



SILC 

STATEWIDE
INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2020 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS)

The Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS) Program is a state-funded, consumer-controlled program to enable people with severe disabilities to live in their own homes and communities. During fiscal year 2019, thirteen(13) individuals were RYPAS recipients and at the end of fiscal year 2019 there were six(6) individuals on the waiting list. The RYPAS program provides resources for individuals with severe disabilities to hire a personal assistant to help them perform essential daily living tasks – including, but not limited to:

- getting in and out of bed, wheelchair or motor vehicle
- bathing and personal hygiene
- dressing and grooming
- meal preparation, eating and cleanup
- paying bills
- shopping and banking
- managing a daily schedule



Eligible individuals have a permanent disability or a disability that will last for at least 12 months; need assistance to take care of the essential tasks of daily living; are not currently receiving personal assistance services through any Medicaid program; can, or have a designee who can, meet responsibilities as an employer and manage financial and legal affairs; and meet the income guidelines or adjusted annual income.

The RYPAS program is managed by a seven-member, consumer controlled board. Board members are people with disabilities, most of whom have their own personal assistants. The board makes all decisions about the program and the eligibility of applicants for services. Board members are not eligible for services while serving on the Board.

You may request an application packet by calling the SILC office. The packet includes an application form, a financial survey and a short assessment form which provides an estimate of the number of hours of assistance you need. ■



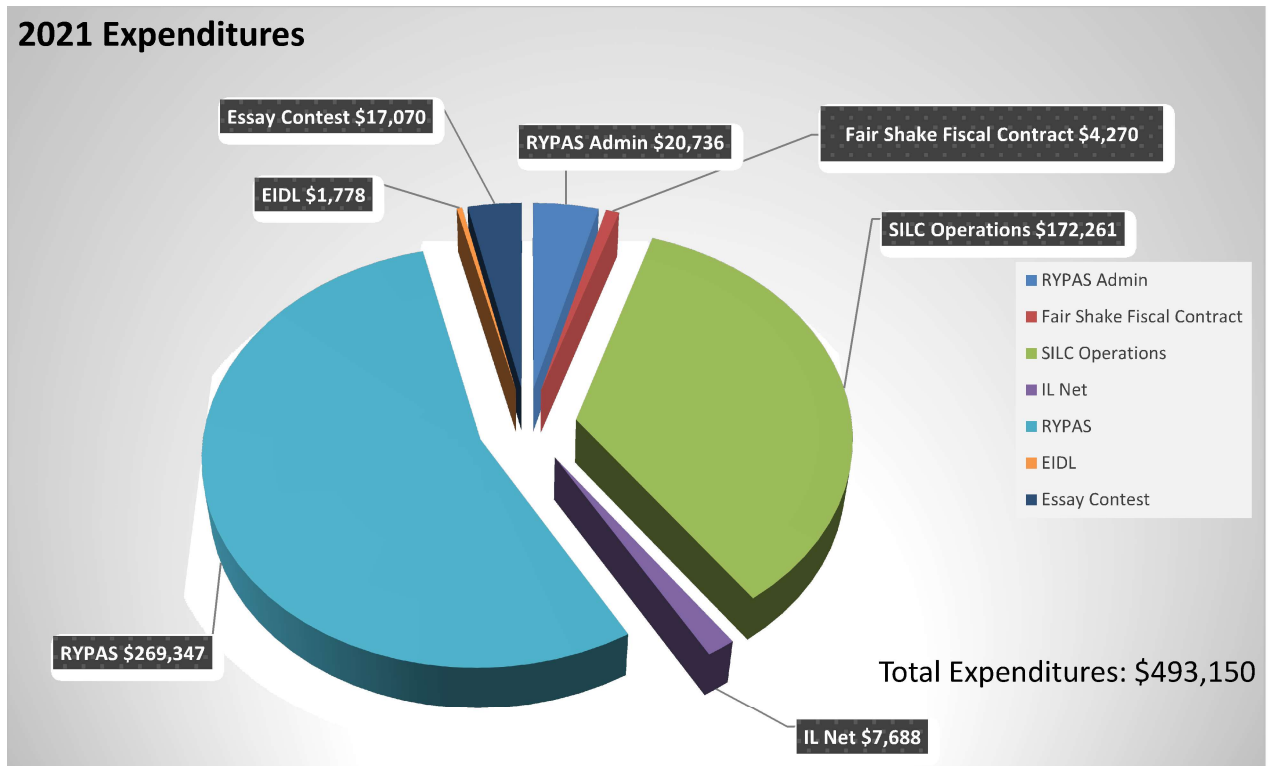
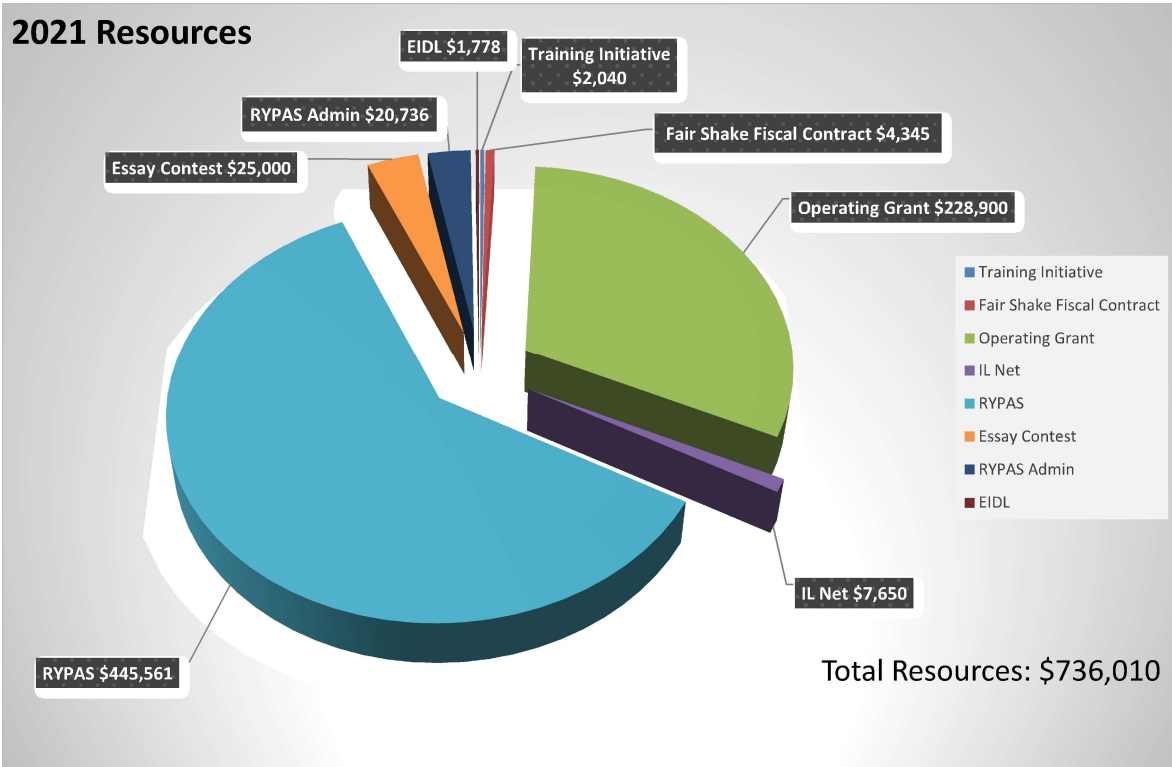
Who is Ron Yost?

Ron Yost sustained a spinal cord injury when he was 20 that resulted in quadriplegia. He was an active advocate for people with disabilities, and he fully understood how much difference having an attendant or personal assistant can make in the level of independence and quality of life for a person with a disability.

He helped develop the employment attendant care program for people who work, which is administered by the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services. He also was involved in the initial discussions to create a program to provide personal assistance for people who could not get services through any existing program.

Although Ron died before the program was established in 1999, it was named in his honor by the legislators who sponsored the bill. Ron had a great impact on the disability community in Huntington and throughout West Virginia.

Financial Information



State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) 2021 Progress Report

West Virginia is required to write and submit a new State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) every three years for approval by the Independent Living Administration (ILA), Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for approval. The SPIL must be jointly developed and submitted by the SILC and the WV Centers for Independent Living (CILs).

Executive Summary

The new mission statement for the IL Network in West Virginia is “To ensure all West Virginians have access to CILs and IL Services.”

In keeping with that mission, the 2021-2023 State Plan for Independent Living is focused on the maintenance and expansion of the CIL (Center for Independent Living) network. A detailed design for a statewide network of CILs, including a map of service areas for statewide coverage, has been crafted to ensure not only statewide coverage but also reasonable service areas for CILs that eliminates unserved and underserved areas and provide ready access to each CIL for individuals with disabilities throughout the service area.

In order to achieve full implementation of the design for a statewide network of CILs, several objectives have been established that focus on:

- Increased awareness of CILs and what they do
- Increased sense of value of CILs
- Increased opportunities for input and feedback
- Advocacy to increase resources to implement the design

Efforts to accomplish these will be directed at people with disabilities, the public, and policymakers and will be achieved in several ways including:

Increased awareness of CILs and what they do:

- Development of an “IL brand” that distinguishes CILs from other entities that have co-opted the term “independent living” and that clarifies that CILs are not places people with disabilities live.

- Maximizing opportunities to educate using an exhibit/display about CILs, a video about CILs and IL Services, listening sessions, a public forum during the legislative session each year, and a summit.

Increased sense of value of CILs:

- Increase awareness of CIL services and activities.
- Gathering personal stories of individuals with disabilities that receive services from CILs, demonstrating the impact and value of CILs.
- Development of a video about CILs and services showing the difference made in the lives of CIL consumers.
- A Return on Investment (ROI) study demonstrating the value of CILs.

Increased opportunities for input and feedback:

- Providing opportunities for input and feedback using: Facebook, Survey Monkey, public forums, consumer satisfaction surveys, a summit, and outreach activities in targeted areas for new CILs.

Advocacy to increase resources to implement the design:

- Increased outreach in target areas for new CILs to identify and develop leaders to organize grassroots support, support development of and serve on new CIL boards.
- Establishment of an annual IL Day at the Capitol to educate policymakers on the value of CILs.
- Educate interested groups about how to start a new CIL and what is required by state and federal law.

The 2021-2023 State Plan for Independent Living also includes:

- A chart of services currently being provided by the existing CILs as well as a description of their service areas.

- A financial plan showing current resources and their uses and a chart with detailed uses of the federal and state funds governed by this plan.
- An outreach plan detailing activities to be implemented to reach out both statewide and targeting priority areas for a new CIL.
- A detailed evaluation plan to monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of this plan.

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), Centers for Independent Living (CILs), and the Designated State Entity (WV Division of Rehabilitation Services) will continue to work closely with each other to coordinate efforts to maximize resources to support community life for people with disabilities. Many entities are represented on the SILC, which provides opportunities for coordination and the SILC participates in many collaborations at the state level, taking every opportunity to ensure CILs are maximized and the IL philosophy is infused. The SILC, CILs, and DSE will also work with other entities to coordinate services, emergency preparedness and response, and increased awareness and protection of rights and access.

The back sections of the plan focus on legal assurances and authorities as well as the signatures of the SILC Chairperson and the Director of the Designated State Entity agreeing to comply with them.

The last section includes the signatures of the SILC Chairperson and the CIL Directors agreeing to the content of the plan and authorizing its submission to the Administration for Community Living, US Department of Health and Human Services.

It is not anticipated that all the goals and objectives can be achieved in the three years covered by this plan. But public input over many years has demonstrated that individuals who have access to a CIL value it greatly and that individuals who do not have access to a CIL decidedly want a CIL in their area. Therefore, the partners represented on the SPIL Team which wrote this plan and include the SILC, all of the CILs and the DSE, made the conscious decision to focus the plan on

building that network. These efforts will be continued until every individual with a disability in West Virginia has access to a CIL and all the services the CILs provide.

The complete SPIL may be found at <http://www.wvsilc.org/docs/WV%20SPIL%202021-2023.pdf>.

SPIL Progress

Mission: The mission of the WV Independence Network (WIN) is to ensure all West Virginians have access to CILs and IL Services.

Goal 1 – Establish a statewide network of centers for independent living.

Objective 1.1 West Virginians understand and value centers for independent living.

Progress:

Northern WV Center for Independent Living (NWVCIL): Our Board President and Executive Director participated in the rebranding meetings and the Center worked internally on branding activities to gain a better understanding of IL messaging to work with statewide branding activities. Our Center also participated in creating the materials for WIN.

Appalachian Center for Independent Living (ACIL):

Our Board Chair and Interim Executive Director participated in the rebranding meetings with the WVCIL, SILC, and KITB. After hiring a new Executive Director she also participated in rebranding meetings.

ACIL staff participated in branding and display board meetings. The ED is collaborating with WIN to update and create videos for the WIN website and created a WIN display board. ACIL staff collaborated and created a CLSP display board. ACIL is currently updating their display board, brochures, website, social media, etc. ACIL participated in creating marketing materials for WIN.

The ED created a WIN fact sheet to be used at IL Day at the Capitol. ACIL reached out to our consumers to share their success stories.

Mountain State Center for Independent Living (MTSTCIL):

Angela Adams, MTSTCIL President/CEO and Beverley Jones, MTSTCIL Board Secretary, participated in the rebranding meetings with WVCIL, SILC, and Kids In The Background developing the new brand “WIN” -West Virginia Independence Network
MTSTCIL staff participated in branding and creating a CLSP display board, and creating materials for WIN. MTSTCIL staff and consumers shared their success stories virtually on Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol.

Objective 1.2 Policymakers understand and value the impact of CILs on the lives of West Virginians with disabilities.

Progress:

Northern WV Center for Independent Living: NWVCIL participated in Disability Advocacy Day activities, which included our consumers. We also participated in National Counsel on Independent Living activities providing information to legislators. We were involved in meetings to help create an IL Day at the Capitol.

Appalachian Center for Independent Living:

ACIL collaborated and created a WIN display board and a CLSP display board. ACIL is currently updating their own display board, brochures, website, social media, etc.

Participated in the Disability Agenda Panel at Disability Advocacy Day at the Legislature (DAD) on Fair Accessible Housing activities and met with members of the Legislature virtually on disability agenda items. Created a WIN Fact Sheet and presented at IL Day at the Capitol. Shared two ACIL consumer success stories at IL Day at the Capitol. Also, the ED is on the Disability Agenda Panel at Disability Advocacy Day at the Legislature (DAD) on Home and Community Based Services and Supports and created a HCBS Fact Sheet. ACIL staff is scheduled to meet virtually with members of the Legislature on the WIN and disability agenda items. ACIL staff participated in creating the materials/ display boards and helped plan for IL Day at the Capitol.

Mountain State Center for Independent Living

MTSTCIL collaborated with WIN (WVCIL) and participated in creating the WIN display board and exhibit and created a CLSP display board.

The Independent Living Skills Trainer (ILST)/Advocacy Specialist was on the Disability Agenda Panel at Disability Advocacy Day at the Legislature (DAD) on Fair Accessible Housing activities. The ILST/Advocacy Specialist met with members of the Legislature virtually on disability agenda items.

The MTSTCIL President/CEO presented “Services Provided by WV CIL’s at Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol. One MTSTCIL Consumer shared her success experience with MTSTCIL and the virtual group.

MTSTCIL staff participated in creating the materials/ display boards for IL Day at the Capitol and participated virtually in IL Day at the Capitol.

Objective 1.3 Grassroots support for a statewide network of CILs exists

Progress:

Northern WV Center for Independent Living:

We participated in meetings to help devise plans to strengthen partnerships.

We have been working on updating our display and contributing information for the WIN display.

We also participated in presentations to legislators in Charleston and Washington DC.

Personal stories of consumers who benefited from CIL services are being collected to emphasize the important work of the Centers.

Appalachian Center for Independent Living:

ACIL is currently updating their display board, brochures, website, social media, etc.

The ED has participated in meetings and is collaborating with the SILC and WVCIL to schedule the listening sessions.

The ED gathered ACIL consumer success stories and shared the success stories at IL Day at the Capitol. ACIL staff is scheduled to meet virtually with members of the Legislature on WIN and will share the consumer success stories during those scheduled meetings.

ACIL staff is scheduled to meet virtually with members of the Legislature.

The ED is the chair of the WVCIL and at the past two WVCIL meetings WWIN was discussed.

Mountain State Center for Independent Living:

MTSTCIL participated in meetings to help devise plans to strengthen the partnerships. MTSTCIL staff participated in branding and display board meetings.

MTSTCIL staff collaborated to create a WIN display board and created a CLSP display board.

MTSTCIL staff and board member has participated in meetings and is collaborating with the SILC and WVCIL to schedule the listening sessions.

MTSTCIL staff gathered consumer success stories to share with members of the Legislature around Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol.

MTSTCIL staff is scheduled to meet virtually with members of the Legislature on the WIN, CLSP and underserved counties of WV.

MTSTCIL is currently updating their website and maintains a social media presence.

Objective 1.4 Resources exist and are available to support a statewide network of CILS.

Progress:

Northern WV Center for Independent Living:

NWVCIL has participated in the preparation for full implementation of the SPIL, and the design of a statewide network of CILS and presented the information to Legislators.

Appalachian Center for Independent Living:

The ED is on the SILC and shared information at the past meeting on the WWIN and WVCIL. ACIL staff has participated in the preparation for full implementation of the SPIL, and the design of a statewide network of CILS and presented the information to members of the Legislature.

Mountain State Center for Independent Living:

The WIN re-branding initiative is an ongoing priority for members.

Goal 2 – Ensure CILs have sufficient resources to provide CLSP Services in a timely manner.

Objective 2.1 CILS have the capacity to provide Community Living Services Program (CLSP) services statewide.

Progress:

Northern WV Center for Independent Living:

NWVCIL participates in every opportunity to present information to the Legislators about the need for more funding for CLSP. NWVCIL used third party resources of \$114,026.58 this year to supplement CLSP services.

Appalachian Center for Independent Living:

ACIL participates in every opportunity to present information to members of Legislature about the need for more funding for CLSP. ACIL has a forgivable loan through the WV Housing and Development Fund and received \$76,354 to supplement CLSP services.

Mountain State Center for Independent Living:

MTSTCIL participates in every opportunity to present information to members of the Legislature and the Governor about the need for more funding for CLSP.

Objective 2.2 Policymakers understand and value the impact of CLSP on the lives of West Virginians with Disabilities.

Progress:

Northern WV Center for Independent Living:

NWVCIL supplies information on our area and distributes the report to state and local agencies and legislators to show the need for more funding. The Annual CLSP report is posted on NWVCIL website. NWVCIL has collected personal stories and share them as appropriate with other entities to help promote the program and show the need for more funding.

Appalachian Center for Independent Living:

ACIL provides information on our CLSP service area and distributes the CLSP annual report to members of the Legislature to show the need for additional funding.

ACIL staff is scheduled to meet with members of Legislature and will discuss CLSP. The annual CLSP report is posted on ACIL website.

+ACIL collected and shared personal stories to help promote CLSP and the need for additional funding.

ACIL staff took a folder including the CLSP annual report, information for the WIN and all the CILs/SILC and hand delivered it to the Governor’s office and all members of Legislature. The ED will schedule a meeting with the Governor to discuss the WIN and CLSP.

Mountain State Center for Independent Living:

MTSTCIL staff report CLSP Service activity quarterly to DRS and SILC. Waiting List reporting was supplied to the WIN, SILC, DRS and the Governor’s Office.

The MTSTCIL website is currently under construction.

MTSTCIL has collected and shared personal stories to help promote CLSP and the need for additional funding.

MTSTCIL provides information on our CLSP service area and distributes the CLSP annual report and our informational brochure to members of the Legislature to show the need for additional funding.

Values - WVSILC practices and believes in:

- Equality – People with disabilities are entitled, as are all human beings, to respect, dignity, and impartial access to opportunities to advance. Civil and human rights apply to people with disabilities. All people are equal before the law.
- Integration – People with disabilities belong in the community. They have a fundamental right to be fully included and to actively participate in all aspects of society.
- Value – People with disabilities are defined by their own strengths, abilities, and inherent value, not by their disability.
- Changing systems – We work with others to change systems to ensure people with disabilities have open access to participate fully and that they receive just, impartial treatment that is free from bias and discrimination.

West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council

Organizational Strategic Plan

FY 2022 – 2024

Adopted: October 6, 2021

Plan of Action

Strategic Priority 1: Strengthen the capacity of WVSILC

Priority Champions: Anne Weeks, Beverley Jones, Ardella Cottrill, Kathi Young, Christine Wilcox, Elliott Birckhead, Carissa Davis, Nicole Roberts and Action and Executive Committees

Outcomes:

- Conduct a background and skills inventory/ assessment of all Council members and staff by November 30, 2021
- Develop a profile of characteristics needed in an Executive Director of WVSILC by March 31, 2022.
- Continue the annual October assessment of training interests with SILC members.
- Raise \$500,000 by August 31, 2023.
- All WVSILC members will actively and regularly participate in one (1) committee by January 1, 2022.

Strategies:

- Identify and implement a comprehensive skills and interests inventory tool to better understand the depth of abilities of current Executive Director (ED), administrative staff, and individual members of WVSILC. Use the information to identify training needs; target recruitment of new council members to recommend for appointment to WVSILC; and to inform the hiring process for WVSILC Executive Director.
- Cross-reference the current ED’s inventory results with the required duties of WVSILC; CILs feedback about needs from and expressed value of WVSILC; and personality traits to develop a profile of characteristics needed in a WVSILC Executive Director.

- Include this document in selecting questions for the hiring process and in developing the job description for the Executive Director search.
- Talk with Ann McDaniel, Executive Director, to document the tools and process used for the annual Individual Training Plan completed by all WVSILC members. Include CILs' staff in the use of this tool and process. Use this information to design a statewide training calendar based on the top needs and interests of all network partners.
- \$500,000 will be used for training CILs and WVSILC staff and members, and to fund resource development staff for WVSILC and CILs. Anne Weeks, Elliott Birckhead, Carissa Davis, and Jerry Boyko will identify and write grant applications together. The grant writing team will represent CILs, SILC, and partner(s). The Executive Committee will approve grant opportunities and objectives prior to proposal development and submission. Prior to writing for grant funds, careful thought will be given as to how projects will be implemented, and funds will be managed upon grant award. Answer the question, what is our capacity to handle this?
- Develop and share a document that describes active and regular participation in WVSILC committee work and how this requirement will be implemented. Answer the questions: What does active and regular participation look like in practice? Is it more than showing up and sharing ideas? What work is needed before, during, and after meetings? How do members of a full, active team behave? What do you expect of one another? If it is not happening, how is it handled, by whom?

Strategic Priority 2: Monitor and Implement Staff Succession Plan (2019)

Priority Champions: Cara Price, Melissa Southall, Joyce Floyd, Tara Martinez, and Executive Committee

Outcomes:

- A new WVSILC Executive Director will be in place by September 30, 2022.

- Identify and/or develop and document a written a process and tools to use in the search for a WVSILC Executive Director by March 15, 2022.
- Identify a process and timeline for council members to support and oversee the work of a new Executive Director. Document the process in policy and procedures by March 15, 2022.
- Identify and/or develop and document a written a process and tool/s for the annual evaluation of the WVSILC Executive Director by March 15, 2022.

Strategies:

- Use pages 9-12 of the WVSILC Succession Plan to guide the work.
- Research the work of other SILCs that have successfully hired Executive Directors. Place calls to successful SILCs in rural states.
- Contact the National Council on Independent Living to see what technical assistance they offer
- Discuss the pros and cons of contracting with someone to support council members in the search process.
- Consider adding additional council members and/or CIL staff to the Executive Committee for the interview/hiring process.
- Finalize the search and hiring documents and process by May 31, 2022.
- Train council members on the hiring process and its supervisory roles and responsibilities by July 31, 2022.

Strategic Priority 3: Implement the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL 2021-2023) and Monitor Progress

Priority Champions: Rich Ward, Darla Ervin, Lynsay Frye, Greg Bilonick, and Advocacy Committee

Outcomes:

- Maintain youth representation and involvement on the SILC.
- All network members (CIL Directors, WVSILC members, and partners) are familiar with WV's SPIL and can talk about its content in an informed way by June 15, 2022.

Strategies:

- Reach out to entities that work with youth with disabilities for assistance recruiting youth to serve on the Council.
- Establish a youth/young adults committee to develop and implement strategies to increase youth involvement such as:
 1. Develop ideas to recruit youth and post on social media.
 2. Develop a youth recruiting brochure to share with CILs, schools, and home schoolers.
 3. Encourage youth to submit articles for the newsletter.
- Provide training 2x/year on WV's SPIL to all network members (CIL Directors, WVSILC members, and partners).
- Keep the SPIL as a standing item on WVSILC meetings for review.
- Complete rebranding process.
- Send regular (weekly or every other week) short, 'Did you Know?' emails and social media posts to all network members (CIL Directors, WVSILC members, and partners) that briefly offer WVSPIL 'fun facts' designed to increase knowledge, understanding and implementation of WVSPIL.

The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council, is a private, non-profit corporation established to develop, jointly with the Centers for Independent Living, and monitor the implementation of the WV State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), as mandated under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. The SILC incorporated as a non-profit organization to ensure its required autonomy from any state agency.

Vision - WVSILC is a diverse cross-disability group united to ensure the respect, value, and equality of all West Virginians with disabilities.

Mission - The mission of the WVSILC is to promote the value, equality, full-inclusion, and freedom of choice of all West Virginians with disabilities.



Centers for Independent Living in the West Virginia Independence Network share the purpose of helping West Virginians with disabilities be productive, valued members of their community.

Our mission is to provide support, assist with strategy, advocate for centers in our network, & their consumers. WIN helps facilitate efforts and maintain open lines of communication between organizations in the network.

What is a Center for Independent Living? The term "center for independent living" (CIL) means a consumer controlled, community based, cross disability, nonresidential private, nonprofit agency that is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities and provides an array of independent living services. CILs are governed by their board of directors and services vary based on the needs of individuals with disabilities in their service areas.

Core Independent Living Services (required):

1. Advocacy – Individual & Systems
2. Independent Living Skills Training
3. Peer Support
4. Information and Referral
5. Transition services- this includes the following:
 - Transition from nursing homes and other institutions to home & community-based residences
 - Diversion from nursing home and other institutions
 - Transition of youth (who were eligible for Individualized
 - Education Plan (IEPs) to employment or postsecondary education)

Other Independent Living Services (optional):

- Home Modifications, Equipment, and Technology
- State IL Services funding is used to provide the Community Living Service Program (CLSP) statewide through contracts.(with the three non-profits) for all four CILs.
- Personal Assistant Services
- Employment Services (including supported employment)
- ADA Compliance Surveys
- Housing (CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing and are not places for people with disabilities to live)
- Transportation

(WIN continued from p4)

- Recreation Services
- Other services as determined by the CIL Board of Directors

20 Counties directly served by a CIL:

1. Appalachian CIL – serving Kanawha, Clay, Boone, and Putnam
2. Mountain State CIL – serving Cabell, Wayne, and Raleigh
3. Northern WV CIL – Monongalia, Barbour, Braxton, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, and Upshur (many of these counties are underserved)

Priority Areas for the Establishment of New CILs

Priority 1. Increase Title VII, Part C funding for the current centers for independent living meeting the Federal standards and indicators for CILs to achieve the established minimum funding level to sustain current operations, given the increased costs of operating since the CILs were originally funded, and to build the capacity of those CILs. New Part C funds shall be distributed commiserate with the percentages listed below, to increase the CIL Part C grants by the following amounts (until the identified increase amount and established minimum funding level are achieved):

- Appalachian CIL – currently \$208,974 – increase by \$241,026 to reach \$450,000 (21.4593% of all new Part C funding available until the established minimum level is reached)
- Mountain State CILs – currently \$527,893 (to operate 2 CILs) – increase by \$372,107 to reach \$450,000 per CIL (54.2087% of new Part C funding available until the established minimum funding level is reached)
- Northern WV CIL – currently \$236,947 – increase by \$213,053 to reach \$450,000 (24.3318% of new Part C funding available until the minimum funding level is reached)

This will require \$826,186 additional Part C funds for the existing CILs. In order to grow the network, while working to reach the minimum funding level for the existing CILs, the SILC and CILs have agreed that when the Part C appropriation provides an increase of \$400,000 or more, \$200,000 of those funds will be used to start a new CIL in the next priority area and the remainder of the funds will be distributed to existing CILs using the percentages detailed above. State funding appropriated for the general operations of CILs at \$200,000 or more will also be used to start new CILs. As new CILs are established, they will be added to that distribution and the percentages will be adjusted accordingly until all have reached the minimum funding level of \$450,000.

(WIN continued from p7)

Priorities for establishing new CILs, accounting for the unreasonable size of the Northern West Virginia CIL's service area and allowing NWVCIL to spin off counties for new CILs, are:

Priority 2: Spin off the following counties from NWVCIL service area to establish a new CIL: Barbour, Randolph, Tucker, and Upshur. Then spin off the following counties from NWVCIL service area to establish an additional new CIL: Braxton, Gilmer, Harrison, and Lewis. This will result in the remaining NWVCIL service area including Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor counties.

Priority 3: Establish a new CIL serving the following counties: Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, and Wetzel counties.

Priority 4: Establish a new CIL serving the following counties: Greenbrier, Nicholas, Pocahontas, and Webster counties.

Priority 5: Mountain State CILs add Lincoln County to the Huntington service area and add Fayette County to the Beckley service area.

Priority 6: As additional funding (Part C, Part B, and/or State IL funds for the general operation of CILs) becomes available, establish new CILs serving the following counties:

- Mercer, Monroe, and Summers counties;
- Doddridge, Pleasants, Ritchie, Tyler, Wirt, and Wood counties;
- Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties;
- Calhoun, Jackson, Mason, and Roane counties;
- McDowell, Mingo, Logan, and Wyoming counties; and
- Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, and Pendleton counties.

Concerns:

- Lack of understanding of what a CIL is and what CILs do and confusion with other services like “assisted living”
- CILs are underfunded with no increases to their federal grants from their founding in the early 1980s until 2018 & 2019 when small increases were received
- **35 counties (191,947 West Virginians with disabilities) do NOT have full access to a CIL**

Goals:

- Educate the public and policymakers about what CILs are and what CILs do
- Collaborate with the CILs on resource development to expand capacity of current CILs and to establish new CILs

Compiled Responses to CIL Post-Card Surveys 2021

A total of 700 (250+150+300) surveys were mailed to all CIL consumers statewide and 93 post-card surveys were completed and returned. For the percentages in the table below – the total reflects the subtraction of “N/A” responses from the total on each question prior to calculating the percentage of responses “Strongly agree” and “Agree”.

Question	N/A	1. Strongly Agree	2. Agree	3. Neutral	4. Disagree	5. Strongly Disagree	Total Responses	% agree/strongly agree
1. The CIL put me in touch with other agencies/people who could help me	10	30	26	3	9	15	83	67.5%
2. They helped me find another person with a disability I could talk to.	18	23	14	1	13	19	70	52.9%
3. They taught me how to make choices that make my life better.	14	25	23	6	9	14	77	62.3%
4. They helped me to make my home more accessible (ramps, lifts, handrails)	32	21	11	4	8	12	56	57.1%
5. I chose the service(s) I needed to meet my goals(s).	5	35	19	6	5	18	83	65%

Question 6. Did the CIL services help to make your life different? If the services made a difference in your life, please tell us how, and add any additional comments you wish.

Responses to this question are divided into categories:

- Helpful Things
- Learned Things
- Changed My Life
- Complaints or Still Need Help

Helpful Things:

- They helped me to get hearing aids
- Made it much easier to get in my house & ↓ my pain level
- Help food
- The only thing they did was they gave me a bedside commode and it has helped me a lot. I appreciate it very much.
- Helped me with hearing aides. I need a ramp.
- Yes! Over the years I have received first a lift for my wheelchair and a power scooter when my wheelchair broke down. Both have made my life better, allowed me to go places and have a happier life.
- I have a habitat humanity home w/h a handrail next to the tub. Also a ramp on the side next to side door. Came with washer, drying, stove, refrigerator.
- Yes – after having 2 strokes and various other illnesses. I was having difficulty getting up from recliner to standing. I was given a lift chair recliner and that has made a great difference in my life.
- Help me get a chair lift, shower chair, wheel chair and wheel chair ramp (and replacing ramp with a new ramp) _____ helped me get all my services.
- The ramp helped steady my balance. I would get shaky legs going down steps.
- More food - Green Beans, refried beans, chicken, paper goods
- The bathroom is so much better Thank you so much. The ramps will make me cry. I needed

them for years. Thanks

- _____ was a great help she got my husband he has Parkinson a walk in shower he loves it it really helps him take a shower with ease. _____ also is a great help. She helped me get in contact with the agencies that could help us with our needs.
- I can now use my lift chair and my power scooter
- Yes they made a difference in my life by getting me hearing aids
- The ramp built for me made a huge difference for me. Thank you
- The ramp make it more convenient about going out in wheel chair.
- By helping with a wheelchair and rides to doctors appointment
- Our daughter is 39 years old now and we are in our sixties. They put in a ceiling lift in her bedroom and her bathroom so we don't have to lift her and we can keep her at home. It took awhile to get it but was well worth the wait. We are very grateful!

Learned Things:

- Yes. Learn to advocate.
- How to live independently, how to cook for myself
- I've learned more about paying my bills and making better decisions. Also, a long time ago I learned more about acting when the CIL had drama club in 1993 - 1996. I loved doing that the best!
- Cooking - CAC - Titles 1-5 - sign language
- They helped me see what it's like to work at a job at both the American Freight furniture store and at the office to improve my working skills and helped me learn the lessons on things like assertiveness, budgeting money, and first aid for health and medicine. Now they are helping me finish my lessons and soon put me in a position at a real job that hopefully I'll keep long term.
- Yes. My main goal is to read & write & I have gotten better.

Changed My Life:

- helped me to meet and talk to people that have a disability and help other people.
- More easier and companionship
- They help me find my baseball team. They helped me meet new people.
- Some
- I have taken several classes and learned a lot. Having someone to talk to if I need it and resources to help me with what I need. I made a lot of new friends.
- The services helped to make my life different. The way it happened, the services have improved and enhanced my quality of life. It also made me happy with where I live now because it's a better place for me than where I was living with the parents before that. The other house I lived in 17 years ago was not accessible.
- They made a big difference in our lives, I thank God for these services & people. Without them we would not have had water. I did not or have known we have great people in the world, that came through in the time of great need.
- The _____ worker was very respectful, caring of me - for me; make me feel a lot better as a whole person; cared for me more than most other relatives; was there for me a lot. This is a very good out reach agency (name & address)
- Yes, the services I while at the CIL gave me the confidence I needed to get through life's challenges I have had which I can say helped me a lot.
- Encouraged me to step out of my box. If I need help I know where to go.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes, before I came to the CIL I was on the street. They directed me to the right places for help.
- I did not know how to clean so I always was getting evicted. And I have a group I love every week.
- Have money in savings account, own home, someone to talk to to get things off my mind.

- Yes - no other comments
- They saved me
- Yes - no other comments Happy with services
- Yes, they got me organized with my apartment and all the things in my life
- Absolutely - helped me to have a better outlook on life

Complaints or Still Need Help:

- Did not help
- No, my life has not changed. Only because I live in bad neighborhood.
- Still on the waiting list for a walk in bathtub. Might be a year. Been waiting since 2017.
- No one is helping me. I needed more emotional support and no one is helping me.
- They did nothing for my nephew needed a lift chair they didn't do anything now completely bed-fast so we don't need it now
- told me they were backlogged from 2016. Said it would be 5 years before I could get help. Am now housebound because there is no help in my area of _____.
- They haven't helped my son yet just got him a lift chair.
- I need more help and emotional help, and no one is here to help me.
- Did not send information or help me with anything.
- They provided me food when needed. If possible I would like to have a tub bar so I can get in & out of tub safely & easier
- still in need of furnace (heat) already been checked twice by CIL but never repaired or replaced.
- If I get my bathroom and front deck repaired and rails back up. It's only way out! I am on the waiting list. Hope to soon get it.
- No! No help – was told would redo my bathroom with shower, and ramps and safety rails – but it never happened! Caused my depression to increase.
- I was supposed to get assistance to make my home more accessible. I was put on a 2 year

waiting list. I haven't heard anything from them in over 18 months. I was promised some immediate help with hand rails. Didn't get that either.

- I was not able to get them to understand why I felt I needed a schedule and check list so I could care for myself since I did not have any management skills or way to find or attend classes for them.
- I am very happy with my porch – It helps me to get in my front door _____ was suppose to help me with my bathroom. I have problem getting off my toilet and trouble getting in and out of my tub – I have fell in my tub several times my fiancé had to help me out of the tub. If you would like to talk to me my number is _____
- The one issue I have is when you call it take a long time for them to get back to you or they don't ever get back to you. I put a call in about 3 weeks and left message for 2 people and I have never heard back from them and they ask me to keep them update on how I am doing.
- Get more people to work with the people there. Have (I.E.P's) put in place for each one. Blankit coverage is not right. Needs to be looked into bad. Get another person to run it please!! Like they do in the _____ office.
- 10 years ago our bathroom was made handicap accessible. We were told if we needed anything else to reapply and we could get another service which is what we did. We need our kitchen cabinets lowered to make it accessible. They came took measurements and gave us their thoughts. The next day we were called and told because they did the bathroom we couldn't get our kitchen done. You need to make up your minds. We waited almost 4 years before they ever called us. Now we are stuck even our ramp is falling apart. No help to us at SIL.
- No - the wait for help was too long
- Answering for relative who is unable to complete the survey. A few items have been very helpful in the house. We already had a

few and some different items that help with the physical disabilities. Took forever to receive the ones we have and 2 items had to be returned by the representatives because they didn't work - still waiting.

Compliments & General Comments:

- They do a good job and they still try to make things better for everyone.
- I was not aware that they could help me make my home more accessible to meet the needs of my handicap. I would like more information about this please.
- The service is way beyond anything I ever expected _____ for independent living is GREAT.
- Made the best difference in the world, I love these people that have been so good to have helped, & tried their best to see that our needs was meet. Thank God for each & every one of them.
- Very Nice
- I love _____ CIL
- Wonderful to work with.
- Excellent to work with.
- Thank you very much.
- They will help make my life better. I have struggled for several years and thank God they are going to help me. I will be able to stay in my home.

(WIN continued from p)

- Secure additional federal funds to bring the existing CILs to a minimum funding level of \$450,000 each
- Conduct leadership development activities for current and potential SILC members and/or potential board members for new CILs
- Conduct outreach and leadership development activities for youth with disabilities
- Conduct research to gather data on the return on investment and the economic impact of CILs
- Collaborate with the CILs, SILC, and the school system to educate youth about disability history and the IL Philosophy
- Use new funding to establish a statewide network of CILs

For additional information please contact:

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 Appalachian Center for Independent Living
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 (304) 965-0376

Angela Adams, President/CEO
 Mountain State Centers for Independent Living
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 (304) 962-7011

Annetta Johnson, Executive Director
 Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living
ajohnson@nwvcil.org
 (304) 296-6091

Ann McDaniel, Executive Director
 WV Statewide Independent Living Council
ann.meadows@wvsilc.org
 (304) 543-9331

<https://wvwin.org>



Values - WVSILC practices and believes in:

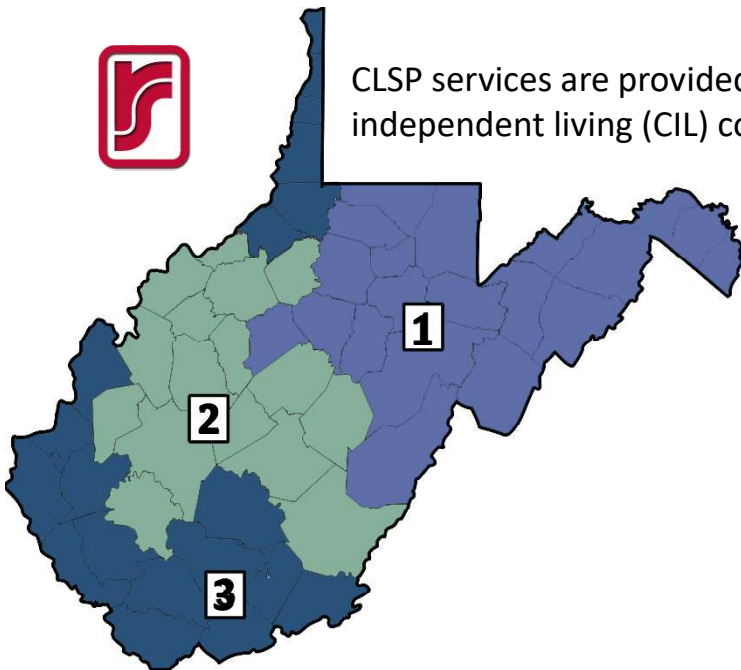
- Advocacy – We share information about the realities experienced by people with disabilities. We work with others to increase understanding and to promote change that brings full integration in law, in practice and throughout society.

2021 Community Living Services Program

The Community Living Services Program (CLSP) is a statewide program managed by the West Virginia Centers for Independent Living, now collectively the WV Independence Network (WIN), through grants from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services. CLSP provides eligible West Virginians with disabilities services to help them return to or remain in their homes and communities by enabling them to function more independently. Services include home modifications, assistive devices and equipment, vehicle modifications and durable medical equipment.



CLSP services are provided by the three West Virginia center for independent living (CIL) corporations.



Appalachian Center for Independent Living

800-642-3003

1

Mountain State Centers for Independent Living

866-687-8245

2

Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living

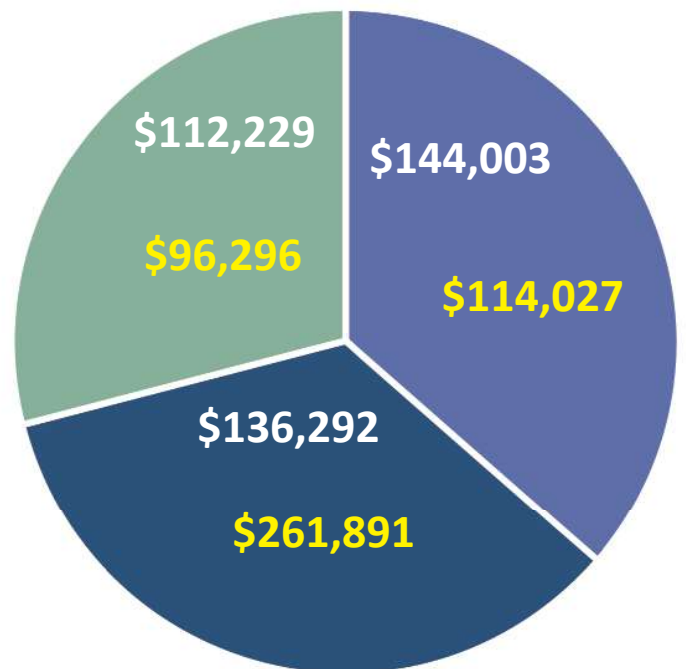
844-212-3464

3

FY 2021 Funding for CLSP Services

State Funding - \$392,524

Brokered Sources - 472,214



FY 2021 Performance Highlights

- 104 consumers completed CLSP services, which allowed them to successfully remain in their homes.
- \$6,486 was the average cost per consumer to complete their goals.
- 491 consumers were on the waiting list as of June 30, 2021.
- According to Genworth 2020 Cost of Care Survey, the cost for a semi-private room in a nursing home has a median annual rate of \$136,510 in the state of West Virginia. Therefore, the diversion or transition of 104 consumers from nursing home care through CLSP is estimated to have created a net annual savings of nearly \$14,197,040 in FY 2021.

FY 2021 Services

Assistive Devices and Durable Medical Equipment = 95

- Hearing aids
- Amplified telephones
- Lift chairs
- Shower Chairs
- Walkers
- Other Durable Medical Equipment and Related Items

Rehabilitation Technology Services = 79

- Ramps for home access
- Accessible Bathrooms
- Other modifications to make homes accessible
- Vehicle Conversion Lifts for Wheelchairs and Scooters
- Hand Controls
- Other Specialized Modifications

Success = CLSP in Action

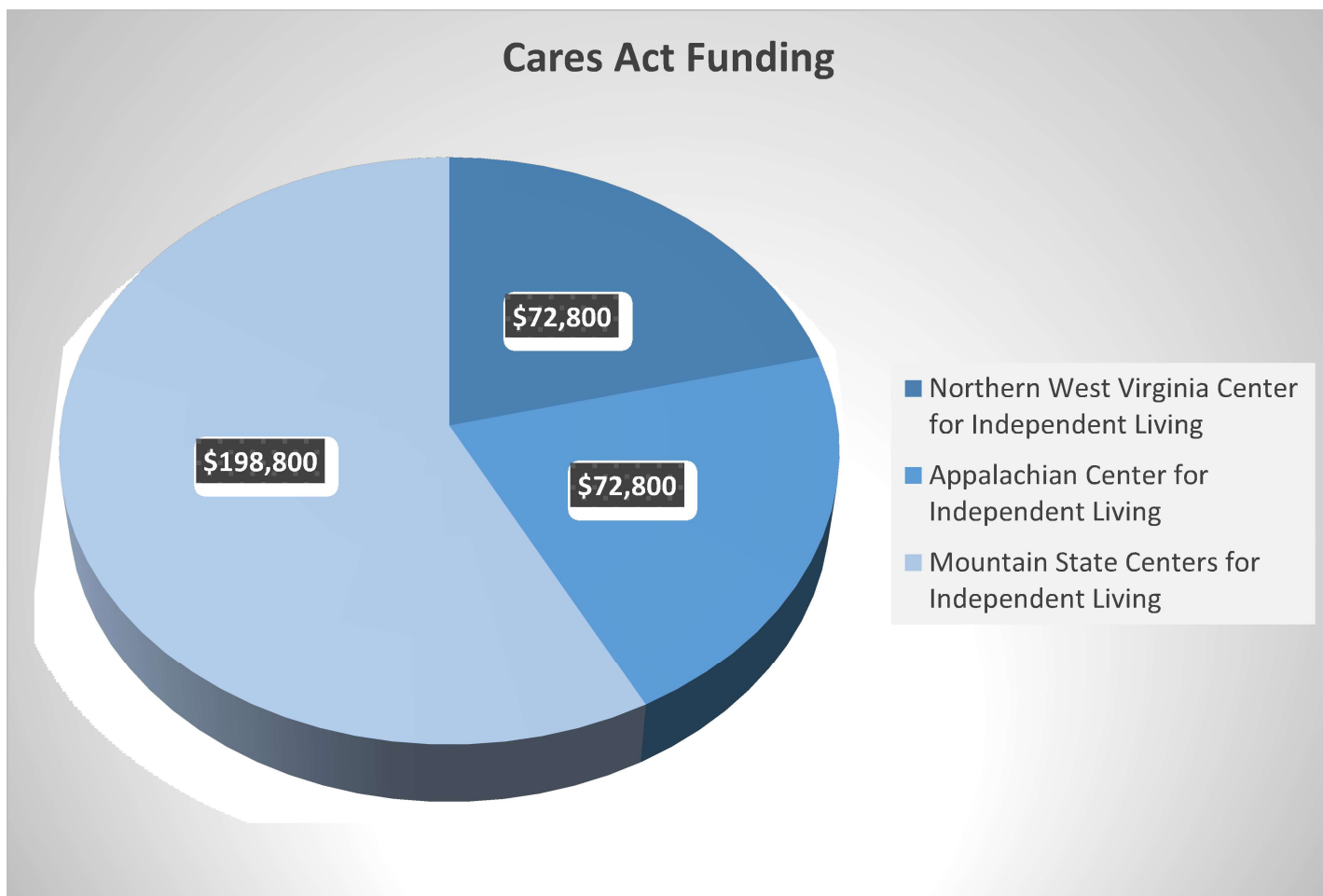
A 61-year-old male from Upshur County with partial paralysis received a lift track system and is now able to live independently in his own home.

An 83-year-old man from Wood County, who has severe osteoarthritis and dementia, received bathroom modifications enabling him to safely access his bathroom and remain independent in his own home.

A 72-year-old man from Hancock County, who has multiple sclerosis, received a stair lift and can now safely access his entire home.

Community Living Services Program Supplemental Report Cares Act Funding

In late autumn of 2020, the Statewide Independent Living Council and the three Center for Independent Living Corporations, supported by the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services under the West Virginia Department of Commerce, requested additional funding to reduce the waiting list for the Community Living Services Program. Realizing the importance of protecting individuals with disabilities from COVID-19, Governor Justice allocated \$350,000 of Cares Act funding to support the CLSP.



Cares Act Funding – CLSP Performance Highlights

- 58 additional consumers completed CLSP services, which allowed them to successfully remain in their homes, out of congregate care and safer from COVID-19.
- \$5,966 was the average cost per consumer to complete their goals.
- 491 consumers were on the waiting list to receive services as of June 30, 2021.
- According to Genworth 2020 Cost of Care Survey, the cost for a semi-private room in a nursing home has a median annual rate of \$136,510 in the state of West Virginia. Therefore, the diversion or transition of 58 consumers from nursing home care through CLSP is estimated to have created a net annual savings of nearly \$8 million in FY 2021.

Cares Act Funding – CLSP Services Provided by County

Berkeley – stair lift
 Hardy – travel wheelchair
 Lewis – modular aluminum ramp
 Marion – bariatric lift chair, lift chair
 Mineral – modular aluminum ramp
 Monongalia – bathroom modifications, power wheelchair
 Randolph – lift/power chair, lift chair
 Upshur – modular aluminum ramp

Braxton – adjustable electric hospital bed, hearing aids
 Kanawha – wheelchair ramp and threshold ramp (2), blood pressure cuff and oxygen sensor, hearing aids, power wheelchair, roll-in shower, stair lift (2), walk-in shower, wheelchair carrier, wheelchair lift for porch, wheelchair ramp
 Nicholas – stair lift, wheelchair ramp and threshold ramp
 Putnam – roll-in shower
 Roane – hearing aids

Cabell – bathroom modifications (5), hearing aids, wheelchair ramp
 Clay – hearing aids
 Fayette – modular aluminum wheelchair ramp, bathroom modifications (3)
 Hancock – continuously charging stair lift
 Lincoln – bathroom modifications (2)
 Mercer – modular aluminum ramp
 Mingo – bathroom modifications
 Ohio – hearing aids
 Raleigh – bathroom modifications and shower wheelchair (2), Zoom text program and laptop computer with 2-year warranty
 Wayne – bathroom modifications (3), hearing aids, ramp and doorbell for hearing impaired, wheelchair ramp

CARES Act Funding – CLSP Services Consumer Comments

“Oh, my goodness! I never thought this would ever happen, and it is amazing. This is so much easier than the ramp.”

“This is great, and I thought I would have to wait a couple of years to get my inside stair lift, but I didn’t thanks to ACILs staff and the CARES Act money. This has made an important impact on my life. Now I do not have the fear or anxiety of trying to figure out how I am going to get up my steps. I am so grateful.”

“I can’t believe I’m doing this; this is awesome!”

“The stairlift has worked out well; they did a great job installing it, and she loves it.”

“The new shower is convenient, and he feels so much safer now.”

“Thanks to NWVCIL and all individuals involved in assisting my mother and I to have a better quality of life. It is no longer such a chore to bathe, and dare I say, has become an enjoyable experience!”

Partnerships

The SILC works with a wide variety of partners on a variety of issues and advocacy. The consistent partnerships in Independent Living are with the WV Independence Network (WIN) and the Designated State Entity, which receive the federal Independent Living Funds.

West Virginia Independence Network

The WIN has direct grants of operating funds (Part C) from the Independent Living Administration and also receive funds through this State Plan to provide Independent Living services (Part B and State IL Services funds).



Appalachian CIL

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Charleston, WV 25302
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Mountain State CIL

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Huntington, WV 25701
(304) 525-3360

329 Prince St.
Beckley, WV 25801
304-255-0122

Northern WV CIL

601 East Brockway Ave.
Suite A & B
Morgantown, WV 26505
(304) 296-6091

109 Randolph Ave.
Elkins, WV 26241
(304) 636-0143

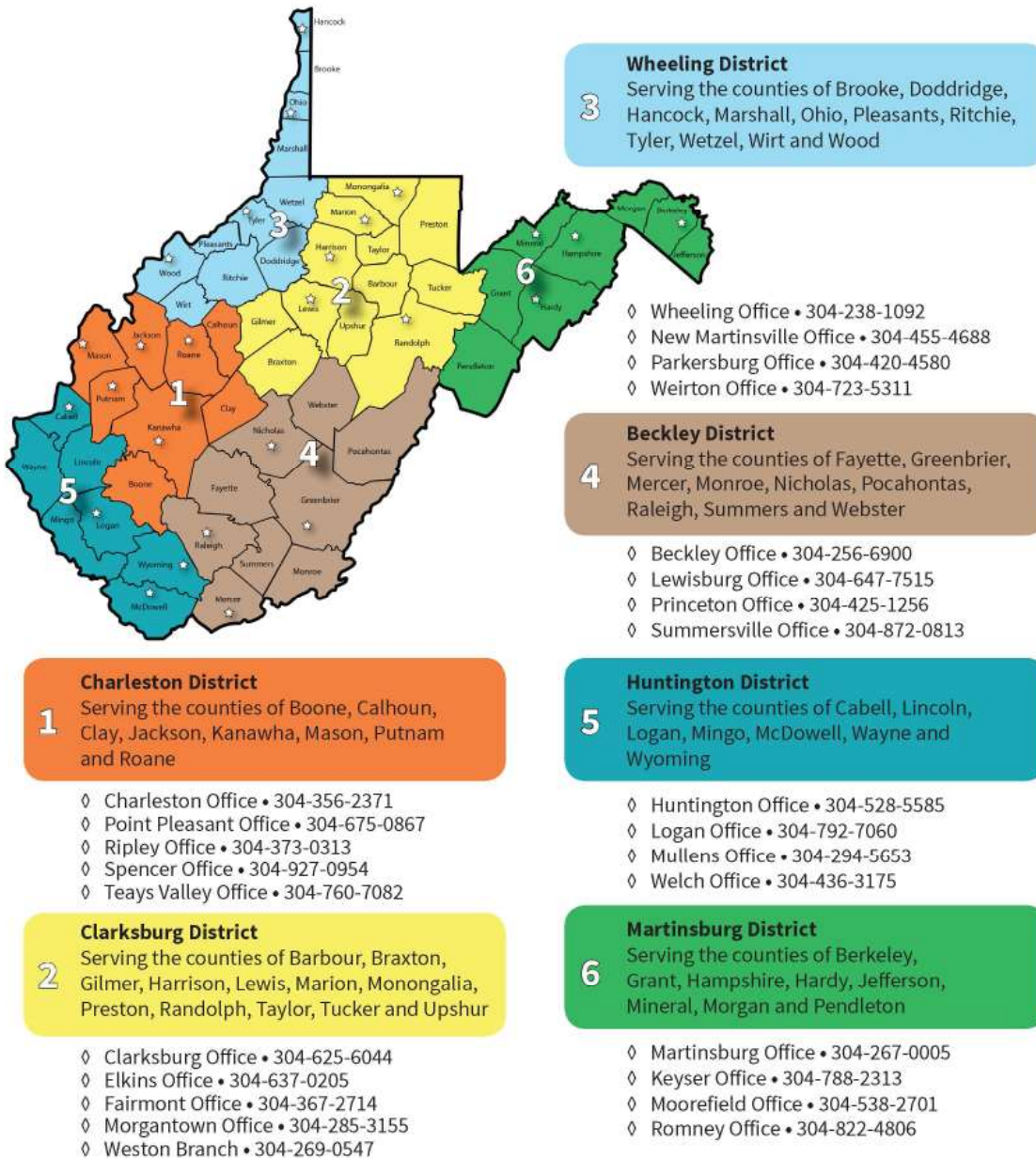
Designated State Entity

The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services is the “Designated State Entity” to receive both the Part B funds from the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living, US Department of Health and Human Services and the State IL Services funds. All of the funds are granted to the WIN to provide services.



West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services

1-800-642-8207 • DRSQuestions@wv.gov • wvdrs.org





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