



Idaho State Independent Living Council

Dismantling barriers affecting
people with disabilities

**Annual Report
State Fiscal Year 2010
July 1, 2009—June 30, 2010**

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Appendix A: Member and Staff Orientation Training Tool
Appendix B: Copy of AmeriCorps honor

State Fiscal Year 2010 Staff:

- Robbi Barrutia***, Executive Director
- Robbi Barrutia***, OVW grant Project Director
- Jackie Beverage***, Administrative Assistant II
- Ginny Pollock***, Administrative Assistant II
- Brooke Green***, AmeriCorps grant Project Director
- Donna Maier***, MIG grant Project Director
- Stephanie Jensen***, MIG grant Program Manager
- Sheila Harris***, MIG grant Administrative Assistant

Sitting Council Members July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

James Steed, Pocatello
CIL Representative

Deana Gilchrist, Boise
CIL Representative

Virgil Edwards, Coeur d' Alene
CIL Representative

David Miles, Lapwai
Project 121 Director

Mark Gravatt, Grangeville
Advocate

Erick Yeary, Ammon
Advocate

Angela Lindig, Boise
Parents Interest

Rick Huber, Rupert
Member At Large

****Candy Harris**, Boise
Service Provider

****Deanna Watson**, Boise
Service Provider

Vacant
Region I Person with a Disability

James Solem, Lewiston
Region II Person with a Disability

Ray Lockary, Boise
Region III Person with a Disability

Brian Helsley, Hagerman
Region IV Person with a Disability

****Scott Benson**, Moreland
Region V Person with a Disability

Vacant
Region VI Person with a Disability

Amy Michels, Caldwell
Region VII Person with a Disability

****Holly Player**, Boise
Ex-Officio Member, ICOA

Michael Graham, Boise
Ex-Officio Member, IDVR

Darcy Neser, Boise
Ex-Officio Member, IDHW

Janice Carson, Boise
Ex-Officio Member, SDE

Nancy Wise, Boise
Ex-Officio Member, ICBVI

* Indicates first term expirations that occurred in SFY 2010

** Indicates second term expirations that occurred in SFY 2010

*** Indicates Resignations that occurred in SFY 2010

CIL Center for Independent Living

HISTORY of the Idaho State Independent Living Council

The history of independent living stems from a philosophy that states that people with all types of disabilities should have the same civil rights and control over their own lives as people without disabilities.

The independent living movement involves shifting societal attitudes about people with disabilities away from a patronizing, pitying medical model towards empowerment, independence, home and community based services, and integration as fully contributing, valued members of society.

The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992 were signed into law by President George Bush on October 30, 1992, and required the establishment of State Independent Living Councils (SILC's). The Idaho SILC was created by Executive Order 93-01 on May 28, 1993 and was given autonomy from other state agencies with HB711 in 2004. Since its inception, the Idaho SILC has been actively engaged in activities that assist in providing Idahoans with disabilities a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer-responsive, cost-effective and community-based. The Idaho SILC is known nationwide as an innovative leader in the independent living movement.

The SILC provides leadership development opportunities to empower grassroots advocates, who in turn, develop systemic changes in public policy to positively impact people with disabilities. The SILC supports training and education for people with disabilities, businesses, legislators, and others involved in public policy development.

Grassroots Advocacy:

Grassroots advocacy is when community members collectively work to create a solution to a common problem by lobbying and influencing decision makers for change.

SILC Responsibilities – federal and state mandates:

Federal: TITLE 7, SECTION 705, REHAB ACT OF 1973, amended
DUTIES – The Council SHALL

- A.** Jointly develop and sign (in conjunction with the Designated State Unit (DSU)) the State Plan required in section 704;
- B.** Monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State Plan;
- C.** Coordinate activities with the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council (RSA) established under section 105 and councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues under other Federal law;
- D.** Ensure that all regularly scheduled meetings of the Council are open to the public and sufficient advance notice is provided; and
- E.** Submit to the Commissioner such periodic reports as the Commissioner may reasonably request, and keep such records, and afford such access to such records, as the Commissioner finds necessary to verify such reports.
- F.** Hold hearings and forums as council deems necessary.

Idaho's Designated State Unit (DSU): IDVR

State: Idaho Code 56-1204 Additional Powers and Duties.

DUTIES - The Council SHALL carry out those powers and duties set forth in 29 U.S.C. section 796d(c) and 34 CFR 364.21.

The council SHALL also:

- A.** Assess the need for services for Idahoans with disabilities and advocate with decision makers;
- B.** Supervise and evaluate such staff as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the council;
- C.** Ensure that all regularly scheduled meetings of the council are open to the public and that sufficient advance notice of meetings is provided pursuant to the open meeting law;
- D.** Prepare reports and make recommendations, as necessary;
- E.** Perform other activities the council deems necessary to increase the ability of Idahoans with disabilities to live independently;
- F.** Promulgate rules, as may be necessary.

Membership Guidelines:

The SILC is comprised of twenty-two members appointed by the Governor.

In accordance with federal mandate, these individuals must represent a broad range of disabilities and be knowledgeable about CILs and independent living services. A majority of the Council's members (at least 51 percent) must be people with disabilities who are not employed by the state or a CIL. A wide range of disabilities are represented by SILC members: mobility impairments, blindness and visual impairments, deafness and hearing impairments, mental illness and cognitive impairments. The Council also seeks representation of un-served and under-served populations. Members are not compensated for serving on the Council.

Membership Categories:

- People with disabilities (**7 regions**)
- Parents of people with disabilities
- Advocates for people with disabilities
- Center for independent living (CIL) representatives
- Service Providers
- Director of Vocational Rehabilitation Programs for Native Americans (121 Project Director)
- Member-At-Large
- Ex-officio (non-voting) members, including representatives from Idaho Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (**IDVR**), the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (**ICBVI**), the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, (**IDHW**) the State Department of Education, Special Education, (**SDE**) and the Idaho Commission on Aging, (**ICOA**).

Nomination/Selection Process:

Council members are appointed to three-year terms, and are limited to two consecutive terms. If, however, a member is appointed to fill an un-expired term, the individual may serve the remainder of that term plus two additional terms.

Nomination forms are accepted on an ongoing basis. Selection of a nominee is based upon one's knowledge of the independent living philosophy along with the desire and ability to serve. Full participation is crucial to the success of the Council, so candidates must carefully consider their time commitment and other factors when submitting a nomination form. When a vacancy occurs in a specific category, nominations are reviewed by the Membership Committee. The Committee makes a recommendation to the full Council regarding its selection. The Council forwards its recommendation to the Governor. The Governor appoints all members.

Finding qualified nominees for membership has proven to be a challenge. The Council continues to search statewide for individuals with disabilities willing and able to serve on the Council.

LEGISLATION

THE SILC MONITORED THE FOLLOWING 2010 LEGISLATION AS PRIORITIZED BY THE COUNCIL

- Homecare for Certain Disabled Children (Katie Beckett Premiums) Rules
- Co-Pay for Infant Toddler Services
- Personal Care Services (PCS) Homes for Children
- Personal Assistance Services
- Uniform Probate Code
- Removal of Archaic and Disrespectful Language from Idaho Statutes
- Insurance Coverage for Prosthetic Devices
- Firearms
- Youth Athletes
- County Indigency Fund
- Certified Family Homes
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind
- Medicaid Cost Containment

MAJOR LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY THE SILC SINCE 1995

- Accessible Parking
- Idaho Building Code Act
- Idaho Child Custody Laws
- State Sales Tax Exemption for CILs
- Tax Credit for CIL Donations
- Idahoans with Disabilities Act
- Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities
- Disability History Month
- Personal Assistance Services

SILC works to educate Idahoans to advocate on their own behalf and to make life better for all Idahoans

SILC ACTIVITIES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND COLLABORATIONS

SILC members, staff, and the Executive Director currently participate on several committees to monitor, develop and administer policy and programs important to the disability community such as:

- Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities (CID)
- A Better Way Coalition/Advanced Care Planning
- National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)
- Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
- National Center for Accessible Transportation (NCAT)
- Employment Resources for Idahoans with Disabilities (ERID)
- State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
- Partners in Crisis (PIC)
- Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)
- Parking Committee
- Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (ICASDV)

Other activities in SFY 2010 included quarterly business meetings in July and October 2009 and January and April 2010. At the January 2010 meeting, election of officers were held; Angela Lindig was voted a second term as chair and Mark Gravatt was voted a second term as vice-chair.

Momentous Changes

November 24, 2009 Robbi Barrutia became the Interim Executive Director.

April 27, 2010 the full Council offered Ms. Barrutia the permanent position as Executive Director.

The SILC received its first site review from its primary funder, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). The review was a very positive experience and enlightened staff and council members alike regarding grant requirements and prohibitions. The review committee recommended that the SILC hire a staff member specifically to handle the financial functions of the SILC.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The State Independent Living Council is funded by dedicated, federal, and state general funds.

A. **Dedicated Funding.**

- a. **Independent Living Funds.** The SILC is funded with money from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Title 7 Part B independent living grants. The funds from WIA are granted to the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR – the Designated State Unit (DSU)) and passed or sub-granted to the Idaho Commission on Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI) (29%) and the SILC (71%) on a percentage basis. The total independent living grant amount is \$172,141. SILC receives \$122,220 and the ICBVI receives the remaining \$49,921. The SILC receives Title 7 Part B funding every year. These funds are based on the federal fiscal year of October 1 – September 30.
 - i. Prior to December 2006 Part B independent living and state general funds were the primary funding source for the SILC. Then and now Part B funds provide the funding for all permanent SILC staff salaries and benefits and all program expenditures. Permanent staff includes the Executive Director and an administrative assistant that currently also performs the duties of a fiscal specialist.
- b. **Miscellaneous Funds.** Every couple of years the SILC hosts a statewide conference on independent living. Funds are solicited from state agencies, disability organizations, and private companies and individuals to support the conference and offer comprehensive scholarships for Idahoans with disabilities to attend. Every five or so years the SILC develops and completes a needs assessment/survey that is used by everyone interested in statistics on Idahoans with disabilities. Additional funds are solicited to cover the cost of each needs assessment/survey. The last needs assessment/survey completed was 2005. The SILC sub-leases part of its office space to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Task Force.
- c. **AmeriCorps Accessible Transportation Network.** In order to complete specific goals and objectives of the 2008-2010 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), required by the Title 7 Part B funder (Rehabilitation Services Administration, RSA) every three years, the SILC applied for and was awarded several grants. Two of the grants are federal

(SILC is the direct grantee from the federal entity) and the third is the AmeriCorps grant. The SILC receives its funds from the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism/Serve Idaho. During the latter half of SFY10 Serve Idaho was placed under the Department of Labor. Therefore, the funds received by SILC for this grant are dedicated not federal. Funds received from this funding source may only be used to cover staff and program activities for this grant. The AmeriCorps grant is subsidized by the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD) and its host sites.

B. Federal Funding.

- a. **Grants.** In order to complete specific goals and objectives of the 2008-2010 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), required by the Title 7 Part B funder (Rehabilitation Services Administration, RSA) every three years, the SILC applied for and was awarded several grants. One is dedicated funding (AmeriCorps) and the other two are the Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) grant and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services grant (Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, MIG). The OVW grant began October 2006 and ended June 30, 2010. This grant was based on the traditional federal fiscal year (October 1 – September 30). The MIG grant is a federal grant based on a calendar year. As with the AmeriCorps grant, funds received from these funding sources may only be used to cover staff and program activities for this grant.

C. State General Funds.

- a. **General Funds.** State general funds are obligated to cover cash match requirements for the Title 7 and AmeriCorps grants. General funds are also used to cover personnel time to fulfill the goals and objectives in the SPIL not within the scope of the above grants and to research and apply for additional federal and non-federal grants.

Infrastructure

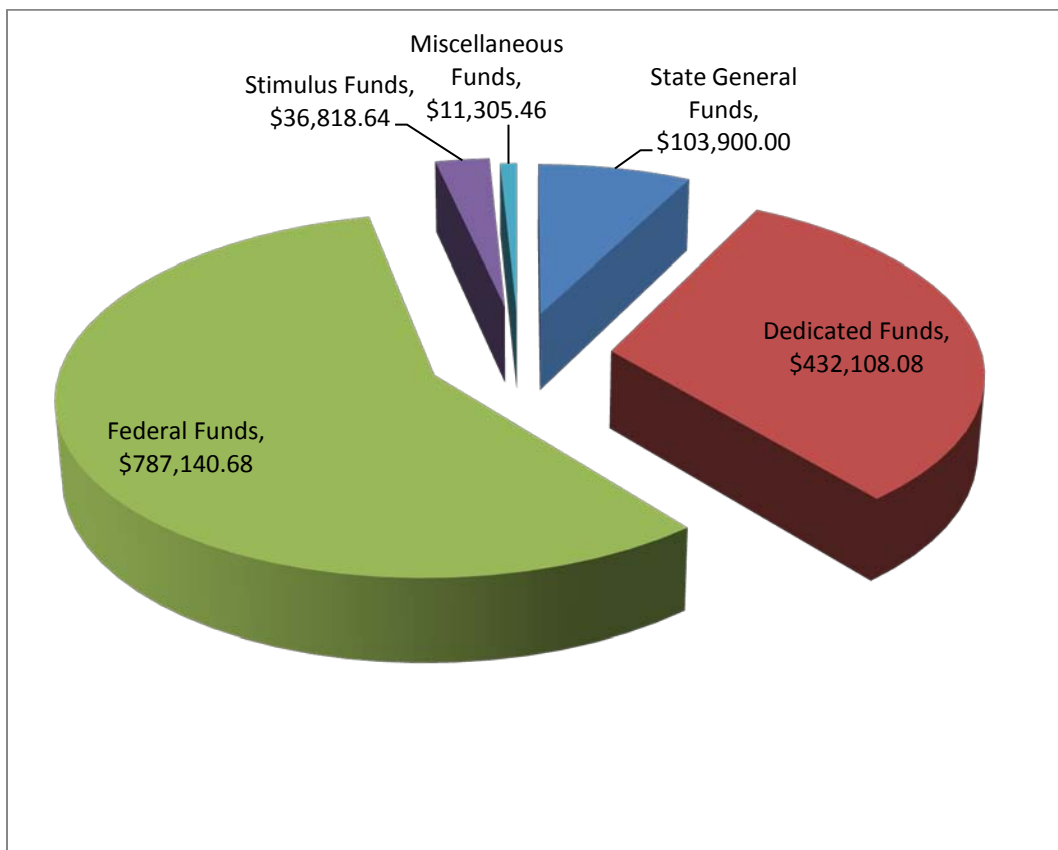
Prior to state fiscal year 2009 SILC staff began the tedious process to improve its financial infrastructure. Multiple conversations and meetings occurred between SILC staff and the staff of the State Controller's Office accounting department to revamp its accounting structure, specifically account coding and internal controls. Due to the

tremendous staff turnover at the beginning of state fiscal year 2010 it was determined that the SILC's best option would be to contract with the Department of Administration for all accounting needs. With the addition of three large federal grants, SILC staff had become overwhelmed and unable to provide the specialized accounting needs in addition to their regular administrative duties. Though the relationship did not continue past this fiscal year, a benefit of the contract was the critical training needed by SILC staff to understand certain processes and procedures. Additionally, the SILC experienced its first federal single audit and its first financial audit. SILC staff again worked with the State Controller's Office to revise and improve its internal accounting infrastructure and is confident that state fiscal year 2011 will benefit dramatically from the changes that occurred during state fiscal year 2010. It should be noted that current grant programs will have on-going expenses and reimbursements into state fiscal year 2011 as their grant fiscal years extend past the state fiscal year.

REVENUE FUNDING SOURCES

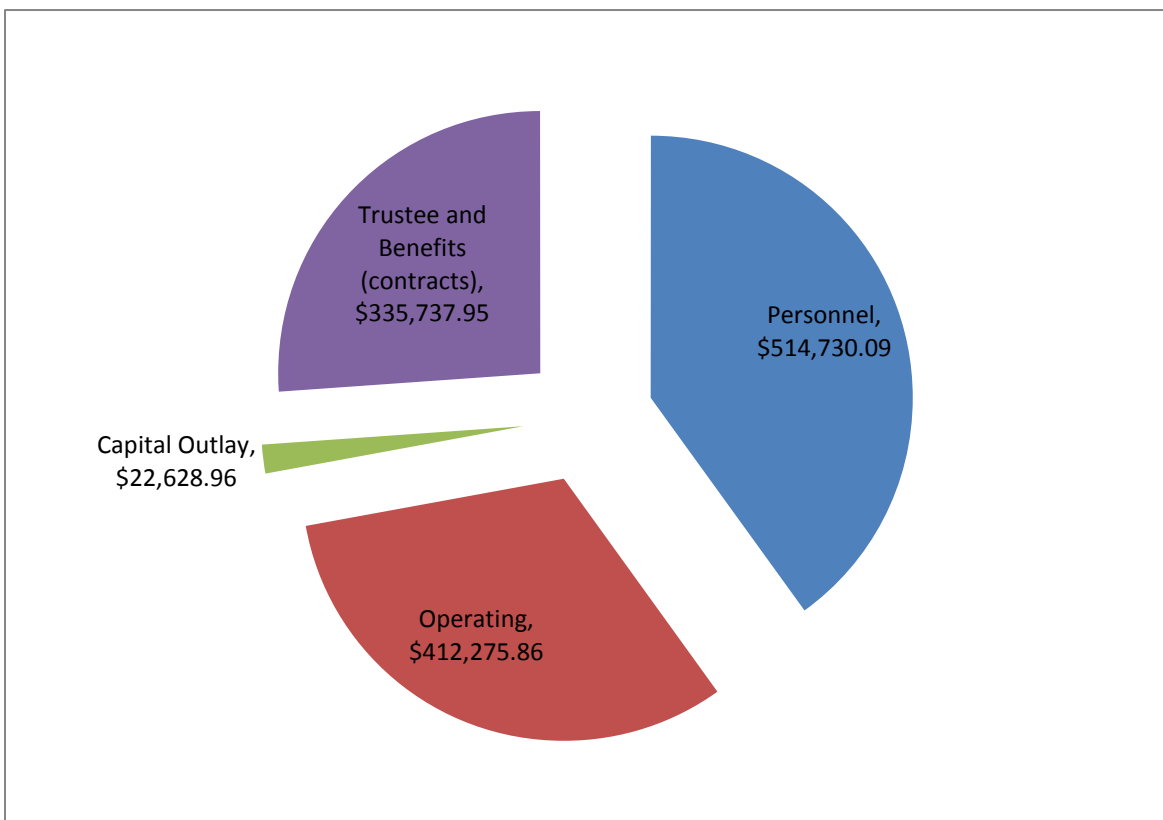
State General Funds received:	\$103,900.00
Dedicated Funds received:	\$432,108.08
Title 7 Part B through IDVR:	\$115,608.85
Title 7 Part B reimb for SFY09:	\$ 38,170.17
AmeriCorps through Serve Idaho:	\$227,304.52
AmeriCorps through ICDD Contract:	\$ 21,734.00
AmeriCorps Host Sites Cash Match:	\$ 29,290.54
Federal Funds received:	\$787,140.68
MIG:	\$605,109.59
OVW:	\$182,031.09
Federal Stimulus Funds received:	\$ 36,818.64
Miscellaneous Funds received:	\$ 11,305.46
Rental sub-lease:	\$ 4,500.00
Other:	\$ 6,805.46

Total Revenue: \$1,371,272.86



EXPENDITURES

Personnel costs expended:	\$514,730.09
2 Title 7 staff	
1.5 OVW staff	
3 MIG staff	
1 AmeriCorps staff plus 11 AmeriCorps members (stipends)	
Operating costs expended:	\$412,275.86
Capital Outlay costs expended:	\$ 22,628.96
Trustee and Benefits costs expended:	\$335,737.95
Total Expenditures:	\$1,285,372.86



PROGRAM UPDATES

TITLE 7 PART B INDEPENDENT LIVING GRANT

The Title 7 Part B Independent Living grant is the primary program of the SILC even though the funding from the other grants exceeds the funding for this grant. The SILC focused much energy and time during state fiscal year 2010 in the development of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), a federal requirement of this grant. The SPIL is submitted every three years for a three year period based on the federal fiscal year of October through September. The SILC submitted the 2011-2013 SPIL to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) prior to July 1 2010. All activities of the SILC including determining which grants to continue or apply for are dependent upon the approved SPIL. Approval for the 2011-2013 SPIL is expected in September 2010.

One of the goals and benchmarks of the SILC is to provide current and accurate information regarding issues that directly affect individuals with disabilities. Due to budget constraints the SILC did not provide any hard copy newsletters or legislative updates to constituents this fiscal year. During the April 2010 Quarterly Business Meeting and repeated during the June 2010 Quarterly Business Meeting, the Council voted to post all future newsletters on the SILC website unless specifically requested for a hard copy format. Traditionally the SILC has hosted a statewide conference on independent living every two years. The last conference was held January 2009. Due to a lack of funding in this fiscal year and an anticipated lack of funding for state fiscal year 2011, the Council has postponed all plans for a future conference until the economy improves.

Another goal of the Council is to provide an updated statewide survey involving Idahoans with disabilities. Past SILC surveys have been consistently used by multiple state and private entities for their own research and grant applications. The Council has delayed contracting with Boise State University (as with all previous surveys) due to budget constraints and plans to utilize the 2010 US Census to supplement its own survey and to minimize costs.

All other goals and benchmarks were carefully drafted into the AmeriCorps Accessible Transportation, Office of Violence Against Women, and the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant grants.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/DISABILITY GRANT PROJECT

This very successful grant program ended on June 30, 2010. An OVW Summit was held June 1 - 2, 2010 to discuss sustainability and use of the disability and safety tools. The SILC was unable to fulfill all wish list items (to fulfill accessibility requirements) but was able to provide each pilot site with \$3,500 to use toward wish list items, future training, or safe housing. This grant has had definite positive impacts within each pilot site region. Each region reported that lives have been saved and people who may not have received services have been able to access services in safety.

AMERICOPRS ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

The purpose of this grant is to identify viable and sustainable solutions to improve mobility for individuals with disabilities. Brooke Green replaced Kim Steinberg as the project director for this unique and innovative grant program. During this second year of the grant, collaborations were developed with local and state transportation initiatives to ensure continued awareness of barriers in transportation for individuals with disabilities and advocating for both institutional and behavioral changes. The tangible results of the collaborations will extend beyond the life and scope of this grant to provide accessible statewide transportation.

At a ceremony in Washington DC June 2010, this program was honored as one of the best AmeriCorps programs in the nation. Ms. Green was identified in the Idaho Business Review as one of the Idaho Accomplished Under 40 recipients (p. 23) for 2010. A third year grant application was submitted focusing on sustainability after grant end and member development. This program's grant cycle is September through June.

MEDICAID INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

The Medicaid Employment Empowerment Project continues its work to increase the competitive employment of people with disabilities by disseminating accurate information about Idaho's Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities program (Medicaid Buy-In) and promoting employment for people with disabilities. Challenges include working with the Department of Health and Welfare Division of Medicaid to provide accurate and consistent information about this program and in providing hard data and statistics regarding participants as contracted. Budget constraints forcing lay-offs and furloughs have forced multiple state agencies to end many programs. The budget constraints faced by the Department of Health and Welfare have affected this grant as noted above. Successes have been observed in the Personal Assistance Services (PAS) program and in the recruiting of individuals with disabilities to be trained as personal care assistants for people with disabilities.

This grant began January 1, 2009 and is cycled on the calendar year. By the end of state fiscal year 2010 this grant has been in progress for 1-1/2 years (6 months into its second grant cycle). Donna Maier replaced Rachel Johnstone as the Project Director January 2010.

IDAHO CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CILs)

The SILC works closely with Idaho Centers for Independent Living (CILs). CILs are nonresidential, community based, cross-disability, private, nonprofit organizations that are designed and operated by individuals with disabilities.

Idaho CILs operate on a strict philosophy based on consumer control.

Idaho's CILs provide the following services at little or no cost to consumers.

- **Independent Living Goals** – Centers facilitate goals selected by individuals who seek assistance.
- **Community Options** – Centers work to increase options so consumers may achieve their own independent living goals.
- **Individual and Systems Advocacy** – Centers provide assistance with individual human rights issues as well as creating systems change to impact all people with disabilities. CILs encourage participation in leadership training, grassroots legislative activity and service planning.
- **Information and Referral Services** – Centers provide information on specific disability-related topics and referral to specific community agencies and service providers.
- **Independent Living Skills Training** – Centers provide training services which offer individuals the opportunity to learn and practice basic life skills necessary to live independently in the community. Community education focuses on integrating people with disabilities into community activities.
- **Peer Support Services** – An individual with a disability mentors, counsels or acts as a role model to another individual with a disability to explore options, make informed choices and achieve control over his/her life.