# **FY2025-2027 SPIL Public Input Session February 21, 2024**

>> Great. Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for joining the Michigan Statewide Independent Living council virtual public hearing on the 2024-2027 state plan for independent living. I'm Steven lot, executive Director --

>> This is the interpreter. I have to interrupt. I can't hear you very well. You sound very muffled to me.

>> How about now?

>> That is so much better. Thank you.

>> I will keep this up close to me. I will start again. Thank you for joining the Michigan Statewide Independent Living council's virtual public hearing on the 2024-2027 state plan for independent living. My name is Steven lock, I'm executive Director and staff to council. This meeting is being recorded and close captioning and ASL interpretation is being provided. The Michigan SILC is a Governor appointed consumer controlled council that jointly develops a three year state plan for independent living, also known as the SPIL or the state plan. We jointly develop this with the centers for independent living in the state after public input from individuals with disabilities, stakeholders and the public. The SPIL establishes a blueprint for present and future independent living programs and services in Michigan and reflects our commitment to comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements during the three years covered by the plan. The Michigan SILC is conducting a survey to gather information about programs and services that provide support and opportunities for people who have disabilities to live independently in the community. The information collected will help to assess how those programs and services are meeting the needs of people who have disabilities living in Michigan. Results of the survey will provide Statewide Independent Living council with the information necessary to work with advocates and policy makers to create new initiatives and enhance existing services for Michiganders with disabilities. Your participation in the process is vital and we appreciate your time and consideration in completing this survey. The state wide independent living council needs to hear directly from people who have disabilities, their family members, friends, caregivers, and other stakeholders. The 2024 to 2027 SPIL time line is as follows. Between now and May 1 this year, the council will continue gathering public input into the state plan. Between May 1st and May 30th, we hope to have a draft SPIL complete and put out for public comment for 30 days. The SPIL is due to administration on community living which is SILC's Federal oversight entity, no later than June 30th of 2024. Along with participating in today's meeting you may also submit your comments by completing SILC's community needs assessment online survey. A link to the survey may be found at www.MISILC.org. You may also submit your comments via email to Tracy@MISILC.org. That is TRACY@MISILC.org. Are you may also mail comments to PO box 71 Middleville, Michigan, 49333. That is spelled MIDDLEVILLE. Or by calling toll free (833)808-7452. If you need accommodations to participate in this survey, please contact Tracy brown who is SILC Director of operations at the phone number that I just gave or the email that I just gave. To encourage orderly administration of this meeting and to minimize the possibility of any disruptions, this meeting will be conducted in accordance with two following protocols: The first one is the sole purpose of this meeting is to receive public input into the development of the 2024-2027 state plan for independent living. Number two, members of the public who desire to give their input will be given a single five-minute time period for each question to make their public comment. Members of the public or groups or organizations wishing to submit written or recorded comments may do so by providing their written or recorded comments to Tracy brown, SILC operations Director. We will go ahead and start with our questions, the same questions that are on the community needs assessment survey which is available on survey monkey. Go to SILC's website there is a popup when you first get to the website, that will lead you to the community needs assessment. We are taking comments through May 1 of 2024. The first we have is what barriers have you experienced or experiencing now that impact your ability to live independently in your community? Are there any members of the public who want to give public comment on this question? You can indicate by either just wanting to be recognized verbally or use the raised hand function on zoom at the bottom of your screen there is a button that says reactions and if you click on that, there is a raise hand function. Again, I would like to open up the floor to any members of the public who would like to give comments on the first question what barriers have you experienced or are experiencing now, that impact your ability to live independently in your community? Don't see any hands raised. Would anybody like to give public comment on the first question?

Renee, go ahead.

>> Hello. My name is Renee ECHOLS (phonetic) I work at disability network. I'm also blind. And I really see a lack of services for the blind and low vision community particularly in their local communities. I have experienced that myself as well with clients that I'm working with. In particular there is a lack of funding that is not related directly to employment. It is my understanding as well that the funding for the older adult blind population which is a significant portion of our population is very low. So there is really a lack of services for that population to receive training as well as adaptive technology in their homes and communities of their choice. Instead consumers are expected to travel to Kalamazoo or if they want in-home services those services are few and far between.

>> Thank you very much. We appreciate that. All these comments lab reported and shared with our SILC writing team. Anyone else would like to give public comment on the first question? I will repeat that one more time before we move on. What barriers have you experienced or are experiencing now that impact your ability to live independently in your community?

I don't see any hands raised. question two, what would you like to see change in your community? Would anyone like to receive comment on what would you like to see changed in your community? We have a comment in the chat from Renee. More public transportation, more affordable and accessible housing. Thank you for that, Renee. Carrie Robins.

>> Thanks. Some of you may know we support 12 counties in central Michigan and through a enter for independent living here and we hear frequently are in regard to public transportation, sag gnaw county is the largest in the area and only serves city of sag gnaw. So we have disparities in community resources because of lack of transportation. One of the other things we would like to see is representation of individuals with disabilities in leadership or decision-making positions, even at the local level. That's been a huge concern for folks.

>> Thank you very much, Carrie. Would anyone else like to give public comment on question number two, what would you like to see change in your community? Also feel free to use the chat as Renee did. Okay. I don't see any hands. We'll move on to question number 3. What independent living services do you currently receive? And we have listed out some core services that centers for independent living provide, those are advocacy, information and referral services, school to work transition, peer support, independent living skill support and transition to community-based living. these are Federal core services that you will find available at center for independent living that you visit but many centers have a variety of other services they provide in addition to these core services. So each center is unique and responsive to its service area. So we are curious, what independent living services do you currently receive? It can be in addition to any of these that are listed there. One last time for question number 3. What independent living services do you currently receive? Are there any members of the public who would like to give comment on this question? We will move on to question number 4. What services would you like your center for independent living to provide? Hold on just a moment. We have a comment in the chat. I work in information and referral so we do that peer support we also have community transition. There needs to be more youth services and independent living skills training. Thank you for that, Renee. Back to question number 4. What services would you like to see your center for independent living provide? It can be in addition to the services we just listed out in question 3. This is really getting at what is it that you need that you may not be currently getting in your life. We do have a comment in the chat. More involving assistive technology, supply and training. Thank you for that.

One last time for question number 4. What services would you like your center for independent living to provide? Anyone want to give public comment on that? All right. We will move on to our last question, number 5. What have we not asked about your experience with independent living that you feel is important for us to know? Feel free to use the chat, raise your hand feature or just verbally ask to be recognized. What have we not asked about your experience with independent living that you feel is important? We do have a comment in the chat. How people with different disabilities often receive different services. Would anyone else like to give public comment on question 5? What have we not asked about your experience with independent living that you kneel is important? Since there is no further public comment on these questions, we will go ahead and finish up the meeting. I did put in SILC's website into the chat. www.MISILC.org, where you can also access our community needs survey. These questions are listed there. So please feel free to fill out that survey. Leave a recorded message or send your comments in via email or by regular postal service. I want to thank you for joining us today and for providing the public comment that you did. This information will be taken back to our SPIL writing team for our consideration of being put into our next state plan for independent living. So thank you all very much and have a great day.