# **Analysis of FY2019-2020 California ILC Program Performance Reports (PPR)**

# Goal: To determine whether 2017-2020 SPIL goals have been met and collect information useful to the SILC in planning the next State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

# This report covers the federal fiscal year period of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

# **Background and Introduction**

Independent Living Centers (ILCs) are consumer controlled, community based, cross disability (i.e., any disability or multiple disabilities), nonresidential private nonprofit organizations designed by and for the local community and operated by a majority of individuals with disabilities. Services are provided to individuals of all ages. Independent living services are driven by the philosophy that people with disabilities have the same civil rights and control over choices in their own lives as people without disabilities. ILCs work to eliminate many of the attitudinal, physical, and communication barriers faced by people with disabilities as they work towards independence and full integration into their communities. Today there are 28 ILCs with 61 service locations throughout the state that offer Independent Living services to Californians with disabilities.

Twenty (20) ILCs, or approximately 71%, submitted Program Performance Report (PPR) data to the SILC. This analysis does not include information for 8 ILCs, which could significantly impact the numbers reported below.

Data collection and submission was complicated due to the Coronavirus-19 Pandemic. While the PPR report was due on December 30, 2020 for the previous year, the ACL does not yet have a mechanism for the reports to be officially submitted. ILCs have been asked to complete their reports by the due date so that when ACL is ready, they can easily upload their data in a timely manner into the new system.

Typically, the ILCs submit PPR reports directly to the ACL with a copy going to the SILC, per language in the Rehabilitation Act. ILCs complete a separate PPR report for each Title VII Part C grant that they have. While some ILCs only have one (1) VIIC grant, others have multiple grants. This year, ILCs were allocated additional funds through the CARES Act in response to the Coronavirus-19 Pandemic, and were asked to complete a separate PPR report to account for those dollars spent. In many cases the ILCs also shared these reports as they help to give us a more complete picture of how funding is being used in the state per the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). CARES Act PPRs will be reviewed separately and data from those reports is not included in this analysis.

# **Key highlights, services, activities, and achievements during FY2019 include**:

* California ILCs report providing services to 19,737 unduplicated consumers.
* California consumers successfully accomplished 39,741 established goals; each individual goal increasing independence, integration, and full inclusion in society.
* The total state and federal funds awarded which support the provision of these services was $13,203,000.
* California ILCs generated an additional $7,212,107 (private resources) to expand their services.
* The most requested ILC services:
  + Information and Referral;
  + Independent Living Skills;
  + Advocacy and Legal Services;
  + Peer Counseling;
  + Housing;
  + Assistive Technology; and
  + Recreation.
* 10,464 (53%) Females and 9,082 (46%) males were served.
* Consumers served by ethnicity:
  + 34.7% (6859) White;
  + 30.2% (5968) Hispanic;
  + 22.9% (4531) Black;
  + 6.1% (1204) Asian;
  + 2.8% (553) 2 or more races;
  + 2.4% (491) Unknown;
  + 1.1% (229) American Indian; and
  + 0.5% (103) Hawaiian.
* Consumers served by age group:
  + 51.4% (10144) were ages 25-59;
  + 35.3% (6966) were ages 60 or over;
  + 8.0% (1578) aged 14-24;
  + 3.7% (731) were ages 5-14; and
  + 0.4% (79) of consumers served were under age 5.
* Consumers served by disability type:
  + 33.5% (6621) identify as having a physical disability;
  + 30.4% (6007) identify as experiencing multiple disabilities;
  + 21.7% (4280) identify as having a mental/emotional disability;
  + 6.0% (1184 identify as having a cognitive disability;
  + 5.2% (1023) identify as having a vision disability;
  + 3.2% (638) identify as having “other” types of disability; and
  + 3.2% (635) identify as having a hearing disability.
* 10 ILCs are currently utilizing the SPIL transition grant.
  + 86 of 107, or 80.4%, consumers successfully met the Transition goals they set;
  + 40 of 47, or 85.1%, consumers successfully met the Diversion goals they set;
  + The total amount of SPIL funding for these activities disbursed was $279,140, with an average per consumer expenditure of $1,899.
* ILCs spent more than 7,948 hours addressing systems change advocacy.
* ILCs spent more than 13,264 hours providing education and outreach about IL services in the community.
  + The activities which are counted toward these hours include providing technical assistance to local businesses in website or physical accessibility or reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities, providing information at public events such as chamber mixers, educational institutions, resource or employment fairs, providing information to the community by speaking at social clubs, social events or local businesses about accessibility, core services and IL philosophy.
* ILCs spent more than 7,320 hours collaborating with other organizations and agencies.
  + partner organizations examples are CFILC, IHSS, County Mental Health, Vocational Rehabilitation, homeless shelters, Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and disaster preparedness organizations to ensure accessibility to a full range of services for people with a wide range of disabilities.
* CA ILCs reported a variety of challenges they experienced which may have prevented them from providing services as they planned at the beginning of the year. Challenges mentioned were:
  + Coronavirus-19 Pandemic (transitioning to remote services, ability to provide technology to all staff, limited guidance on CARES Act funding, and changing needs of consumers);
  + Lack of affordable, accessible, and available housing throughout the state;
  + Limited access to accessible transportation services in the community;
  + Limited funding of ILCs;
  + Changing staffing of ILCs;
  + Need to address Emergency Preparedness of consumers and ILC;
  + Addressing social isolation of consumers; and
  + Lack of digital access in community.

# **Observations and Recommendations**

* The SILC should work annually to collect PPR data from the ILCs, with a goal of receiving PPR’s as required per the Rehabilitation Act from all 28 ILCs in the state. This will allow the SILC staff to do a comparison from year to year going forward and will better help us determine if SPIL goals are being met, or whether there are trends to be aware of.
  + SILC members might facilitate this by building relationships with ILC Eds throughout the year and to encourage submission of PPR report to SILC annually.
* CA ILCs reported robust services and activities throughout the year. The data the SILC gathered through review of the PPRs demonstrate that people with disabilities across our state benefit from the services and activities of the ILCs and offered through SPIL funding.
* Having freedom of choice, avoiding institutionalization, and having the experiences of living, working, learning, and playing in the community are often made possible only because of the services and activities provided by SPIL funded activities (Tier Augmentations, Transition/Diversion Fund, Systems Change grant).
* Both the DOR and SILC members should make a concerted effort to promote the use of the transition/diversion fund to ILCs and to gather information about why they may not already be utilizing the funding with the purpose of increasing transitions throughout the state.
* Transition/diversions often involve home modification. The state IL Network in collaboration with the SPIL work groups might consider adding a separate SPIL goal in the next SPIL for home modifications/physical accessibility and devoting Title VIIB funding for this purpose.
* Demographics across the state vary, but statewide outreach efforts should be targeted at reaching more people who experience vision and hearing disabilities, as well as consumers under age 24 and people who identify as Asian.
  + The state IL Network in collaboration might choose to utilize funds remaining from last year’s grant for outreach per the current SPIL.
  + Individual ILCs do their own outreach, but CA is lacking in materials about Independent Living which might be used not just by ILCs, but also by SILC, Partners, and stakeholders:
    - Could be used to educate about IL services;
    - To advertise to specific demographics;
    - To promote services statewide; and
    - To educate for future funding to IL Network.