



**Board of Vocational Rehabilitation
Statewide Independent Living Council**

**221 South Central Avenue, Suite 33
Pierre SD 57501
Phone: 605.494.3613**

DATE: January 21, 2021

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Seeking Nominations

FROM: Cole Uecker, BVR Chairperson
Alan Adel, SILC Chairperson

The Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) and Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) need your assistance in identifying knowledgeable individuals who are committed to improving employment and independent living services for individuals with disabilities in South Dakota.

The BVR and SILC are both federally mandated councils that meet four times a year. Members represent a cross-section of South Dakotans from across the state. In 2020, the majority of meetings were held utilizing ZOOM which also allows access by telephone. If meetings are held in person, member expenses (e.g., mileage, per diem, lodging if needed) resulting from participating in quarterly meetings or other board/council activities are reimbursed at state rates.

We are seeking nominations for pending vacancies. Nominations received are then forwarded to the Governor for review and selection. Members are typically appointed to serve three-year terms.

People with disabilities, parents or guardians of individuals with disabilities, and advocates for individuals with disabilities are encouraged to submit nominations. Representatives from organizations that provide services for individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply as well.

More information and a nomination form are included. Nominations are due **Friday, April 2nd**. Prior to submitting any nomination(s), please ask the potential nominee if they are willing and able to serve.

If you have any questions, we invite you to contact BVR/SILC staff at 1.605.494.3613 or at cwagone@bhssc.org. Thank you for your consideration of this request and any subsequent nominations you submit to us.

Roles and Responsibilities of BVR and SILC Members:

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)

- Attend and actively participate in BVR meetings and activities.
- Actively work on at least one BVR committee.
- Advise the Division of Rehabilitation Services on its performance, policy, and state plan.
- Serve as an advocate for all persons with disabilities needing vocational rehabilitation services.
- Assist in preparation of South Dakota's State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment services.

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

- Attend and actively participate in all SILC meetings/activities.
- Actively work on at least one SILC committee or work team.
- Serve as an advocate for all persons with disabilities needing independent living services.
- Advise the State of South Dakota on the independent living needs of persons with disabilities.
- Provide leadership in the development and implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living.
- Concentrate on independent living issues, resources and solutions that are shaped by the geography, values, politics, and cultures unique to South Dakota.

Values Desired:

- Belief in the principle of equal access and equal opportunity.
- Commitment to the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society.
- Honesty, integrity, and respect for others.
- Resistance to potential conflicts of interest.

NOMINATION FORM

Select your preference:

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation _____

Statewide Independent Living Council _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Personal Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Disability: ___ Yes ___ No Occupation: _____

Email: _____

Current/former recipient of Independent Living Services ___ Yes ___ No

Current/former recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation Services ___ Yes ___ No

Biographical Sketch: _____

Previous Board, Council or Community Advocacy Experience: _____

Other Information: _____

Nominated By (if other than self): _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Please Return by Friday, April 2nd to:

infors@state.sd.us or

Division of Rehabilitation Services

3800 E Hwy 34, c/o 500 E Capitol Ave

Pierre, SD 57501