

Section A – Comparison of Reporting Year Activities with the SPIL

Item 1 – Progress in Achieving Objectives and Goals

Describe progress made in achieving the objectives and goals outlined in the most recently approved SPIL. Discuss goals achieved and/or in progress as well as barriers encountered.

The following narrative represents preliminary results based on reports, documents, and data gathered by the NYSILC office.

- **Objective # 1:** NYSILC will demonstrate its operational effectiveness and capability to develop, monitor, implement and evaluate the SPIL. There were seven outcomes related to this objective with eleven targets. Preliminary results indicate that NYSILC exceeded two outcomes, met four outcomes, and partially met one outcome, while exceeding five targets, meeting five targets, and partially meeting one target.

1) Number of full council meetings held during the year with a quorum (target 4)

NYSILC successfully held all four full council meetings with a quorum during the year at the Troy Hilton Garden Inn on the following dates: November 14, 2017, April 27, 2018, June 15, 2018, and September 14, 2018. Outcome and target met.

2) Progress made by NYSILC Committees (Outcome exceeded)

a) Number of issues where documented progress made by NYSILC committees

(Target: 12) Based on the information from the July-September 2018 NYSILC quarterly contract report (which also reflects the end of the contract year), progress was made on twenty-eight issues by NYSILC committees during the past year.

Target exceeded. A few examples included:

- Draft podcasts for LDCEP Topic Talks created by the Public Policy Committee
- FCM and HOF event venue changed to Schenectady in 2019 as discussed and supported by the Executive Committee
- Discussion about a scope of work for a fund development plan by Development Committee
- Discussion about the council's Directors & Officers (D & O) liability policy by the Executive Committee
- Discussion about council member's commitments to chair and serve on committees, as well as a need for succession plans for committee chairs along with vice chairs for each committee by the Executive Committee

b) Issues successfully addressed by committees (target 4) Twelve actions were completed. Target exceeded. A few examples included:

- Discussion/confirmation email sent to ACL regarding the Part B Omnibus increase by the Executive Committee

- Discussion/confirmation NYSILC contract issues successfully addressed (eliminated first unresolved issue – budget amendment dropped, budget amendment approved, 2019 contract processed) by the Executive Committee
- Approval of the 2019 NYSILC Annual fiscal budget by the Finance Committee (later approved by the full council)
- Appointment recommendation and four reappointments made by the Recruitment Committee (later approved by the full council)
- Drafted necessary components of support data and narrative for consultant to prepare the 2018 NYSILC Statewide Needs Assessment report by the Needs Assessment Committee (NAC)
- Reviewed SPIL objective’s performance via the evaluation document provided by the consultant and reviewed the draft 2017 NYSILC SPIL Evaluation Report by the M & E Committee
- Provided direct feedback to vendor ES11 and via communications board on key elements to complete Phase I of the Data Interface Project (eliminated second unresolved issue) by the Database Work Group

c) Unresolved Issues faced by committees: (target 4) There were no unresolved issues by the end of the contract year. Two unresolved issues were successfully addressed (noted above). Since there were no unresolved issues (zero), this is a result that exceeds the target of 4 (since it is less). Target exceeded.

3) Completion and documentation of reporting requirements (Outcome met)

a) Annual financial audit completed “unqualified” and 990 forms filed fully, accurately, and on time (target 100%) Based on the information from the January-March 2018 NYSILC quarterly contract report, the NYSILC Audited Financial Statement (AFS) ending September 30, 2017 was presented at the Finance Committee meeting on 2/7/18. CPA Ken Claflin of Cusick & Company reviewed the statement on the call with members and answered questions. He noted that NYSILC had an “unqualified” audit, which is the desired outcome. The Finance Committee formally accepted the audit. A copy of the financial statement was emailed out to council members in February. The Treasurer presented the statement at the Full Council Meeting on April 27, 2018. The 2016 990 was also completed, signed and submitted by the deadline date to satisfy the filing requirements. The NYSILC 2016 990 was posted on the NYSILC website under Key Documents.

<https://nysilc.org/resources/key-documents/other/278-2016-990-filing/file>. Target met.

b) Annual 704 Report completed with DSU to ACL fully, accurately, and on time (target 100%) NYSILC, ACCES-VR and NYSCB worked to coordinate data and information into the different sections of Part I of the 2017 NY 704 Report (now referred to as the Program Performance Report/PPR). The information was entered in the ACL reporting website and successfully submitted before the end of 2017. NYSILC

checked the ACL reporting site for grant # 90IS0029. The report was approved. NYSILC posted a Word version of the signed 2017 Part I 704 report on its website: <https://www.nysilc.org/resources/key-documents/reports/704-reports/274-2017-704-report/file>. Target met.

4) Annual SPIL evaluation and report completed by evaluator and committees as documented (target 100%) As described earlier in this report (Section D – SILC Duties, (B) Monitor, Review, and Evaluate the Implementation of the State Plan), Alan Krieger of Krieger Solutions provided support as the council’s SPIL evaluator. He worked with the Monitoring & Evaluation (M & E) Committee to obtain feedback regarding the evaluation of SPIL objectives and drafted the 2017 NYSILC SPIL Evaluation Report, which reflected the first year of the current state plan. It was approved at the April 2018 full council meeting. The full report is available at: <https://nysilc.org/news/reports/102-2017-spil-evaluation-report>. Outcome and target met.

5) Completion of statewide needs assessment report, distributed and posted to NYSILC website: (target 100%) As described earlier in this report (Section D – SILC Duties, (A) State plan Development), consultant Alan Krieger of Krieger Solutions provided support to the members of the Needs Assessment Committee (NAC), as they addressed four key questions related to the needs of the IL network in two work groups. The consultant drafted narrative around the data and charts, then analyzed the collective results from the surveys and developed additional narrative for the report. After a final review of the draft report, the 2018 Statewide Needs Assessment Report was presented and accepted at the September 14, 2018 NYSILC Full Council Meeting (FCM). The report was posted to the NYSILC website and sent out via Constant Contact: [https://nysilc.org/images/NYSILC 2018 Statewide Needs Assessment Report.doc](https://nysilc.org/images/NYSILC%202018%20Statewide%20Needs%20Assessment%20Report.doc). Outcome and target met.

6) Percentage increase of resource development efforts above contract (all other sources) (target 2% or \$8,679) Based on the NYSILC Quarterly Fiscal Report for July to September 2018 (plus other documented information), the council now has the capacity to develop resources per authority (B) in the new SPIL. The SILC can use operating funds to ideally support its primary operations and identified programs, such as the Leadership Development and Civic Engagement Program (LDCEP), Pat Figueroa young adult scholarships, the NYS Disability Rights Hall of Fame, and other opportunities as defined and supported.

During the past year, NYSILC developed (all sources) \$26,682. This exceeded the target by three times the projected amount. It exceeded last year’s amount by a little over \$8,500. Most of the revenue was generated from the Hall of Fame (HOF) event. The following line items produced: \$13,250 Event sponsorships \$7,050 Event Tickets, \$1,000 Honorary Committee Memberships, \$800 Program Advertisements, \$515 Gift Baskets, \$362 Silent Auction, and \$190 50/50 Raffle. Additional revenue

came from Donations \$1,425, In-Kind Donations \$2,027, and Interest Income \$63. Outcome and target exceeded.

7) Increase in NYSILC Young Adult Involvement (Outcome partially met)

a) Number of young adults participating in a training scholarship (target 12) Based on the information from the NYSILC 2017-2018 Annual Report, three scholarship opportunities were provided to young adults during the year. Two additional scholarships were approved for individuals to assist with their attendance at the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Conference, but not realized.

The following three individuals were approved for \$250 scholarships. A young man from Watertown requested assistance to attend the Mental Health Waiver Youth Peer Advocacy Training in Albany, NY from February 25-27, 2018. Since the cost to attend the training exceeded the amount of the scholarship, the Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (NRCIL) in Watertown covered the overall cost and the council reimbursed the center for the scholarship amount. The recipient completed the online survey, as requested. He commented that the training was “designed to prepare providers of youth peer support for credentialing to work in the HCBS Medicaid waiver program” and it “went over topics like HCBS paperwork, peer support, leadership skills, and cultural competency.” He added, “I learned that youth with disabilities have a voice, just like adults with disabilities, and deserve to be heard and make decisions for themselves. This training greatly increased my awareness of the need for advocacy and self-empowerment in the youth disability community.”

A young woman from Long Island requested assistance to attend a NCIL board meeting, as the youth representative. The NCIL board meeting took place in Washington, DC from February 27-March 1, 2018. She is a volunteer member of the NCIL board and does not have an organization to assist her in covering the expenses to participate on the board. They meet four times a year. She submitted her reimbursement and completed the online survey, as requested. In the highlights from her survey, the recipient noted in addition to board business, they “had a meeting on Capitol Hill to advocate against HR 620.” She found it “to be empowering and felt it demonstrated that young people with disabilities absolutely have a place and role in the movement.” When asked if she had accomplished anything of late, she responded, “I was selected the 2018 AAPD Paul G. Hearne Emerging Leader Award recipient.”

A young woman from Rochester applied to attend the National Williams Syndrome Conference scheduled July 11-14, 2018 in Baltimore, MD. Her mother facilitated the application, and the group was concerned about the applicant’s lack of direct input. A list of follow-up questions was developed, and Brad Williams reached out direct to the applicant for feedback. One concern was the dual focus of the conference – clear tracks for family members and people with disabilities (peers). With direct

feedback provided, one dissenting concern noted that the conference did not provide peers with any leadership development opportunities. The committee took this into future consideration. After attending the event, the recipient worked with her mother and completed the online survey. She was most excited to learn about how genetics were a part of our make-up. She stated she would be willing to attend future events supporting the disability community and advocacy specifically held in her own community.

Going into 2019, the Youth Leadership Committee will address program utilization. One concern was that the \$250 maximum amount limits the number of applications. At the September full council meeting, it was decided to adjust the program effective January 2019 (i.e., webpage, application, monthly solicitation). The opportunity will become more competitive, allowing an applicant to receive up to \$1,000 based on need. The committee reviewing the applications can decide on a reimbursement versus a grant. Each recipient must complete an online follow up survey. The council agreed that it will be better to have an impact on at least five young adults a year at an increased level than continue with decreasing participation. Target partially met.

b) Number of young adults actively participating in NYSILC's youth leadership subcommittee (target: 5) Based on the information from the July-September 2018 NYSILC quarterly contract report (which also reflects the end of the contract year), the NYSILC Youth Leadership Subcommittee still consists of the same six active members (three council members and three non-council members). Since council member Zach Garafalo has transitioned to Vice Chair of the council, he is no longer chair of the youth leadership subcommittee. Non-council member Lyndsi Wickert has taken that role. The committee will be active in the next quarter providing feedback about the changes discussed for the Pat Figueroa Scholarship program, which will require changes to the website, application form, survey and monthly program notice. Target exceeded.

Overall, this objective and its seven outcomes with eleven targets demonstrated excellent progress during the past year.

Objective # 2: New Yorkers with disabilities will be actively engaged in promoting disability rights through the support of a Statewide Systems Advocacy Network (SSAN) and a statewide coordinator working with priorities identified in the NYSILC statewide needs assessment. There were eight outcomes with eight targets related to this objective. Preliminary results indicate that seven outcomes exceeded their targets and one was partially met.

The New York State Education Department (ACCES-VR) contracts with the New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) to coordinate the Statewide Systems Advocacy Network (SSAN). ACCES-VR also contracts with the 15 ILCs that make up the SSAN. The SSAN sites in 2017-2018 were: ARISE Child & Family Services, Syracuse (ARISE); AIM Independent Living Center, Corning (AIM); Access

to Independence of Cortland County, Cortland (ATI); Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled, Brooklyn (BCID); BRIDGES, New City; Center for Disability Rights, Rochester (CDR); Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York, Manhattan (CIDNY); Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley, Troy (ILCHV); Independent Living, Inc., Newburgh (IL, Inc.); Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, Watertown (NRCIL); Resource Center for Accessible Living, Kingston (RCAL); Resource Center for Independent Living, Utica (RCIL); Southern Tier Independence Center, Binghamton (STIC); Westchester Disabled on the Move, Inc., Yonkers (MDOMI); and Westchester Independent Living Center, White Plains (WILC).

NYAIL worked with its committee structure and advocates to develop its 2018 disability policy and budget priority agendas. These documents were used by the SSAN throughout the legislative session in meetings to guide discussions and the activities of the SSAN throughout the year.

NYAIL hosted its Annual Legislative Day on February 12, 2018 in conjunction with the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of NYS. Many SSAN advocates were in attendance discussing items in the priority agendas. The day included an opening program that includes speeches by legislative representatives and key players in policy decisions impacting people with disabilities. NYAIL had a table with packets for the advocates to distribute to legislators which included NYAIL's Public Policy DPA, NYAIL's Report Card, and several memos of support and opposition. For the first time, NYAIL held a second legislative day on April 23, 2018. NYAIL's Spring Legislative Day was held after the NYS budget was finalized and the legislature returned from their spring recess. The day provided training and grassroots organizing opportunities for SSAN members.

NYAIL, in conjunction with Assemblyman James Skoufis, Chair of the Assembly's Task Force for People with Disabilities, held a press conference on March 26th in Albany, toward the end of budget negotiations. The press conference was intended to raise the profile of several of NYAIL's top budget priorities, including increased funding for Independent Living Centers, increased funding for Access to Home, and the re-establishment of the Task Force for People with Disabilities. About a dozen assembly members attended and spoke. Despite short notice, we had a strong turnout from the ILCs, with advocates attending from all over the State, making this a successful event. It was also grassroots organizing activity for many in the SSAN.

Regarding training for the network, NYAIL provided the following opportunities for the SSAN during the past year:

- On February 5, 2018, NYAIL facilitated a Legislative Day preparation training session via teleconference for SSAN advocates.
- On April 11, 2018, the SSAN Coordinator held a disability budget agenda review session in preparation for NYAIL's Spring Legislative Day, to be held on April 23, 2018. The Coordinator also reviewed the 2018 NYAIL Bill Tracker during the

training session and explained how advocates should use the information provided to decide who to meet with, and which priorities to focus on.

- Webinar: Learn All About the Disability Integration Act. On July 10, 2018, NYAIL hosted a webinar conducted by Stephanie Woodward, Director of Advocacy for the Center for Disability Rights on the Disability Integration Act (DIA). DIA is federal legislation which would ensure that eligible people with disabilities would have access to home and community-based services. The training recording, presentation slides, and a transcript are all available on NYAIL's website at <https://ilny.us/programs/ssan/ssan-webinars>.
- Webinar on Peer Advocacy as a Strategy for Resistance and Change. NYAIL hosted a webinar on September 13th, conducted by Monica Bartley, Community Outreach Coordinator for CIDNY entitled *Peer Advocacy as a Strategy for Resistance and Change*. Monica Bartley presented on an innovative model CIDNY piloted to increase grassroots activism at their center. Presentation slides and a recording of the training are available on NYAIL's website at <https://ilny.us/programs/ssan/ssan-webinars>.
- Annual In-Person Training. On September 20, 2018, NYAIL held our annual in-person SSAN training entitled *Leadership and the Art of Advocacy in a Busy, Loud and Noisy World*. The training was held in Albany. For this training, NYAIL worked with the Association Development Group (ADG), a NYS certified woman-owned business. The agenda addressed a variety of current subjects:
 - Unpredictable Politics, Fake News and Controversy: The Reality of Community Awareness, the Media and Politics Today
 - Women's March, Immigration, Black Lives Matter, Gay Pride, Dakota Pipeline: Raising the Voice and Visibility for People with Disabilities
 - Your Approach Matters, Here's Why
 - Leadership Styles Vary, and That's Good Thing
 - Ignorance Sucks, So What Are You Going to Do About It
 - Creating Cultures of Ability and Achievement

NYAIL held an all-day in person training and outreach planning meeting in Albany for the SSAN on December 11, 2017 to lead a community education and outreach campaign. Given threats from the federal level, NYAIL chose to focus on protecting access to Medicaid-funded home and community-based services. The plan focused on bringing the network up to speed on the issues and create a plan to help create awareness.

NYAIL worked with Association Development Group (ADG) on the development of the training. Bruce Darling, a national organizer with ADAPT, President of NCIL, and President and CEO of CDR in Rochester, presented at the training and participated in the planning as well.

The schedule of the day was as follows:

- *Medicaid Under Attack: Framing the Issue*, Bruce Darling
- *Key Elements of an Advocacy Campaign*, Kathy Van De Loo (ADG)

- *From the Trenches: What's Happening Now*, Bruce Darling
- *Implementation: Where the Real Work Begins*: Group activities and discussion facilitated by ADG

Based on the planning part of this meeting, ADG wrote up a community outreach plan for the network to guide our activities on this issue moving forward. Following this training, NYAIL distributed a manual for opposing threats to Medicaid. This manual came out in December 2017. It focused on federal threats, basing much of the materials on the proposed Affordable Health Care Act, which would have repealed the Affordable Care Act and gutted Medicaid. The manual will serve as a guide at both the national and even state levels, with ongoing talks of another attempt to repeal Medicaid or gut Medicaid, and the Governor attempting to cut Managed Long-Term Care (MLTC).

In January 2018, the SSAN immediately focused on fighting proposed cuts to Medicaid in NYS that would force people into institutions, including carving people in nursing homes out of managed care, making it almost impossible for them to leave. NYAIL and the SSAN fought hard against these cuts and worked with coalitions of Medicaid advocates to educate policy makers on the impact of these proposals.

Since the budget was finalized, SSAN advocates have been educating the public and policy makers on proposed federal legislation which would strengthen people's access to HCBS – the EMPOWER Care Act, which would continue federal funding for the Money Follows the Person program, and the Disability Integration Act, civil rights legislation which would ensure people can get the care they need to live in the community. NYAIL hosted a webinar in the fourth quarter on the Disability Integration Act (DIA), has issued several alerts on these issues, and issued a press release on the EMPOWER Care Act. NYAIL also had a blog article published on the need to pass the EMPOWER Care Act: <https://www.aclu.org/blog/disability-rights/integration-and-autonomy-people-disabilities/empower-care-act-would-give>.

In addition, NYAIL commissioned several videos to be created featuring people with disabilities who rely on Medicaid to live in the community. The idea is to educate the public and policy makers on how Medicaid helps people live in the community, and the real-world impact of cutting these programs. NYAIL worked with Digital Fusion, a NYS certified minority-owned business for this project. Digital Fusion shot the videos and is in the process of editing them. They will be available on NYAIL's website and shared over social media. NYAIL is in the process of totally revamping their website, and this issue will get its own page on our website to share these stories, and other vignettes next contract year.

The following information comes from the SSAN 2018 year-end report:

1) Number of SSAN significant statewide system changes (target 2) The SSAN participated in the following significant systems changes, which were achieved during the past year:

- **Pooled Trust Notification Bill Enacted.** The SSAN supported and advocated for the Pooled Trust Notification bill, which was introduced as a direct result of the advocacy of Rochester ILC Center for Disability Rights. The pooled trust is an available option to Medicaid applicants with disabilities whose income or assets are too high to otherwise qualify for Medicaid. NYSDOH send these applicants a letter explaining their options to get on Medicaid, but this letter currently does not include the pooled trust as an option. This bill will ensure that Medicaid applicants with disabilities are aware of this option, which is often the best option for many of these individuals. NYAIL issued alerts in support of this bill and submitted a letter of support to the Governor and legislature. Many centers in the SSAN also sent in letters of support for this bill. Governor signed this bill into law in December.
- **Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) Bill Enacted.** Needed changes were made to A.11050 / S9002 so the LTCOP maintains eligibility for federal funding from the Administration on Community Living (ACL). The State had received a letter from ACL stating it needed to make administrative changes to the program or lose most or all federal funding for the LTCOP. Despite this, the legislature was stalling, and with only a couple of weeks left in session, had yet to advance a bill. NYAIL and the SSAN got involved, making phone calls, speaking with legislative staff, and writing letters. The network had actively advocated for increased state funding for the program in the budget. Now the State had not only failed to increase state funding for the program, they were putting its federal funding in jeopardy. In the final days of session, the bill passed both houses. NYAIL and the SSAN advocated with the Governor's Office to ensure the bill was signed into law. On August 24, 2018, Governor Cuomo signed the bill into law, protecting federal funding for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

In addition, the following systems change actions prevented negative activity from occurring:

- **Defeated proposal to raise requirement for MLTC to a UAS score of 9.** The IL community strongly opposed the Governor's proposal to make it harder for new applicants to get on Managed Long-Term Care (MLTC) by requiring they get a Uniform Assessment System (UAS) score of 9. The nursing facility level of care is a UAS of 5. This proposal would have meant that even people at the nursing home level of care may not be able to receive services through MLTC, which has the most generous benefits package, and has the most extensive care management. Ultimately, this proposal was rejected by the Senate and Assembly and not included in the final budget
- **Spousal Refusal Protected in Budget.** The IL community once again had to fight to preserve spousal refusal, which is a longstanding provision of state law that ensures that individuals can access the Medicaid-funded services and supports they need to live in the community, when their spouses "refuse" to spend down their resources or income to support their spouse. This is a way to prevent the "well"

spouse from having to give up the household income, so their spouse can get home and community-based services from Medicaid.

- **Prevented the State from decreasing the spousal impoverishment resource allowance to the federal minimum.** Spousal impoverishment is like spousal refusal in that it allows the spouse who is not on Medicaid to maintain a certain income while still allowing Medicaid to pay for their spouse's services and supports. The proposal would have forced many "well" spouses onto Medicaid, who could otherwise avoid it. This proposal was left off the final budget.
- **Assisted Suicide Bill fails in legislature.** NYAIL and the SSAN network continued our advocacy against A.2383/S3151 which would legalize physician assisted suicide in NYS. The Assembly Health Committee held a public hearing in Albany and NYC at which many in the network testified in opposition, including NYAIL. In addition, NYAIL distributed a memo of opposition to legislators, and shared it with advocates in the network for their use. The disability community was successful in conveying our concerns at the two public hearings and helped stop the Health Committee from taking a vote on the bill.

Outcome exceeded.

2) Number of local partnerships and coalitions established by the SSAN network (target 75)

The SSAN sites established 154 new partnerships and coalitions, exceeding the goal by 79. It also represented an increase from the previous year (plus 35). A few examples of the partnerships and coalitions include:

- NRCIL's systems advocate is now on the board of the Jefferson County Mental Health Coalition.
- ILCHV's Systems Advocate was invited to join Troy's ADA Review Committee as they update their ADA plan.
- AIM's Systems Advocate joined the Chemung County Homeless Housing Task Force
- STIC is working with representatives from the Red Cross and Tioga County DOH to plan a family emergency preparedness day this fall.

Outcome exceeded.

3) Number of educational alerts disseminated to local volunteers by the SSAN network (target 660)

Distribution of alerts was one of the areas in which SSAN centers were most active with a total of 860 alerts distributed to local volunteers. This exceeded the target by 200 but was a slight decrease from last year (minus 21). Examples of action alerts included:

- Call Your Senators Today About the EVV Delay Bill!
- Happy Birthday, Medicaid!
- Take Action: Fair Housing and Other Critical Resources at Risk
- ACTION ALERT: #BanIncomeBiasNY needs your support
- Protect Healthcare and Disability Rights
- Act Now to Save Money Follows the Parson (MFP)
- Create Your Organization's Non-Partisan GOTV Plan Today

Outcome exceeded.

4) Number of local public education activities engaged in by the SSAN network (target 300) The SSAN Centers exceeded this goal by engaging in 602 public education activities in the past year. This exceeded the target by 302 was an increase from last year (plus 119). Examples of local public education include:

- The Systems Advocate from Independent Living, Inc. attended the Newburgh City Council meeting and informed the Council members of concerns expressed by people living with low vision/blindness and the specific street crossing at Washington and Lake Streets. The represented constituency has requested an audio/pedestrian crossing device be installed for safety purposes.
- RCIL staff contributed to National Voter Registration Day by setting up a variety of registration tables throughout the community. They handed out promotional REV UP pins and stickers, as well as nonpartisan, mock ballots for new voters to learn and practice- courtesy of the Montgomery County Board of Elections. They registered 25 people to vote.
- On August 28, 2018, News 12 aired a feature, with interviews of BRiDGES advocates and New York State Senator Carlucci, on the accessibility deficiencies and lack of compliance with federal standards at the Suffern, NY Train Station.
- ILCHV along with local ADAPT group of the Capital Region had a viewing of the Gang of 19 ADA Movement at the Albany Public Library, where many folks from the community, including individuals from the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) were present. A good discussion ensued after the movie where we educated the group about the ADA, the Disability Rights movement and transportation services.
- WDOMI and WILC worked together to coordinate and set up for a mock election at the Westchester Board of Elections on September 29, 2018, election inspectors gave a rundown of how to use BMD machines and allowed people to ask questions. They had three speakers with disabilities talk about their experiences voting. 27 people attended the event.

Outcome exceeded.

5) Number of grassroots organizing activities engaged in by the SSAN network (target 90) SSAN sites reported a total of 258 grassroots organizing activities for the year. This exceed the target by 168 and was an increase from last year (plus 90). Examples of grassroots organizing activities include:

- ATI advocates attended a candidate forum hosted by the League of Women Voters and asked disability specific questions of candidates.
- RCIL staff strengthened Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) initiatives by organizing a Core Advisory Group (CAG). RCIL will work together with local leaders in emergency management and first responders to ensure that emergency services and preparedness is provided equally for people who have disabilities.
- BCID organized several leading advocates fighting to keep Independent Care System (ICS) open, went to talk with Donna Frescatore and other Representatives of Medicaid and the Governor's office. They spoke on how it

can affect a big group of people that rely on ICS to live independently in the community.

- CIDNY attended the NYC Disability Pride Parade, scheduled to coincide with the anniversary of the ADA. CIDNY brought 25 participants to the parade.

Outcome exceeded.

6) Number of oral or written public testimonies statements or letters provided, in response to a documented request, by the SSAN network (target 90) SSAN sites collectively provided 114 public testimonies during the past year. This exceeded the target by 24 but represented a slight decrease from last year (minus 22).

Examples of public testimony include:

- Several advocates in the SSAN submitted written comments or spoke at a hearing for NYSILC's SPIL hearings.
- STIC submitted comments to DRNY on their proposed priorities in the PADD program for 2019.
- WILC, ARISE and ATI submitted written comments to HCR on their draft Annual Action Plan for 2019.

Outcome exceeded.

7) Number of CILs or SCILs without a SSAN contract voluntarily involved in the participation of the network (target 2): Four non-SSAN centers participated at various levels in the SSAN. Bronx Independent Living Services (BILS) regularly participated on NYAIL's Housing Committee and attended NYAIL's Legislative Day. Taconic Resources participated regularly on NYAIL's Employment and Transportation Committees and in NYAIL's advocacy activities. Western New York Independent Living (WNYIL) was active on NYAIL's Housing Committee and participated in NYAIL's Legislative Days. Finger Lakes Independence Center (FLIC) had a staff member attend the annual SSAN in-person training and signed up for NYAIL's Advocacy listserv. They will now receive advocacy updates, alerts, and information on upcoming meetings and opportunities to provide testimony. Outcome exceeded.

8) SSAN advocates: Demonstrate improved understanding by the ILC network of unique advocacy priorities and public education campaign issues

(Target/Demonstrated improvement/Collective %/before/after): NYAIL was to survey SSAN volunteers by the end of this contract. In consultation with NYSILC, NYAIL determined it would distribute the survey following the end of year two. In preparation, NYAIL formed a small workgroup to create the survey. The committee consisted of SSAN staff and advisement from NYSILC's Executive Director. The committee developed the survey, which was designed to be easily understood and brief to maximize participation. The survey seeks to solicit information on self-empowerment and self-determination from SSAN volunteers. The survey will be distributed in the first quarter of next year, and NYAIL will report on the results of the survey in our first quarter report. Outcome partially met.

Overall, this objective and its seven outcomes with seven targets demonstrated significant progress during the past year.

Objective # 3: Related to the IL statewide conference was not active this year. This objective will be active again next year (2019).

Objective # 4: Designate funds to develop and establish a database and interface that will compile, analyze, and interpret data from the statewide network. There were two outcomes related to this objective with two targets. Preliminary results indicate that both outcomes and targets were not met. While the project was successfully initiated, the growth was not enough for the projected progress identified in the targets.

1) Number of centers testing the prototype of the statewide database and interface product, providing feedback related to the process: (target 20) As reported earlier, the Data Interface Work Group met in early August 2018. They commenced Phase I of the Data Interface Project. The first step identified set-up of a communication board for the project for the members of the group. Once everyone accepted and logged in, they were able to follow “threads” or discussions on the key elements of the system. One important aspect discussed was the common data fields along with the proposed reports. Feedback included the web application and aesthetics, the architectural package, the dashboard functions, and login system. Phase I was successfully completed by the end of the contract year. The group will look to address Phase II in the latter part of 2019 and the rest of the phases in 2020. This initial progress means that centers won’t be able to test the “prototype” (i.e. the data interface) until sometime in 2020. It will represent what will be a proposed fourth year to the current state plan via technical amendment in the upcoming year. The testing phase is one of the remaining phases identified for 2020. Outcome not met.

2) Report on status of database and interface design based on collective center data and feedback completed as documented: (target 100%) As noted above, the data interface project was successfully initiated during the last year. The entire project is set for completion in 2020. So, the report on the status of the data interface will be completed by contract year-end in 2020. Outcome not met.

Overall, the council was excited that the data interface project was initiated this year. However, outcomes and targets that were not met will be extended into upcoming years and reported on as the project moves forward.

Objective # 5: Address priority unserved and underserved populations and issues by providing one (1) \$72,000 demonstration grant opportunity that can be evaluated by the council, be held to its own unique set of deliverables (outcomes), and subsequently provide a best practices manual for the benefit of

the statewide IL network. There was one outcome related to this objective with ten targets. Preliminary results indicate that the target was substantially met (seven out of ten targets met 70%; three targets partially met).

Taconic Resources for Independence (TRI) was selected as the consumer-directed organization to provide Independent Living services to veterans with disabilities to assist consumers in becoming more stabilized in their homes and community. The project has a specific focus on accessible and affordable housing and transportation.

TRI spent the first few months getting the program established, working on a detailed Veterans Specialist description and creating marketing materials (program brochure, business cards, additions to the TRI website). This led to the posting of the Veterans Specialist position on various online employment sites and the selection and hiring of Veterans Specialist – Austin Salcedo.

1) Services are provided by the grant recipient that result in the unique set of annual outcomes/deliverables identified in the proposal: (target 85% met)

a) Veteran Specialist will conduct street level outreach in known homeless encampments around the county: After connecting with the Mental Health Association's Vet2Vet program, the TRI veteran's with disabilities program is receiving referrals. Ongoing. Target met.

b) Veteran Specialist will create a dedicated database to document all activities and outcomes and provision of direct services and/or systems advocacy and outcomes: The database has been set up and the input is ongoing. A veteran specific drive was created to document activity. Target met.

c) Program Director and Veteran Specialist will join veteran related committees and coalitions: Veteran Specialist is a founding member of the Dutchess County Veteran Task force that meets monthly to discuss all events and happenings related to veterans in the county. Veteran Specialist is a member of the Hudson Valley Task Force that includes five counties. Program Director attends based on availability. Some of the other connections TRI made included:

- Veterans Coordinator of Dutchess County Nelson Eddy Rivera
- Staff at the Hudson River Housing Veteran Impact Program
- Maureen Marchessault of Veteran Affairs social work at the Poughkeepsie outreach clinic
- Nicole Embrey at Castle Point, who is the Outreach Coordinator for the VA of the Hudson Valley
- Scott Khare of Marist College to discuss veterans attending the college, and
- Colleen Mallett of Vassar College to learn about The Posse Program they have on campus for veterans. Target met.

d) The Veteran Specialist will develop program specific intake assessment forms and outcome surveys: TRI's agency intake and goal assessment forms were adequate to use for this program. They are in the process of creating a veteran program specific outcome survey that will be given to both past and present participants when completed. Ongoing. Target partially met.

e) The Veteran Specialist will provide comprehensive, quality independent living services to veterans with disabilities to assist them in becoming more stabilized in their homes and communities. Process will include an in-depth intake interviews, assessments of needs and definition of expectations and goals with consumers): Overall, twenty-seven (27) unduplicated veterans with disabilities were served during the year by TRI's demonstration project. (20) consumers were served in the last quarter when the program's capacity ramped up to speed. Another seven (7) were served in the previous quarter. This data is reflected in Subpart II of this report.

It should be mentioned that an additional 47 stakeholders, individuals and family members (non-consumers) were also provided with one-time information and referral that allowed them to self-advocate and/or resolve issues (no intakes were needed because these individuals were not consumers). Ongoing. Target met.

f) The Veteran Specialist will communicate with agency partners to provide appropriate linkage to supports and services for veterans with disabilities: Vet2Vet is available in multiple counties and the TRI Veteran Specialist works closely with the Dutchess County branch. He met with Orange County and Rockland County Vet2Vet groups to better understand the services and workshops they provide, in order to be able to duplicate them in Dutchess County. Ongoing. Target met.

g) The Veteran Specialist will link veterans to/with supports, services and benefits as needed. Ongoing. We have linked veterans with disabilities to many services at many agencies throughout the county including the Dutchess County Division of Veterans Services, the local VA, Department of Labor, Social Services, West Cop and the MHA Vet2Vet program. Ongoing. Target met.

h) The Veteran Specialist will provide independent living skills training based on individual needs and goals: Current trends involve assisting veterans with disabilities to fill out forms, request paper work, and file for benefits from Veteran Affairs. Many veterans also use the in-house Social Security disability benefits counseling services. Ongoing. Target met.

i) The Veteran Specialist will assist veterans with disabilities in organizing a committee for conducting systems advocacy especially as it relates to affordable/acceptable housing: The Veteran Specialist offered the opportunity to join the systems advocacy group to each veteran during the intake process on the goals form during intake. Generating consumer interest is the first step in the

process. Next year, TRI will reach out to other stakeholders to help spread the word regarding forming a system change committee geared toward advocating for affordable, accessible housing for veterans with disabilities. Target partially met.

Some highlights of advocacy with and for consumers include:

- TRI was able to assist a disabled veteran to receive a motorized scooter free of charge including delivery.
- TRI collaborated with WestCop to get a disabled veteran into housing through HudVash (a collaborative program between HUD and VA which combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help Veterans who are homeless, and their families find and sustain permanent housing).

j) The Veteran Specialist will research, collect, and store data and document all activities and outcomes to be used to inform a best practices manual: The Veteran Specialist will use data collected from the intake interview and exit surveys to document outcomes or attainment of goals. Monthly reports are being used to record all activity and Excel spreadsheets are being used to record all veteran consumers. A three-month goal tracker allows TRI to see what goals consumers want to achieve and help them toward attainment. A daily log will be kept tracking activity that will also be used to inform the best practices manual. Ongoing and updated daily. Target partially met.

In terms of challenges and lessons learned during the last year:

- The Hudson River Housing's Veteran Impact Program has proven to be unstable as their funding fluctuates monthly and they are under a constant threat of closing.
- Many veteran programs are structured for those who are already homeless and not geared for prevention of eviction. We need more programs like the STEP program with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley that helps with evictions.
- Based on the lesson learned above, TRI found that MHA's Living Room Program was not a great source for referrals to our program, since it was specifically targeting homeless veterans. However, TRI MHA's Vet2Vet program was a natural partner and will remain so for referrals.

Overall, this objective and its one outcome with ten targets demonstrated excellent progress during its first year of operation.

Objective # 6: The Capacity Building Independent Living Center Opportunity (CBILCO) grants to address priority unserved and underserved populations were completed in 2017.