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Alaska State Independent Living Council (SILC)



Tony Knowles, Governor

Independent Living for Alaskans with Disabilities

Annual Report

Federal fiscal year, 1999
(Oct. 1, 1998 – Sept.30, 1999)

Mission Statement

The Alaska Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is committed to promoting a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and systems advocacy, in order to maximize leadership, empowerment, independence, productivity and to support full inclusion and integration of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

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State Independent Living Council (SILC)

Background:

The federal Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992 required all states that accept federal independent living funds to establish a Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) appointed by the Governor. The Alaska SILC was established by Executive Order in 1993, then by statute in 1995 (AS 47.80.030). For administrative purposes, the SILC is located in the State Department of Education. The Council's purposes are set forth in this statute as well as 29 U.S.C. 796(d), and are meant to maximize the State's receipt of federal financial assistance for independent living services and centers of independent living for residents with significant disabilities.

Duties:

- Jointly, with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), develop the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) and evaluate the implementation of the Plan;
- Develop a plan for the provision of resources, including staff and personnel, that may be necessary to carry out the council's function with funds from the federal government and other public and private sources; and
- Coordinate the Council's activities with other state agencies that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues under federal law.

SILC Members and Council Budget:

In FY 99 the SILC had, on average, 10 members. Currently there are 12 SILC members, a majority of whom experience a disability, including physical, cognitive and sensory disabilities. The Council is minimally staffed having one full-time Executive Director hired by the SILC itself and a half-time Administrative Clerk. The budget for the Council in FY 99, including "personnel", "travel", "contractual", "commodities" and "equipment", was \$148,067, down by over 5% from FY 98. The budget approved for the SILC in FY 2000 is \$150,000. All funds used for Council activities in FY 99 and FY 00 come from federal sources through the state Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; not independent living funds. ***It has always been and continues to be the SILC's intent that all IL funds, both from the State and federal government, be used for the direct provision of services by Centers for Independent Living and Specialized Service Providers, and not for administrative functions.***

Highlights of SILC Activities in FY 1999:

- **Redesigning our PCA Program** -- The SILC's primary accomplishment for the year was helping to redesign the states Medicaid funded personal care attendant program. The SILC Vice-Chair is the chair of a broad-based group of policy-makers, providers and consumers called the PCA Design Team. With the Division of Senior Services and the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, we hosted a PCA Summit in Anchorage in November, 1998. Over 80 people attended the summit, in which the principles and tenets of a new "self-directed" program were discussed and debated. The Summit helped refine a plan, which is scheduled to begin July 1, 2000.
- **Consumer Satisfaction Survey** - The SILC was able to accomplish a major consumer satisfaction survey statewide. Consumers of IL services gave independent living providers very high marks overall, with 91% of respondents claiming they "received quality services" from the provider.
- **SILC Website** - The SILC finished the development of our first website with major links to IL services and information throughout the state and country. The website can be accessed at: < www.labor.state.ak.us/silc/index.htm >.
- **Working Disabled/Medicaid Buy-in Program** - The SILC saw the implementation of the rules for our State's Medicaid Buy-in Program for the "working disabled" on July 1, 1999. To date, over 30 persons with disabilities have accessed the Medicaid Buy-In program.
- **Independent Living Awards** - The SILC held its third annual "Independent Living Awards", recognizing the work of outstanding personal care attendants, independent living providers, and consumers throughout the state.
- **IL Net Award** - The Alaska SILC was recognized by the national IL Net Project in recognition of it's exemplary advocacy efforts, specifically our role in planning and implementing the Alaska Disability Policy Summit in 1997.
- **Region X Award** - One of our Center directors was recognized by the National Council on Independent Living as an outstanding advocate for Region X, which includes Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Centers for Independent Living and Specialized Service Providers

Who are CILs and SSPs: The real work of independent living is performed by Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Specialized Service Providers (SSPs). These providers are funded with a mix of federal, state, local and private resources. Attached is a list of the FY 99 funded CILs and SSPs. All CILs and SSPs funded with federal and/or state dollars must meet specific criteria in order to receive funding. For instance, they must be:

- Consumer controlled (i.e. a majority of the Board and staff are persons with disabilities);
- Community based (i.e. they are based in the community they are operating in and are responsive to the needs of that community);
- Cross-disability (i.e. they are willing and ready to serve all consumers who call or come through the door, regardless of their disability); and
- Provide the four "Core Independent Living Services" which are as follows:
 - (1) Information and referral;
 - (2) Independent living skills training;
 - (3) Peer counseling, including cross-disability peer counseling; and
 - (4) Individual and systems advocacy.

In addition, CILs and SSPs provide an array of other independent living services in Alaska. Below is a list of these services with the number of persons who received these services in FY 99.

Individuals Served by CILs and SSPs in FY 99 by Type and Number Served

Information and Referral	4491	Vocational	205
Advocacy	1542	Legal Assistance	142
Transportation	952	Family Support	104
IL Skills Training	603	Personal Assistance Services	96
Individual Counseling	562	Preventative Services	73
Rehabilitation Technology	531	Mobility Training	59
Communication	529	Children's Services	44
Recreational	455	Youth Services	32
Home Modifications	339	Physical Rehabilitation	16
Peer Counseling	215	Prostheses & Other	3
		Other	145

Investing in Independent Living

Independent Living Funding & Consumers Served:

The attached table on independent living resources shows that of the \$3.74 million invested in CILs and SSPs in FY 99, the State of Alaska invested \$1.45 million, or 38%, as compared to 37% by the federal government, 25% by private sources (including fees, fundraising, in-kind donations, etc), and less than 1% by local governments. The accompanying chart shows that **2,122 consumers were served by CILs and SSPs in FY 99, a 19% increase over FY 98.** This increase in consumers served occurred even though all public funding for these services has been static for several years. The average cost per consumer served in FY 99 was \$1,764. The State's investment averaged \$670 per consumer.

Are CILs and SSPs Saving the State Millions Each Year?

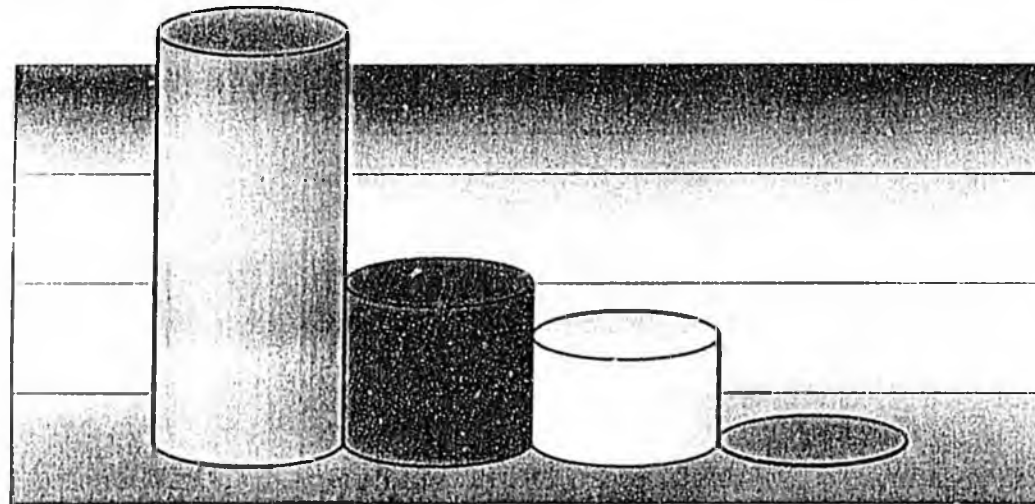
In FY 99 the average annual Medicaid cost of home and community based services for adults with physical disabilities on a waiver was just over \$14,000/person. The same levels of institutional care for a typical waiver recipient cost, on average, just over \$90,000/person, a difference of \$76,000.

In FY 99, 18 individuals were successfully relocated from nursing homes or other institutional settings to community based living arrangements by Alaskan CILs and SSPs, saving the State more than \$1.37 million in potential costs to Medicaid. CILs and SSPs diverted another 165 individuals who were at risk of going into an institution, saving the State another \$12.5 million in additional costs.

Therefore, the State Independent Living Council recommends to the Governor and to the Alaska Legislature that the State continue its investment in independent living services at the current level.

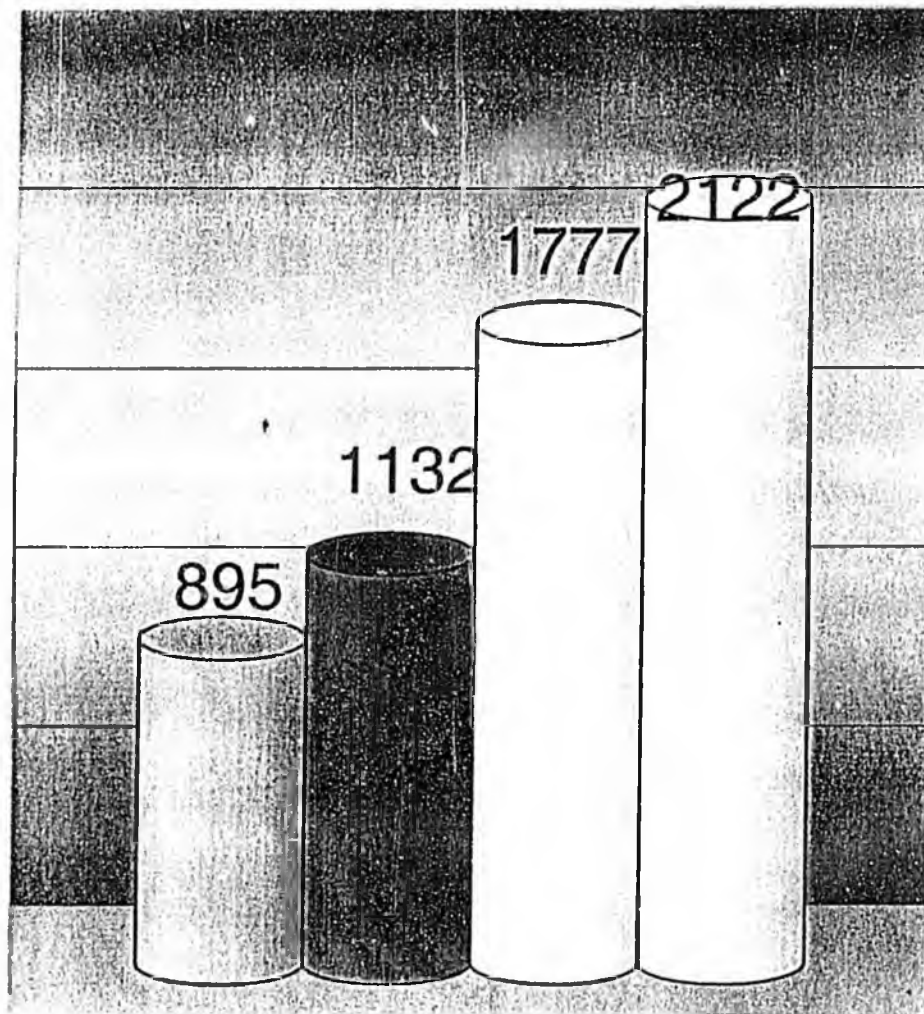
The SILC will also work with our IL providers in seeking out other resources from both the federal government and private entities so they can continue to offer their services to more and more Alaskans with disabilities.

Independent Living Resources FY '99 Total Funding (\$ 3,742,155)



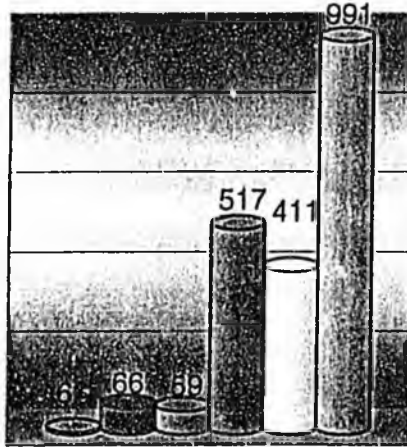
- Federal Funding (\$ 1,394,516)
- State Funding (\$1,446,945)
- Private Funding (\$ 966,846)
- Local Government Funding (\$ 11,200)

Total Number of Consumers Served by CIL's & SSP's



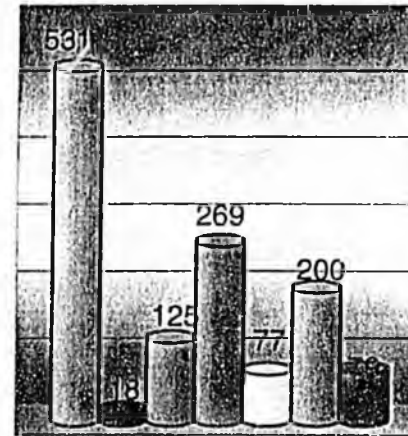
- FY '96 (895)
- FY '97 (1132)
- FY '98 (1777)
- FY '99 (2122)

Consumers Served - Age



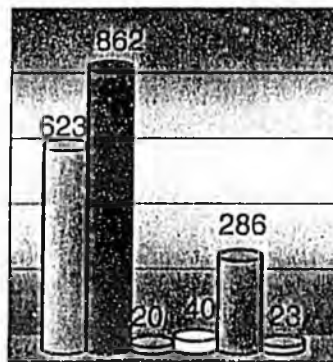
- Under 6 yrs (6)
- 6-17 yrs (66)
- 18-22 yrs (59)
- 23-54 yrs (517)
- 55 & over (411)
- Unknown (991)

Consumers Served - Disability



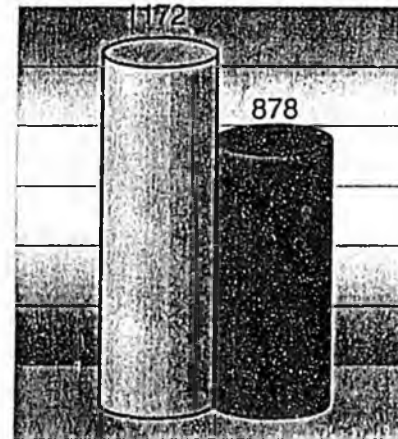
- Physical (531)
- Unknown (18)
- Hearing (125)
- Vision (269)
- Multiple (77)
- Cognitive (200)
- Mental/Emotional (79)

Consumers Served Race or Ethnicity



- White (623)
- Unknown (862)
- Hispanic (20)
- Black (40)
- Alaska Native (286)
- Asian or Pacific Islander (23)

Consumers Served - Gender



- Female (1172)
- Male (878)

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Linda Bjorge

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