



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2019 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

A Message from the WVSILC Chairperson

On behalf of the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), I am pleased to present our Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020.

I think we can all say this has been an unusual year so far. When we were setting goals for 2020 and working on our calendars, we never thought about how the next few months would affect us!

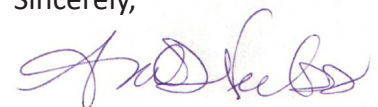
The big item agenda on the WVSILC calendar for the year was the completion of the new State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for the years 2021-2023 that was due to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) by June 30th. Fortunately for those of us who fly by the seat of our pants a lot, Ann McDaniel, the WVSILC Executive Director had a time line all mapped out and kept the rest of us in line with her schedule! I am pleased to say that in all the years I have assisted with the development of SPILs every three years, that I believe this is one of the best that we have ever done. I hope you will take the time to review it and see how you can become a part of the West Virginia independent living movement for these next three years! And in keeping with Ann's excellent time line, our new SPIL was submitted on June 3, 2020!

The Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) scheduled for June, 2020 has been postponed twice and is now scheduled for June, 2022, primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the YLF, youth with disabilities will be trained and educated about the independent living movement, disability pride and, advocating for themselves. Because the center for independent living have been conducting self-advocacy training for youth transitioning out of school, we are hopeful several of them would like to continue their pursuit of self-advocacy and want to attend. We already have several youth members involved with the WVSILC and they continue to attend trainings and conferences and actively work to continue the mission of the WVSILC as well as creating a plan for youth programs.

The COVID-19 pandemic, that has sent all our worlds into a tail spin, has affected the WVSILC - both the staff and the council members. The staff is working from home. They have their phones, faxes, copiers and other necessary equipment set up to be accessed from their homes to the office. This helps provide a seamless effort to continuing with their many duties. And SILC meetings and committee meetings are being held virtually - part of the "new normal!"

And the SILC continues its work to ensure West Virginians with disabilities have access to community-based resources that promote personal choice and facilitate the achievement of their independent living goals!

Sincerely,



Anne W. Weeks, Chairperson

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2020 West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council

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.

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.

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

Values - The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council is committed to the following values: freedom of choice; diversity; respect for others; quality of life; equality; excellence; fiscal responsibility; self-reliance and self-sufficiency; and inclusion.

Council Composition - The Governor appointed Council is composed of thirty-one (31) individuals, twenty-four (24) voting members nominated by the Council after an application and review process, and seven (7) ex-officio, non-voting members representing various state agencies and/or providers. A majority of the council members are individuals with disabilities who are not employed by any state agency or center for independent living. The voting council members serve as the board of directors of the WVSILC, Inc. 501(c)3 non-profit. All policies and decisions governing the activities and operations of the SILC are made by the Board. ■

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) 2020 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).

Because the new SPIL instrument was not implemented prior to the expiration of the 2017-2019 SPIL, ILA provided state networks guidance on the process to draft and submit for approval a FY2020 SPIL. State networks had the option to make either (a) substantial and material changes or (b) technical amendments to the FY2017-FY2019 SPIL in order to develop a FY2020 SPIL.

The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council, along with the Centers for Independent Living in the state chose to submit a technical amendment to extend the 2017-2019 State Plan for Independent Living through fiscal year 2020.

Mission: To ensure all West Virginians are valued equally and participate fully in their communities.

Goal 1 – People with disabilities have access to the community-based resources they need.

Objective 1.1 People with disabilities outside a CIL’s service area will have access to independent living information and IL skills training on line through the virtual center for independent living.

Progress:

The virtual CIL continues to be available to individuals outside a CIL’s service area and to any individual to who elects to access the services provided. During the report period 341,259 visitors to the virtual CIL visited 625,964 of the pages on the site.

1.2 People with disabilities will receive the necessary services to remain in their homes, thus diverting them from an institution.

Progress:

CILs assisted 111 (58 of whom were diverted or transitioned from nursing homes) individuals with disabilities to stay in their own homes through the Community Living Services Program.

Objective 1.3 CIL’s will continue to provide necessary core services within their service areas and serve people with disabilities who are not covered by Part C service area based on capacity.

Progress:

West Virginia CILs continue to provide core services. All CILs in West Virginia receive Part C funds and therefore report on services provided directly to ACL.

Objective 1.4 People with disabilities will be served by (and/or bring attention to disservice of) Medicaid Waiver services.

Progress:

West Virginia CILs continue to assist people with disabilities in applying for Medicaid services. SILC Executive Director is a member of the WV Medicaid Coalition conducting systems advocacy to expand access to Medicaid services.

Objective 1.5 Consumers have access to the health care they need.

Progress:

Systems advocacy by West Virginia CILs & SILC in partnership with other disability organizations resulted in sufficient funding to eliminate all Waiver waiting lists.

Objective 1.6 Emergency managers and people with disabilities have access to disability specific planning

and preparedness resources.

Progress:

CILs are active in local emergency preparedness planning and response and CILs & SILC have established on-going relationships with state emergency response and Homeland Security to ensure people with disabilities are considered in all emergency/disaster preparedness and response. SILC sponsors FEMA Partners calls, activated again during the pandemic, to coordinate resources and response to people with disabilities. Disability specific planning and preparedness resources received by SILC are shared with CILs and all partners and stakeholders.

Objective 1.7 Disability inclusion is built into all aspects of emergency management.

Progress:

CILs and SILC participate in Access and Functional Needs Work Group to ensure disability inclusion is built into emergency management.

Objective 1.8 The WV CILs and the SILC will collaborate to conduct systems advocacy to improve availability of and access to community-based resources for people with disabilities.

Progress:

West Virginia CILs and the SILC continue to collaborate on systems advocacy, working with other partners to reduce or eliminate waiting lists, ensure the needs of people with disabilities are considered and the rights of people with disabilities are protected.

Goal 2 – Independent Living services are available and operate efficiently.

Objective 2.1 CIL directors will meet quarterly to provide each other with technical assistance, develop advocacy strategies, assist with problem solving and share resources for efficient service delivery.

Progress:

WV CIL directors met quarterly, providing each other with technical assistance and sharing strategies and resources to improve service provision and efficiency. Consumer satisfaction surveys indicated a high level of satisfaction among individuals with disabilities receiving services from CILs.

Objective 2.2 WV CILs are in compliance with the Federal Standards and Assurances for centers for independent living, and WVCIL peer reviews indicate compliance with all 6 of the Standards and Assurances in Section 725 of the Act.

Progress:

All West Virginia CILs use CIL Suite to track compliance with the Standards & Assurances and to measure implementation of their work plans. All WV CILs receive Part C funds and therefore compliance is monitored by ACL.

Goal 3 – All West Virginians with disabilities have access to a CIL.

Objective 3.1 All CILs in West Virginia meet the Federal Standards and Assurances for centers for independent living.

Progress:

All WV CILs receive Part C funds and therefore compliance is monitored by ACL.

Objective 3.2 A Center for Independent Living line item is established in the State budget by September 30, 2019, to provide funding for the operation of CILs that comply with the West Virginia Independent Living Act and with the Standards and Assurances in Sec. 725 of the Act.

Progress:

West Virginia CILs and the SILC continue to educate legislators and the Governor about the need for additional CILs and about the SPIL Design for a Statewide Network of CILs and the resources needed for full implementation.

The WV SPIL for 2021-2023 was developed, made available to the public for a 30-day comment period, approved by the SILC and CILs, and submitted to ACL on June 3, 2020. Communication was received on October 5, 2020 from ACL requiring some corrections to the submitted SPIL. The SPIL Team made non-substantive revisions, the revised draft was shared with the SILC, CILs, and DSE, signatures secured, and submitted to ACL. Approval of the WV 2021-2023 was received on December 11, 2020.

The complete SPIL may be found at www.wvsilc.org. ■



Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living

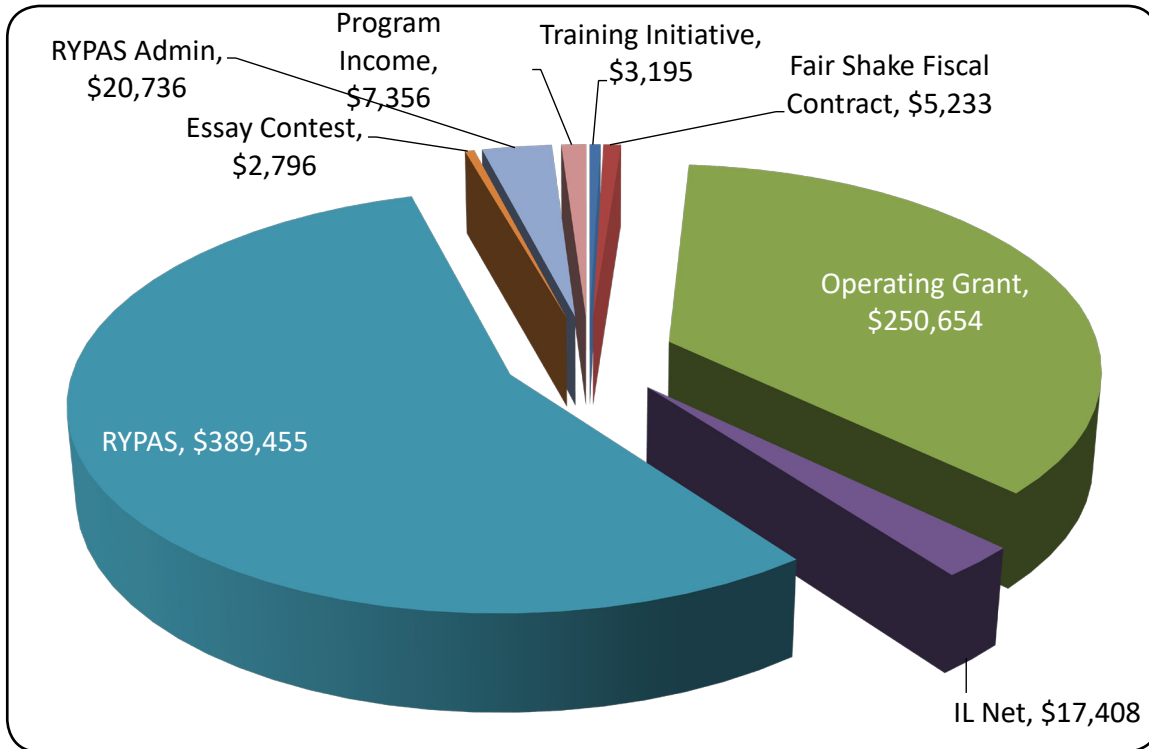


WVSILC Members

Anne Weeks, Chair Huntington	Mark Fordyce, Vice-Chair Charlton Heights
Ardella Cottrill, Secretary Fairmont	Beverley Jones, Treasurer Hurricane
Genette Eltringham Weirton	Darla Ervin Morgantown
Joyce Floyd, Member-at-Large Elkins	Lynsay Frye Paden City
Scott Gossard Petersburg	Sandy Haberbosch Shinnston
Brenda Lamkin Buckhannon	Adrienne Michaud Wheeling
Cara Price, Member-at-Large Philippi	Nichole Roberts Hinton
Emily Robinson Grantsville	Marissa Sanders St. Albans
Amee Shah Vienna	Kevin Smith Parkersburg
Melissa Southall Parkersburg	Molly Spence Scott Depot
Bob Waybright Webster Springs	Christine Wilcox Morgantown
Grace Wine Orlando	Ray Woods WVSRC
Ex-Officio Members	
Elliott Birkhead Bureau for Behavior Health	Carissa Davis Olmstead Coordinator
Dawn Embrey-King Department of Education	Tina Martinez WVARF
Robert Roswall Bureau of Senior Services	Richard Ward Division of Rehabilitation Services
Michelle Wilshire WV Housing Development Fund	

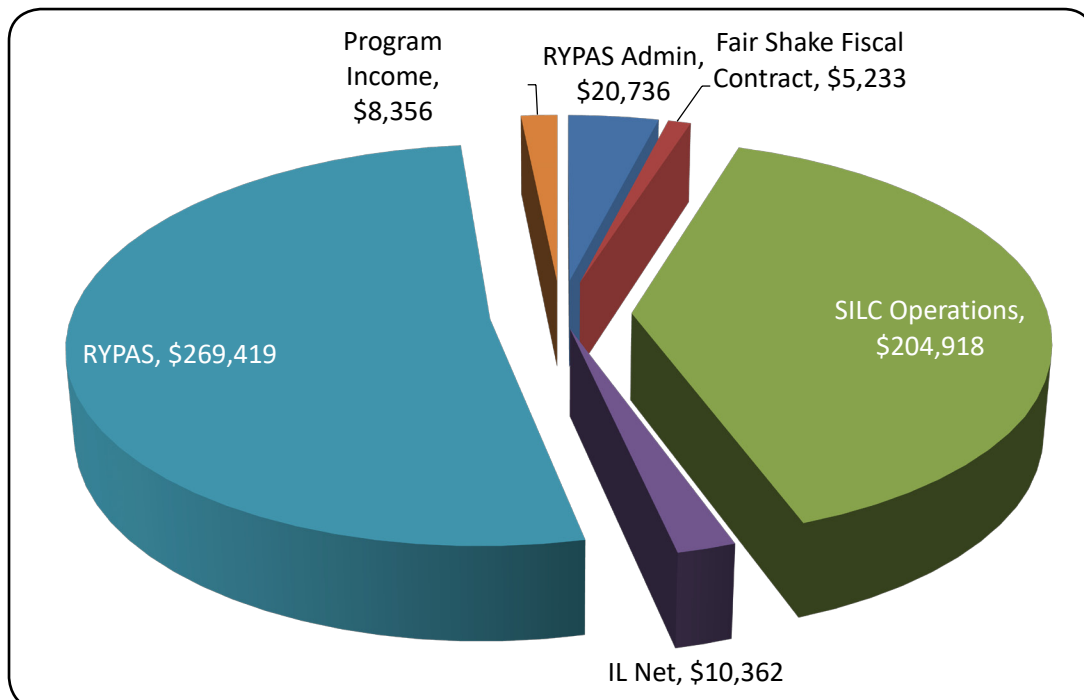
Financial Information

2020 Resources



Total Resources: \$696,833

2020 Expenditures

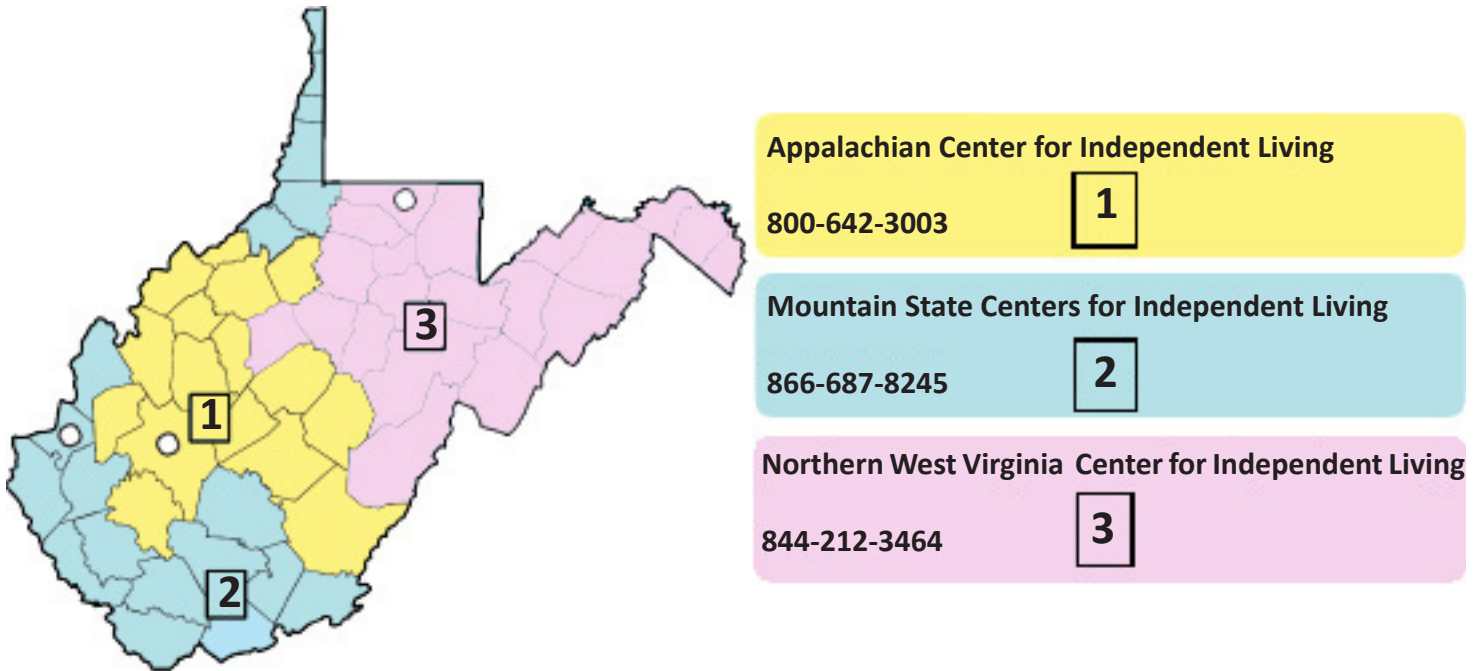


Total Expenditures: \$519,024

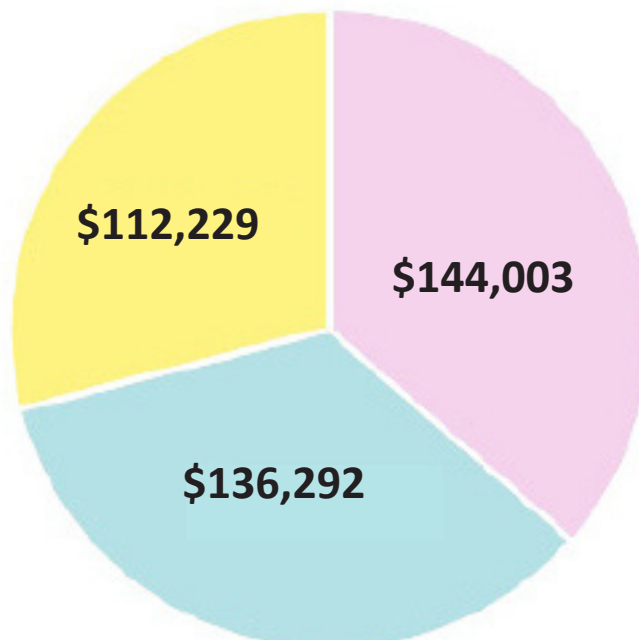
Community Living Services Program

The Community Living Services Program (CLSP) is a statewide program managed by the West Virginia Centers for Independent Living with state funds from the Independent Living Services line item. 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.



FY 2020 State Funding = \$392,524 for CLSP Services



FY 2020 Performance Highlights

- 111 consumers completed CLSP services, which allowed them to successfully remain in their homes.
- 58 of the consumers completing their goals were either diverted or transitioned from nursing homes.
- \$2,901 was the average cost per consumer to complete their goals.
- 481 consumers were on the waiting list as of June 30, 2020.
- According to Genworth 2019 Cost of Care Survey, the cost for a semi-private room in a nursing home has a median annual rate of \$128,480 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 over \$7.5 million in FY 2020.

FY 2020 Services

Assistive Devices and Durable Medical Equipment = 105

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

Rehabilitation Technology Services = 52

- 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 32 year old woman with multiple disabilities had been unable to attend to her own basic personal hygiene needs. The Appalachian Center for Independent Living provided bathroom modifications through the CLSP Program to enable her to safely access her bathroom.

A 71 year old woman with cerebral palsy transitioned back into her apartment from a nursing home after more than a year. Through community services and support from Mountain State Centers for Independent Living, she is able to reside in her own apartment with personal care services and daily living aids, including a customized wheelchair, so she can participate in community activities.

An 89 year old female with very limited mobility due to previous injuries from falls was unable to independently enter or exit her own home. Upon the death of her husband, her primary caregiver, it seemed inevitable that she would have to move to a nursing home. After contacting the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living, she received home modifications that made it possible for her to remain in her home through the CLSP Program.

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 Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and the Designated State Entity, which receive the federal Independent Living Funds.

West Virginia CILs

The CILs have 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

Elk Office Center
4710 Chimney Dr.
Charleston, WV 25302
(304) 965-0376

Mountain State CIL

821 Fourth Ave.
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

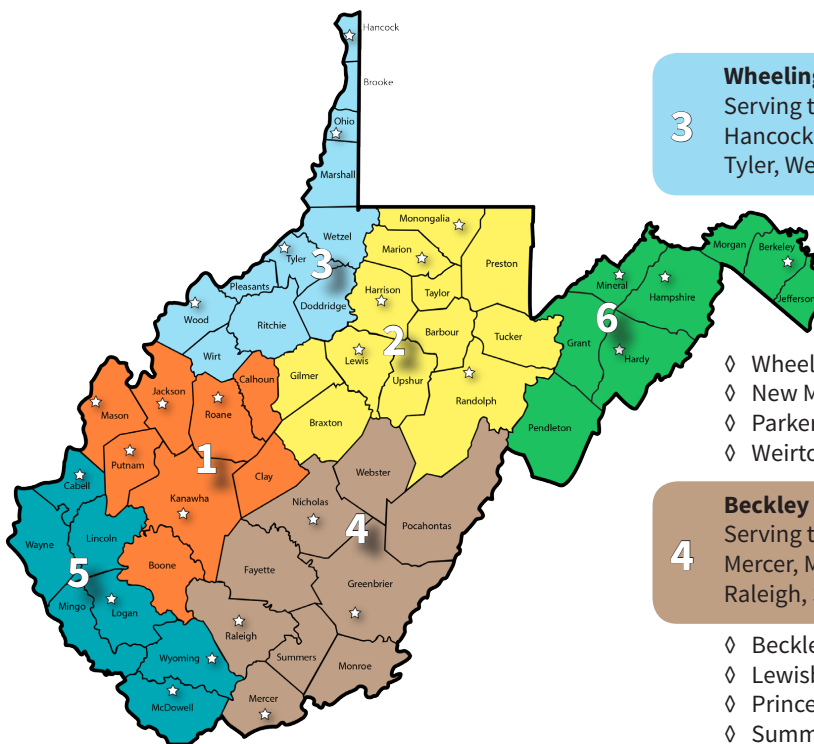
Designated State Entity

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



West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services

304-356-2060 • 1-800-642-8207 • wvdrs.org



1 Charleston District
Serving the counties of Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Mason, Putnam and Roane

- ◇ Charleston Office • 304-356-2371
- ◇ Point Pleasant Office • 304-675-0867
- ◇ Ripley Office • 304-373-0313
- ◇ Spencer Office • 304-927-0954
- ◇ Teays Valley Office • 304-760-7082

2 Clarksburg District
Serving the counties of Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker and Upshur

- ◇ Clarksburg Office • 304-625-6044
- ◇ Elkins Office • 304-637-0205
- ◇ Fairmont Office • 304-367-2714
- ◇ Morgantown Office • 304-285-3155
- ◇ Weston Branch • 304-269-0547

3 Wheeling District
Serving the counties of Brooke, Doddridge, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, Pleasants, Ritchie, Tyler, Wetzel, Wirt and Wood

- ◇ Wheeling Office • 304-238-1092
- ◇ New Martinsville Office • 304-455-0912
- ◇ Parkersburg Office • 304-420-4580
- ◇ Weirton Office • 304-723-5311

4 Beckley District
Serving the counties of Fayette, Greenbrier, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Summers and Webster

- ◇ Beckley Office • 304-256-6900
- ◇ Lewisburg Office • 304-647-7515
- ◇ Princeton Office • 304-425-1256
- ◇ Summersville Office • 304-872-0813

5 Huntington District
Serving the counties of Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, McDowell, Wayne and Wyoming

- ◇ Huntington Office • 304-528-5585
- ◇ Logan Office • 304-792-7060
- ◇ Mullens Office • 304-294-5653
- ◇ Welch Office • 304-436-3175

6 Martinsburg District
Serving the counties of Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton

- ◇ Martinsburg Office • 304-267-0005
- ◇ Keyser Office • 304-788-2313
- ◇ Moorefield Office • 304-538-2701
- ◇ Romney Office • 304-822-3957

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.



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