Montana Statewide Independent Living Council Mission

To make independent living a reality for Montanans with disabilities by promoting and practicing a philosophy of consumer control, development of peer relationships and peer role models, self-determination, self-help, equal access, and advocacy in order to maximize independence, integration and full inclusion of persons with disabilities into mainstream Montana.

2004 Statistics

Total Served in 2004 = 1,512

Numbers Served by Disability Category

Cognitive Disability	=	215
Mental/Emotional Disability	=	166
Physical Disability	=	698
Hearing Impairment	=	41
Visual Impairment	=	121
Multiple Disabilities	=	139
Other Disability	=	132

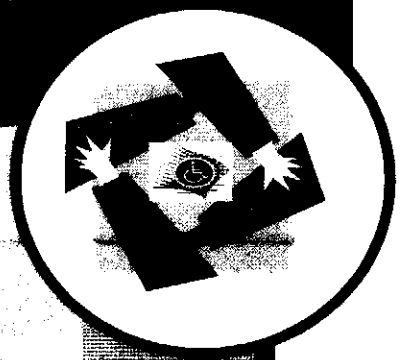
Most Requested Services

- Information and Referral
- Independent Living Skill Training
- Self-directed Personal Assistance Services
- Advocacy

EXHIBIT 11
DATE 1-12-05
HB

Montana Statewide Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living

Independent Living



Montana Independent Living 2004

Individuals with disabilities have the desire to live independently just as their friends, family and neighbors. The Independent Living program provides them with the services needed to achieve their desired way of life.

In Montana, the Independent Living program provides individuals with a wide array of services including referrals to appropriate agencies for assistance, resource development, basic skills training, employment and benefits planning, housing and education assistance and planning, assistance with accessibility issues, and personal care assistance. These services are delivered through the four centers for independent living located in Billings, Black Eagle (Great Falls), Missoula and Helena who collaborate with the Montana Statewide Independent Living Council and the Montana Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

In 2004, the centers for independent living served 1512 individuals with a wide range of disabilities. The funding for services for these individuals is through a state and federal matching mechanism. The state dollars are currently being funded through the Prevention and Stabilization Account created using tobacco prevention funds.

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is a council appointed by the Governor. They provide the Vocation Rehabilitation agency and the Centers for Independent Living technical assistance and guidance. Currently there are 13 members of the SILC including a representative from the 121 Projects. The council membership is a majority of individuals with disabilities. The council works to promote maximization of independence through integration and full inclusion into mainstream society for all Montanan's with disabilities. The SILC also works with their staff within the MVR agency as an ADA resource in Montana.