

SILC Executive Director Report – March 17, 2021

MRS CIL Contracting Training

On February 2, 2021, MRS(DSE) held an online training on CIL Agreements and Funding Sources and invited SILC to attend. For those Council members who were unable to attend, the PowerPoint is included in the Council meeting packet. The training was very informative and helped to explain why Part B funds are not always expended in the year in which ACL grants the funds. CIL funding is made up of three pots of money, two of which are state funds and the third being Part B. Unexpended state funds cannot be carried over to the next fiscal year where Part B funds may be carried over for one year. The training helped to inform the discussion between MRS, SILC leadership and ACL on a joint call regarding timely expenditure of Michigan's Part B funds.

Joint MRS/SILC Leadership Call with ACL Regarding Part B Expenditures

On February 23, 2021, SILC leadership joined MRS leadership on a joint call requested by ACL regarding a no cost extension on Part B funds from 2019 and an extension for 2020 funds. ACL wanted to learn more about Michigan's Part B expenditure process and the plan for timely expenditures of Part B funds going forward. Several factors were reviewed and ACL gained a greater understanding of how Michigan prioritizes the three pots of CIL state core funding based on each source's ability to be, or not be, carried over to the next fiscal year. The current strategy gives the maximum protection of all CIL state core funding sources.

Future Collaborative Strategies on Timely Expenditure of Part B Funds

Based on the February 23, 2021 joint call with ACL, SILC leadership will begin collaboratively exploring with the CIL Network strategies for maximizing the timely expenditure of Part B funds within the year in which they are awarded.

SILC Activities and the SPIL

The SILC is sometimes approached by partners/outside groups and asked to support/advocate for/sign letters of support for various disability initiatives or emerging disability issues that are not in our current SPIL. For instance, we were recently asked the following:

- To join an advocacy work group to address subminimum wage interns of the possibility of the federal minimum wage going up. Subminimum wage was a goal in our last SPIL, but not our current SPIL.
- To advocate for people with disabilities to be prioritized for COVID vaccinations. This is not in our current SPIL.
- To partner with and provide a letter of support to a nonprofit group for a grant request to Michigan Humanities to compile a history of disability culture in our state, and its implications for the present and future.

Some Council members have expressed concern that SILC is limited in our activities by the SPIL and does not allow flexibility for responding to emerging disability issues such as COVID.

I reached out to ILRU for technical assistance and asked how the SILC may respond to requests from partners and outside group requests for support or advocacy for issues that are not in our current SPIL. ILRU responded that unless we are performing a statutory duty or authority in the

SPIL, all the SILC's work must flow from the SPIL. On March 10, 2021, the SILC Chair and I engaged in a technical assistance phone call with ACL on this same question. We were advised to look at all language in the SPIL, including the mission, to see if the requests fit with or have support from the language. We will be requesting on going technical assistance from both ILRU and ACL as matters arise.

SILC Expenditure of Past Excess Funds Received from BSBP

I am pleased to inform you that as of February 2021, SILC has expended all past excess BSBP funds and we requested reimbursement of \$3,022 in February 2021 from our current contract. This resolves last year's audit finding.

IMPART Alliance - Initial Meetings (SPIL Goal 1, Objective 1.2 – Personal Care Attendants)

Appointments – Teddy Dorsette

Due to time commitments, Teddy Dorsette stepped down from the SILC effective February 24, 2021. I am working with the Appointments Office to expedite the appointment of a new Council member. We wish Teddy the best in all his future endeavors and hope that he will consider reapplying to the Council once his schedule permits.

PPR/704 Report

The joint draft SILC/DSE PPR/704 report was prepared in December 2020 by MSR and the SILC Executive Director. ACL has suspended the use of their submission website due to accessibility issues and asked that the reports be held until further notice. Once the report is submitted to ACL, it will be shared with the Council.

Audit/990

The SILC Treasurer and SILC staff spent time going over the 990 together and requested several changes and enhancements that more accurately reflect the work of the SILC. The 990 and audit are being presented for your approval today.

Strategic Planning

SILC issued an RFP for strategic planning and received four proposals. A review team of three Council members and the Executive Director reviewed and ranked the proposals according to the evaluation criteria laid out in the RFP. On March 2, 2021 during the Executive Committee's public meeting, a contract was awarded to the Nonprofit Network in the amount of \$15,000. The plan will include statewide outreach, which is federally required of the SILC, and will be funded from the Outreach budget line item.

2017 – 2020 SPIL Monitoring Report - Final

The final 2017-2020 SPIL Monitoring Report with evaluation has been prepared and posted to the SILC website.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

SILC members are encouraged to participate in one national conference every three years. We will also offer lunch time trainings during our business meeting lunches. Based on our budget negotiations with the DSE and the state budget crisis, we are encouraging members to take

advantage of online training opportunities that do not involve out of state travel. Upcoming opportunities include:

- ILRU – SILC SPEak Monthly Peer Calls – Tracy can sign you up for email notifications of topics, dates and call-in information.
- ILRU Monthly Technical Assistance Office Hours Every Third Thursday from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EST– Drop in to “office hours”. Join Paula McElwee in her virtual office – two hours of questions, answers, and sharing ideas with each other. Any IL topic is welcome. There is no agenda, just sitting around in the office together and discussing any issues you bring to the table.
- ILRU.ORG is consistently conducting timely and relevant IL trainings which are posted on their website. You may access those trainings at any time through their on-demand archives.
- The NCIL (National Council on Independent Living) annual conference will be held virtually from July 19 – 30, 2021. More information may be found here [2021 Annual Conference on Independent Living \(ncil.org\)](https://www.ncil.org/2021-annual-conference-on-independent-living) If you are interested in participating, please contact Tracy and she will handle your registration.
- The 2021 SILC Congress in San Diego, CA will not be held this year due to COVID. A successful Congress is truly dependent on face-to-face interactions and peer relationship building. We are hopeful that the Congress will return next year.