner in independent living.

Professional Development Conference

In May, the council held a professional development conference. With six new members, the timing was especially good for this activity. The conference goals were: a) build a common base of information about Centers, b) provide expanded information to assist members in their work, and c) help members build additional communication skills.

Four center directors and six CIL staff discussed core services: information and referral, peer mentoring, independent living skill development, advocacy and transition. In addition, presentations included assistive technology, more in depth information on advocacy, and IL Philosophy.

Other sessions included Communication Skills, The Relationship Between Laws and Court Decisions that Affect Independent Living, MNSILC's Comprehensive Needs Assessment, and Diversity.

Evaluations indicated that members were very pleased with the conference and felt they had learned a great deal. They also made good suggestions for improving the conference and recommended that MNSILC do this type of conference again.



MNSILC members and CIL staff enjoy a presentation at the conference

Aging Eyes Collaboration

State Services for the Blind (SSB) continues to make progress on their Aging Eyes Initiative. MNSILC has been a partner in this project, providing funds for the purchase of kits so that CILs and other community partners could assist the growing number of seniors who are experiencing vision loss.

SSB was already seeing a rise in the numbers of seniors reaching out for services two years ago when they began to look at how they could expand services in the future. Minnesota estimates it will have over 25,000 citizens reaching the age of 74-plus in the next three years. One of three will

experience uncorrectable vision loss. These individuals need services to learn ways to adjust and adapt to their loss.

Six CILs have now been trained to do basic assessments for those experiencing vision loss, how to use the tools provided in the kits and do home modifications for vision loss. Southern Minnesota Independent Living Enterprises and Services (SMILES) is the most recent center to be trained. They join FREEDOM, OPTIONS, Independent Lifestyles, Inc., Southeast Minnesota Center for Independent Living (SEMIL) and Access North.



Comprehensive Needs Assessment

MNSILC completed a comprehensive needs assessment this year. The assessment had two components: a statewide survey and research into the funding of CILs. The goal was to better understand the needs of Minnesotans with disabilities for independent living services and funding issues for centers that provide those services.

The survey included questions about employment, housing, transportation, and social/recreation/community participation. A demographic section asked whether participants came from urban, suburban, or rural areas. This allowed the council to compare how issues may vary in different areas. Wilder Research partnered in the development and analysis of the survey.

Over 64 organizations and individuals were contacted and asked to help distribute the survey. MNSILC extends its deepest thanks to all those who helped with distribution! Full results are available on the MNSILC website: mn.gov/deed/silc

The second part of the needs assessment took a look at the needs of Minnesota's CILs, using a process similar to some used in social services to determine how much money each center needed to fully serve its area. The report for this assessment is also available on the MNSILC website. This research was done in collaboration with Patricia Yeager and Associates. The results point out the great disparity between what is needed to fully serve each CIL's community and current funding levels.

All of this information assisted the council in developing the 2017-2019 SPIL. The council will continue to use this information over the next three years.



Centers for Independent Living were established originally by the Rehabilitation Act. CILs are statutory 501(c)(3) organizations and must have 51 percent of their staff and management be people with disabilities. They are the only cross-disability agencies that serve all age ranges and do not require “proof” of disability. The law states CILs must provide five core services: information and referral, independent skill development, advocacy (both individual and systems), peer mentoring, and transition. In addition, CILs provide other unique services as identified by their communities.

Core Services at the Metropolitan Center for Independent Living (MCIL)

Nick Wilke is the core services assistant manager of MCIL. In an interview conducted by MNSILC member Larry Lura in November 2016, Nick was asked to describe some of the core services provided by MCIL.

With all of our services, the goal is to assist the consumer to maintain as much independence as they can. One of our core services is information and referral. At MCIL, since we have Disability Linkage Line (DLL) staff on site. This is our primary source of information and referral. DLL staff are skilled in connecting people who need more than

basic information to one of our IL counselors to get information and talk through issues to identify other needs. Over the last three years we have grown from four counselors to nine serving on the DLL. DLL started with offices at MCIL and SEMCIL (Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living) and now there are offices in Duluth and Bemidji as well. Information and referral also happens through some of our other core services such as advocacy or IL skill development.

We have a general advocate that helps consumers with applying for benefits and making community connections. The goal is to guide and help the consumer learn how to do things for themselves, not to do it for them. Other advocates or staff help individuals with other kinds of advocacy. MCIL maintains a rotating schedule of classes for independent living skill development that occur at the Center. We also have the capacity to bring those classes to the community. We have one staff that is dedicated to helping people find housing. We assist consumers in learning how to search and how to apply.

As done previously, we continue to go out to schools and youth and work on sharing information. It is the strong relationships we’ve built with schools that have helped us work with youth in transition. Some of the same teachers are

around and those historical relationships help a great deal. But there is also new staff and so we are continually challenged to build and maintain strong collaborative relationships so that youth learn about IL and are able to access needed supports as they move beyond school to community. One of the most important pieces is helping youth learn about independent living and its history and to help them understand that disability is nothing to be ashamed of. Sooner or later we all need some kind of help.

We are seeing more people accessing Relocation Services from Nursing Homes or other institutional living situations. Here the challenge is to make sure they are connected with a case manager and supports so they don’t just circle back. Being able to maintain once they are relocated is critical.

MCIL is currently re-evaluating how peer mentoring happens. We know that peer mentoring is critical to helping people achieve their goals.





Unique Services: PRIDE Program (Parenting, Resources, Independence, Direction & Education)

Our CIL in Sauk Rapids is Independent Lifestyles, Inc. a Center for Independent Living (ILICIL) and their mission is to promote independence and choices for people with disabilities, their families, and communities. Founded in 1997 it has grown to become a leading service provider in Central Minnesota, serving over 2,000 individuals with disabilities last year.



In the course of our work with many individuals and families with disabilities it became apparent that there is dire need for specific programs and supports for parents with disabilities. Parents with disabilities face unique and difficult challenges. For example, 60-80 percent of parents with mental health disabilities have children removed from their home. Because the reason behind the out-of-home placement – parental deficiencies in independent living and parenting skills – is never addressed, a cycle of removing and returning children to their homes continues.

ILICIL developed the PRIDE (Parenting, Resources, Independence, Direction & Education) program to address the problem of out-of-home placement for children of parents with disabilities. PRIDE is a 12-month, intensive parenting and independent living skills training program for people ages 18 and older who are at risk of having their children placed outside the home.

The PRIDE program takes a uniquely holistic approach that provides in-home parenting direction, follow-through on skill development and implementation, and guidance for developing healthy support systems. Participants are actively involved in identifying areas of need and setting goals.

Through a Comprehensive Family Assessment, participants and PRIDE staff specialists work together to design a Family Service Plan for achieving goals. The partnership model also provides for ongoing monitoring and coaching of parent and child development.

PRIDE specialists work not only with parents, but also with each individual family member to address areas leading to unhealthy parenting or lifestyle. Every family member completes an Independent Living Assessment and receives an individualized Service Plan. Assessing each family member typically reveals many issues that would be missed in a standard assessment of only the parent. PRIDE specialists provide a diverse set of services depending on the needs of the family such as, supervising child visits, observe and support skill development in the home, attend Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings, attend court hearings, and support parents through Children in Need of Protection Services (CHIPS) hearings. PRIDE specialists are focused on doing whatever it takes to help build a healthy family.

For more information on PRIDE, contact Independent Lifestyles at 1-888-529-0743.

Consumer Directed Community Supports Planning

SMILES Center for Independent Living in Mankato has offered CDCS (Consumer Directed Community Supports) planning services since 2004. CDCS is a service option that gives individuals more flexibility and responsibility to direct their services and supports, including hiring and managing direct care staff. Individuals on a waiver can choose, in consultation with their county case managers, to participate in CDCS programming. This is an important option for those individuals where traditional services do not meet the consumers' needs and is especially significant for individuals in rural areas where traditional options may not be available.

As an organization that provides Support Planning services SMILES has staff certified by the State of Minnesota that understand person-centered planning and how to develop a support plan. A support planner is able to provide information about CDCS and provider options, help develop and monitor a community support plan, assist individuals to purchase and receive services and support, as well as offer ideas to recruit, screen, and hire support workers, help solve problems that may occur, and arrange for staff training specific to an individual's needs. The actual services come from other community-based organizations, but it is the planning and assistance in

making connections that assists people with disabilities in being successful with this program.

Currently, SMILES is the only active organization offering CDCS planning services in southern Minnesota. The number of consumers taking advantage of CDCS Services has grown from a handful of individuals in 2004 to nearly 170 in 2016. Judging from consumer comments, the services are in demand and the level of satisfaction is high.

For more information call SMILES Center for Independent Living at 1-888-676-6498.



Happy 35th Anniversary Metropolitan Center for Independent Living!

- The Metropolitan Center for Independent Living celebrated their 35th anniversary in 2016.
- Martin R. Castro, Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, spoke at their annual celebration. His message of the critical importance of protecting the civil rights of people with disabilities highlighted the celebration.
- MCIL looks forward to continuing their role in the lives of individuals in advancing independent living and self-determination, so that individuals with disabilities are able to fully realize the hopes and dreams they have for themselves, loved ones and community.

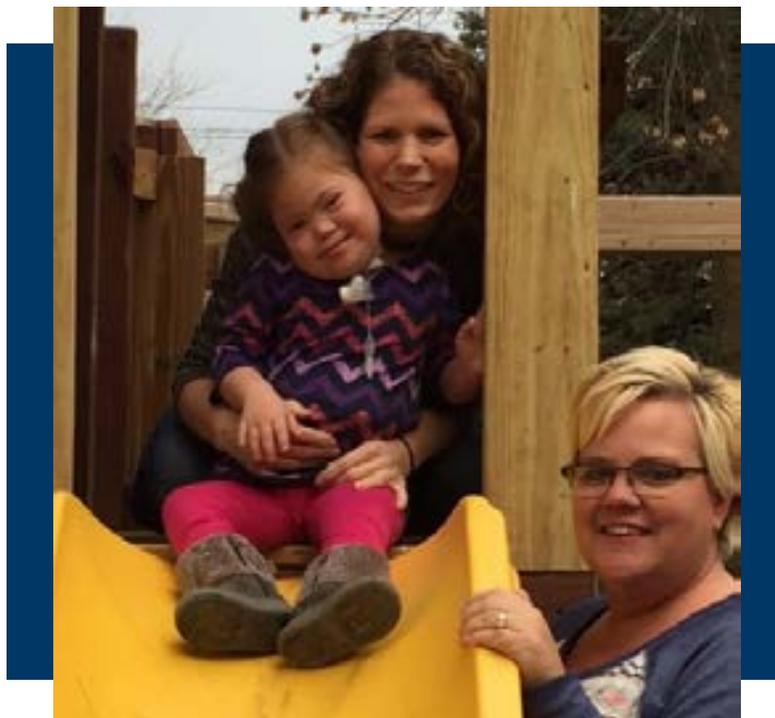


Ireland's Story

"It's not easy to ask for help," Shanna Meyer admits. "Ireland was born with complex medical needs that required all of our attention and we didn't even know what questions to ask. We just knew we had to respond to her needs and our other children as well. We really didn't have time to ask for help."

The Meyers live in a small town in rural Minnesota where most medical professionals are not familiar with Ireland's medical conditions. They were forced to educate themselves quickly about her multiple conditions and how to take care of her ventilator, tracheostomy, and tube feeding, as well as how to arrange for skilled nursing, what to look for when nurses were not there, and how to be proactive. They were almost too busy to look for support beyond family and friends.

"We were initially referred to SMILES Center for Independent Living because we needed a ramp for Ireland's wheelchair and our county case manager suggested we look at assistance through the Consumer Directed Community Support (CDCS) program," Shanna says. "Working with SMILES' planners, we discovered equipment and support not



Ireland with mom, Shanna, and CDCS planner, Lori Mosenden

covered by insurance could be obtained through CDCS. It's hard to ask for help, but SMILES CDCS planner, Lori Mosenden, makes it easy. In fact, I don't know how else we could do it. Using SMILES' planning services, we prioritize Ireland's needs, develop a yearly personalized support plan, and budget for those things not covered by insurance."

For her part Lori says, "Working with Shanna and Ireland is a joy. My job, as I see it, is to serve as a buffer to ensure their needs are met. I am there to advocate for them. They have already qualified for services through

waivers, I help them understand what services and equipment they can access and I work with their county case managers and fiscal agents to make that happen. It's one less thing they have to do."

It's hard to ask for help, but when you find the right person at the right place and time, it's a whole lot easier. Just ask the Meyer family.

**Lois Thedens:
One Happy Customer**

In 2011, I couldn't keep enough money to pay my rent because my so called friends were always borrowing money and not paying it back. Our site manager took me to Independent Lifestyles and I signed up for a Rep Payee. Within a week I had a worker come to my house. She took all my bills and I signed my Social Security check over. Not only did she start immediately paying my bills, her manner and how she explained everything couldn't have been nicer. She made me feel safe. They used my money to pay bills and give me some to pay.

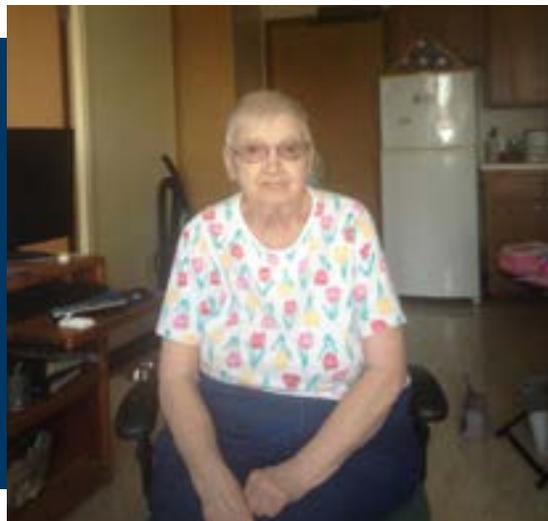
The trailer where I lived was mine, but I could no longer keep it up. There were two people again, so-called "friends", who had me move in with them. My IL specialist was not quite right with this but I was insistent. With her handling the money I knew that was safe. The "friends" let my two cats move in with me. During this time I was transferred over to another IL specialist. She was a sweetie. She asked me many times if I was all right. I lied and said yes because I felt stupid for making a big mistake. They were not only using money but also my pills. Every time I threatened to say something they always mentioned I would lose my cats.

Finally it came to a head. I called my IL specialist and found out they could help. This was a Friday. The next week, she called me and turned me over to someone new. He came over but I wasn't allowed to have him in the house so we went to the building and filled my paperwork out. I was so depressed I couldn't see any way out until the day he called and took charge. After he talked to me that first day I had something to look forward to and my mood changed. I was getting help and I could keep my cats.

Within 28 days, he had found me a place, moved me in, and found furniture. My whole family will tell you he is a miracle worker. It made my life safe and happy again.

Independent Lifestyles staff do all these things with a smile and never a complaint. They are always there when you need them. Each IL staff that I worked with has been here for everything I've needed. I am happy, feel safe, and my cats are very happy and content.

The aid for living independent is so needed. It makes your life good again. They pay my bills and I have money, but more...they can give you your life back. I have never had help so fast and so good. I sing their praises to anyone. There are no words to tell how I feel. I had Thanksgiving and Christmas with my family. They come to where I live now and all my friends are so happy for me. They all gave thanks to Independent Lifestyles for giving me a chance to be happy and live.



Lois Thedens



Michael's Story: From couch-hopping to an apartment of his own

When Michael first was referred to advocate Melody Oaks at the Metropolitan Center for Independent Living, he was living with a friend, couch-hopping. Michael, who is deaf, moved to Minnesota in 1991 and lived in an apartment by himself for years.

"After my mother passed away in 2011 I started to have some issues," he recalls. "I moved in with a roommate and had some problems. Then I moved in with another deaf roommate, and that didn't work out. I moved in with another friend, and then he said he wanted me to move out."

The loss of Michael's mother was very difficult for him, and it affected his ability to maintain secure housing. She was a huge support in his life, helping him navigate the process of renting an apartment and following all the rules. With barriers around communication, and without support from his mom, Michael sometimes found that he inadvertently made mistakes in the housing process, forcing him to move frequently and accept a spot on a spare couch without ever being on a lease.

"My mom knew how to work with me and explain to me. She knew how to help me. It's been challenging," he says.

Michael was seeking stable employment during this time, and enrolled in Vocational Rehabilitation Services. When his counselor learned he was having housing difficulty, a referral was made to Melody, who works on a special project that pairs advocates from Centers for Independent Living with Vocational Rehabilitation Services consumers, working on independent living skills with people who are simultaneously job-hunting with the help of their employment support staff.

Melody realized that Michael would have a hard time qualifying for many affordable housing programs because of the lack of verifiable housing history. Together, they worked hard to piece together that housing history, got educated about policies that must be followed, and submitted fresh applications to housing programs.

Michael moved into a Catholic Charities residence meant to provide transitional housing, a temporary solution, when another roommate asked him to leave.

"I was waiting to hear about Section 8," Michael recalls. He was denied, but Melody assisted him in appealing



Michael

the decision. She helped him identify family, friends, and service providers who were willing to write letters of support for his case. She also helped him to connect to Legal Aid.

"I decided to get an attorney, and I finally got the approval for my new apartment and was able to move in," Michael says. "I like my new apartment. It's nice!"

In addition to the apartment, Michael was able to find stable employment at a job he can walk to from his new place, and Melody referred him to an organization that will provide him with all the home goods he needs to furnish the apartment.

"I'm very thankful for Melody for helping me a lot, explaining everything to me step by step. It's just so different than it was before," Michael says. "I have a lot more faith since working with Melody than I have in the past. I would not have understood it all without her."

John's Story

The doctors at the Minnesota Epilepsy Center say my memory may never come back. This affected my ability to work and remember even the simplest of tasks – like reading, writing and remembering my own name. After being honorably discharged from the Marines, I've been through many hardships, not unlike anyone else. However, having epilepsy and PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome) can make every day a struggle. This isn't what I imagined life to be as a man who served his country, but I now realize how easily a man can find himself on the side of the road holding a cardboard sign asking for help.

Not long ago, at the peak of my epilepsy and PTSD, I found myself living in a hunting blind, eating squirrel meat in the northern Minnesota woods. I had convinced myself I belonged away from society. I knew deep inside I wasn't thinking right-minded. I was afraid I was going to hurt someone. I would tell myself, "Remember your training, Corporal." I knew something wasn't right. I wasn't drinking or doing drugs, my mind and life was messed up as it was. It was the seizures that was putting me in a "postictal" state. The VA and Social Security told me there was nothing wrong with me. I knew I needed help but had nowhere to turn.

Time after time I would find myself standing in these lines, looking around and seeing the faces of all the people who

needed help. It seems that the system keeps them trapped in a never ending circle. My heart went out to them and I made a promise to myself, to get out of this situation and do everything I can to make a difference, to set an example for these people.

This is the part of my life I like to refer to as "the phone call". An anonymous caller had left my cell number with Steve, an Independent Living specialist at Access North in Walker, Minnesota. Steve called me and I remember him saying something about independent living. I remember thinking that's what I needed, to get out of this vicious cycle and find a way to live independently. I needed an escape from all the forms, long lines, and doors closing in my face. We made an appointment to meet the next day. Hungry, cold, and a little nervous, I kept the appointment. Something made these people different. I wasn't given a number and handed a form. I'm sure I looked a little ragged and hungry because I was greeted with a handshake and handed a plate of shish-kabobs.

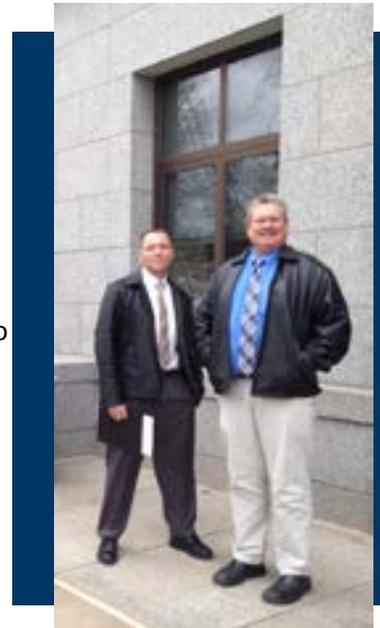
We began to talk about fishing. I thought maybe I had walked into the wrong building, or they had me mistaken for someone else. But slowly, a process began to unfold that was a mixture of help and friendly conversation. After I told Steve what I was going through, I wasn't sent to another office or handed a long form. I was asked if I'd like my own apartment.

Steve actually had more confidence in me than I did! Together, we began making phone calls for an apartment. Two weeks later I was handed my keys to my new beautiful apartment!

Access North got me my own furniture and cooking supplies, and showed me how to cook for my son and myself. They continue to stand by my side through every battle, ready to advocate and ready to speak up, to ensure I'm not being sent back into the never ending circle again. Recently we accomplished a social security battle and I'm finally on my feet.

I never forgot my promise: to leave footsteps for others to follow. Looking back two years later, I've been through so much. I've testified on behalf of CIL funding in both the State House and Senate. I've lobbied Congress in Washington DC, and now I'm a college student at the Leech Lake Tribal College and was just awarded student of the month.

I wonder sometimes, how a person living in a hunting blind climbs out that situation and gets this far? It's because of a strong, supportive team standing by your side. Thank you Access North!



John (left) and Steve (right) prepare to talk with legislators



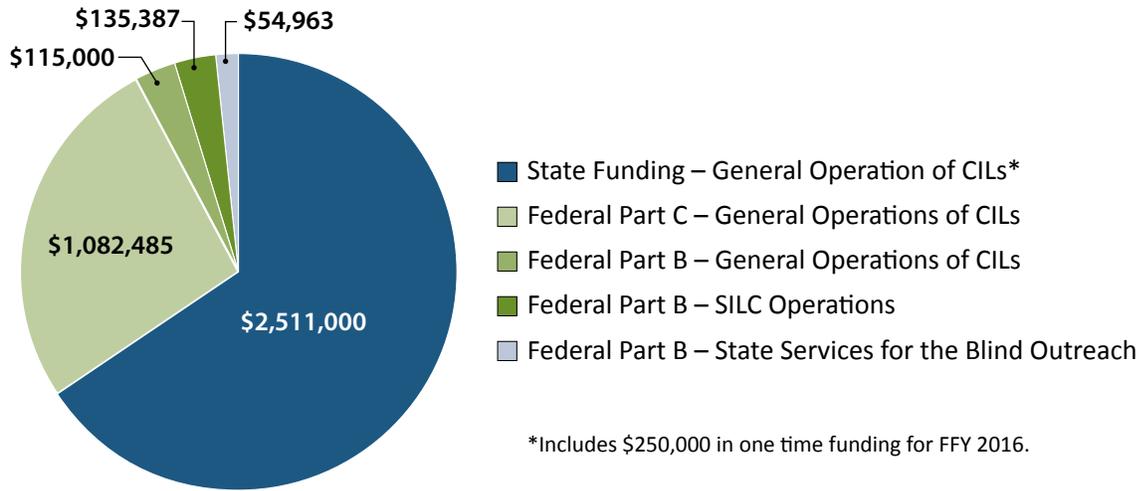
MNSILC has worked collaboratively with many partners. Working together to improve the ability of Minnesotans with disabilities to live independently benefits our entire community. Over 64 organizations and individuals assisted us in getting the word out about our needs assessment. While too numerous to mention, we thank everyone for their efforts.

The following were instrumental in the work done by this council:

- Access North, Center for Independent Living
- FREEDOM Resource Center for Independent Living
- Independent Lifestyles, Inc. - A Center for Independent Living
- Metropolitan Center for Independent Living
- OPTIONS Interstate Resource Center for Independent Living
- Southern Minnesota Independent Living Enterprises and Services
- Southeast Center for Independent Living
- Southwestern Center for Independent Living
- Department of Employment and Economic Development/
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- State Services for the Blind
- Minnesota State Council on Disabilities
- State Rehabilitation Council-General
- State Rehabilitation Council-Blind
- Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota
- Wilder Foundation
- McKinney Statistical Services
- Patricia Yeager and Associates

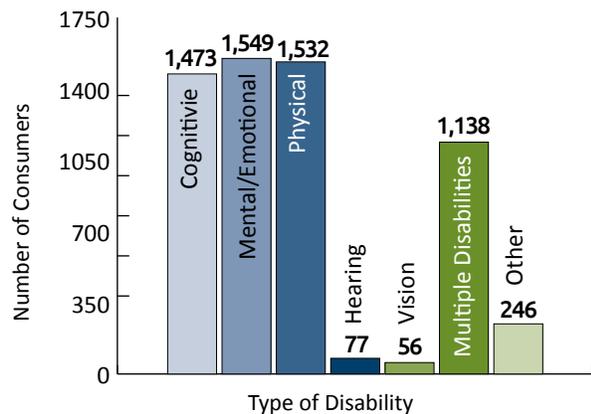
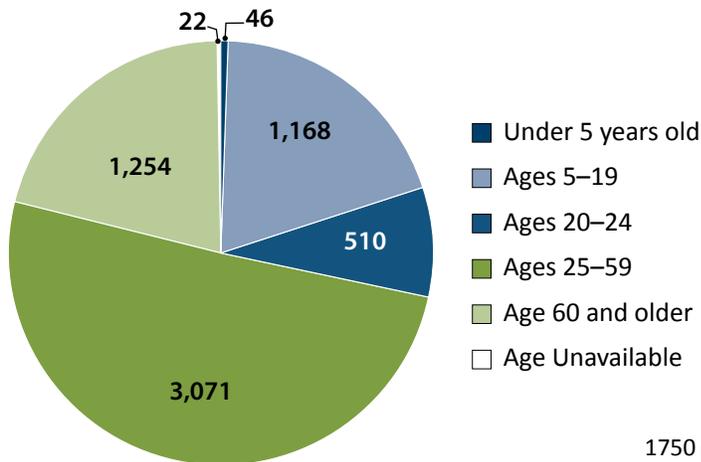


Independent Living Funding Distribution



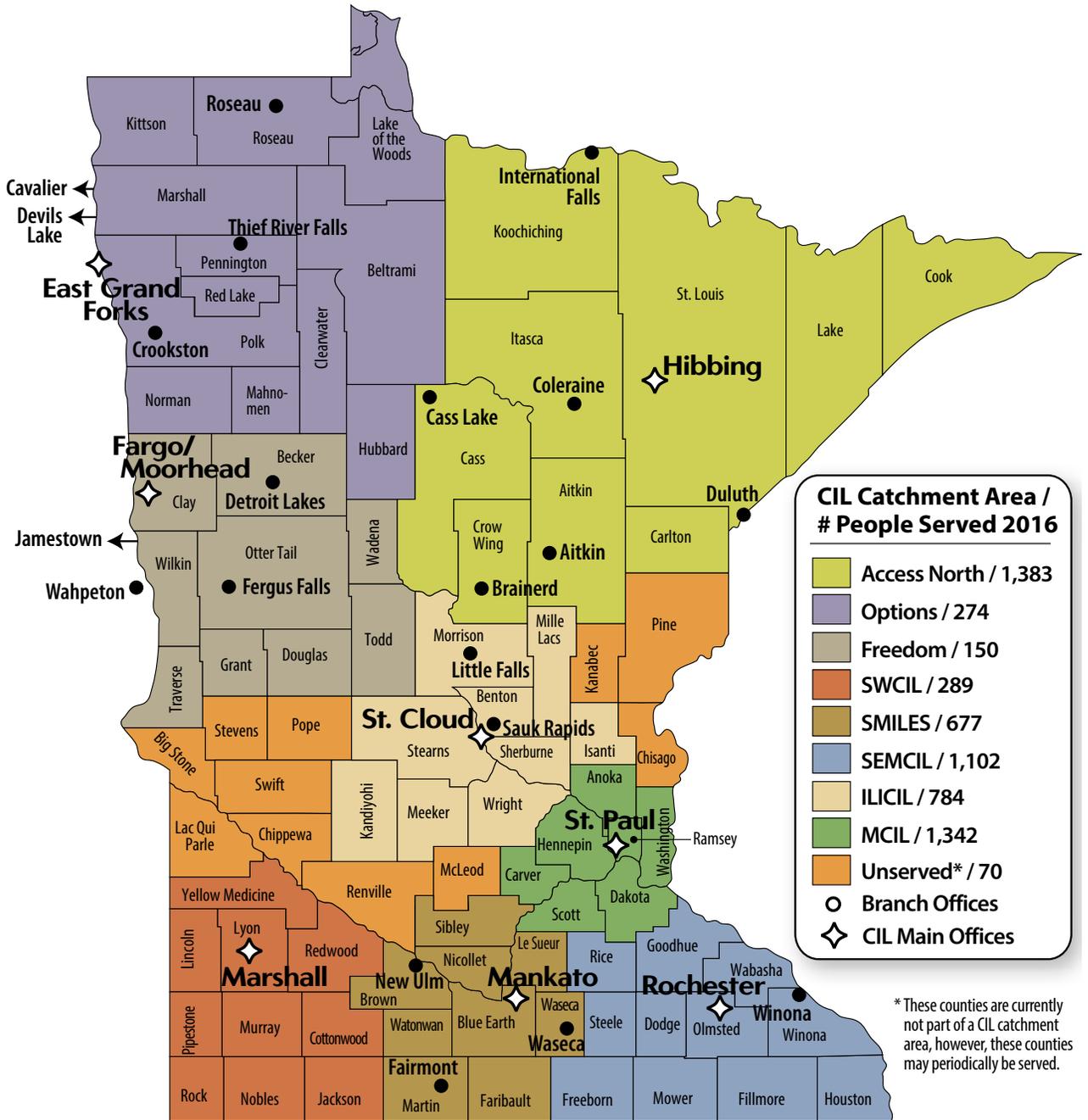
Total Number of People Served by Centers for Independent Living

In FFY 2016, 6,071 individuals were served by Minnesota’s eight CILs which provided a total 66,688 received services, including the Independent Living (IL) core services.





By the Numbers



For more information about the Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council, go to: mn.gov/deed/silc or mnsilc1215@gmail.com or call: Pam Taylor, Coordinator at 612-518-1497

Upon request, this information can be made available in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities.

Contact: Brad.Westerlund@state.mn.us
651.259.7351 • 1.800.328.9095 • TTY 651-296-3900 • Fax 651-297-5159