



## Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 1:00pm to 5:00pm

&

Thursday, February 5, 2026, 9:00am to 12:00pm

Crowne Plaza

4728 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Join the meeting virtually at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81897543664?pwd=Zh8mW8JFI61It3HQn0sb32GhWmF3ge.1>

***“The mission of Louisiana’s Independent Living program(s) is to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, facilitating integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society. Louisiana’s IL Partners promote a philosophy of Independent Living, including consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy.”***

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to R.S.42:17.1. Public comment may be submitted prior to the meeting by email to [silclacoord@gmail.com](mailto:silclacoord@gmail.com). ASL interpreters and auto-generated captioning will be provided during the meeting. Email [silclacoord@gmail.com](mailto:silclacoord@gmail.com) to request other accommodations for the meeting.

**Public Comments will be allowed on each agenda item.**

**Statewide Independent Living Council**  
**Quarterly Meeting (Day 1)**  
**Wednesday, February 4th, 2026, 1:00pm to 4:00pm**  
Crowne Plaza, 4728 Constitution Avenue Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81897543664?pwd=Zh8mW8JFI61lt3HQn0sb32GhWmF3ge.1>

**Call to Order (including reminder of [Meeting Protocols](#))** **1:00 pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**[Roll Call](#)**

**Mission Statement**

**Approval of the [November 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)**

**[Louisiana Works](#) – Robbie Gray** **1:30 pm**

Indicator #2.1.1: Collaboration with Louisiana Workforce Commission is achieved through the SILC Executive Director holding membership on the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council to report SILC activities and reporting LRC information at quarterly SILC meetings.

Indicator #2.1.3: The SILC advocates to Louisiana legislators in support of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services within the Louisiana Workforce Commission and reports advocacy efforts at least once quarterly at SILC meetings.

**State Government Agency Updates regarding SPIL Section 2: Services 1:45 pm**

[Office of Behavioral Health](#) - Charlene Gradney

[Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs](#) - Cheri Crain

[Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities](#) - Bernard Brown

Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs - Welma Jackson

**SILC Budget Update** **2:30 pm**

- [FY 2026 Quarterly Financial Report](#) - Fiscal Agent (NHILC)
- SILC Bank Account Balance: \$2,525.65 - Pam Allen, SILC Treasurer
- VOTE: SILC's assumption of full financial responsibility and autonomous financial management
- VOTE: [Proposed FY27 Budget](#)

Indicator #4.1.5: The SILC will transition to the Fiscal Agent and continue with LRS contracting.

Objective #4.3: SILC will transition to full budgetary control not needing a fiscal agent and will contract directly with LWC/DSE.

### **Centers for Independent Living (CILs) Reports**

**3:00 pm**

Indicator #1.1.1: CILs updates are presented at each SILC quarterly meeting.

Indicator #2.1.2: CILs promote completion of income taxes for consumers who are employed with referrals to free preparation sites or Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites and provide updates of referrals at quarterly SILC meetings.

Indicator #2.2.4: CILs maintain membership and participation in Louisiana's Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC) and report on EMDAC activities at quarterly SILC meetings.

Indicator #2.3.1: The CILs maintain AT/DME programs to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to equipment as needed, with CILs reporting activities and progress in quarterly SILC meetings.

Indicator #2.3.2: The CILs provide telecommunication access equipment, hearing aids, and ASL interpreting to consumers who are Deaf, have hearing loss, or who have speech impairment and report on activities at each quarterly SILC meeting.

Indicator #2.3.3: The CILs provide referrals to DME providers and LA Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN) and report referrals and related activities at quarterly SILC meetings.

Indicator #3.1.2: The CILs explore resource development sources to provide alternative funding and promote maintenance of current alternative funding, reporting updates at each quarterly SILC meeting.

- New Horizons Independent Living Center (NHILC) – Patricia Yoruw
  - Consumer Impact Report
  - [PPR Report](#)
  - [Quarterly Report; Attachment](#)
- Resources on Independent Living (RIL) – Alisha Hammond
  - [PPR Report](#)
  - [Quarterly Report](#)
- Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (@SLIC) – Randy Dartez
  - [PPR Report](#)
  - [Quarterly Report](#)

**Adjournment**

**4:00 pm**

**Statewide Independent Living Council**  
**Quarterly Meeting (Day 2)**  
**Thursday, February 5th, 2026, 9:00am to 11:00am**  
Crowne Plaza, 4728 Constitution Avenue Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81897543664?pwd=Zh8mW8JFI61t3HQn0sb32GhWmF3ge.1>

**Call to Order (including reminder of [Meeting Protocols](#))**

**9:00 am**

**Roll Call**

**Mission Statement**

**CILs and SILC Members Report**

**9:15 am**

Objective #3.2: SILC and the CILs utilize best practices of successful SILCs and CILs

Indicator #3.2.1: SILC members and the CILs participate in webinars, conference calls, and other training and report on new and creative ideas learned at each quarterly SILC meeting.

Indicator #3.2.2: SILC members and CILs partner with other SILCs, CILs and other disability-related organizations to foster best practices and report on new and creative ideas learned at each quarterly SILC meeting.

Indicator #2.2.5: SILC members and CILs participate in advocacy and education to decision-makers for accessible, affordable housing for individuals with disabilities and report activities and progress at each quarterly meeting.

Objective #2.1: Promotion of economic stability through employment for individuals with disabilities

- Planning and Preparation for Conferences - SILC Congress & NCIL Conference
- Update on the American Association for People with Disabilities food grant - CILs
- Update on Empowerment through Employment Conference - collaboration between SILC, Families Helping Families centers, and Disability Rights Louisiana - Bambi Polotzola

**SILC Members Reports**

Objective #1.1: Individuals with disabilities throughout the state are informed of Independent Living philosophy and services.

Indicator #1.1.2: Quarterly presentation by SILC members about any services or programs that will benefit the disability community.

Indicator #1.1.3: SILC members promote and attend disability-related events at least once a quarter to educate and raise awareness of the Independent Living philosophy, programs, initiatives, and CIL services.

Indicator #1.1.5: Updates are provided by SILC members at each quarterly SILC meeting regarding activities/events occurring in each member's local community that might provide opportunities for dissemination of Independent Living services and philosophy.

Indicator #3.1.1: SILC members advocate to the legislature for the SILC and CILs and report activities at quarterly SILC meetings at least once a year.

- [2026 Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum](#) - Lillian DeJean
  - Accepting Delegate and Staff applications until the end of March.
  - Delegates: 10th-12th graders with a disability.
  - July 9th-12th at Louisiana State University Eunice
  - Free with food, lodging, and 1:1 staff included.
- [Legislative Tracking Proposal](#)- Lillian DeJean

### **Bylaws and Policies and Procedures**

**10:15 am**

Phillip Credeur, Bylaws and Policy & Procedure Committee Chairperson

Objective #4.1: The SILC will continue to pursue full autonomy.

Indicator #4.1.1: The SILC Chair appoints a Resource Development Committee within the first SPIL year to explore ways to support independent SILC operations and receives committee reports at each SILC meeting.

Indicator #4.1.4: The [Policy and Procedure manual](#) and [By-Laws](#) will be reviewed at least once a year and updated as needed to reflect any operational or procedural changes, including virtual meetings to allow for a quorum.

Indicator #4.3.2: SILC will add a new fiscal process to By-laws.

- Announcement of upcoming Policies and Procedures meeting

### **Compliance, Reporting, Training**

**10:25 am**

Objective #4.2: The SILC achieves compliance with federal SILC standards and indicators.

Indicator #4.2.1: The SILC Chair will review an evaluation tool quarterly to note progress on fulfillment of SILC standards and indicators and will report findings at quarterly SILC meetings.

Indicator #4.2.2: The SILC Chair, Executive Committee and CIL Executive Directors will formulate an Orientation Training Plan during the first quarter of the SPIL for each SILC member to complete training, with members reporting at each quarterly meeting on their progress.

- SILC FY25 PPR Report - Bambi Polotzola

### **Executive Director's Report**

**Bambi Polotzola**

**10:40 am**

### **Additional Business**

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

May 13 & 14, 2026 - Crowne Plaza - Baton Rouge, LA

August 5 & 6, 2026 - Resources for Independent Living - Kenner, LA

November 4 & 5, 2026 - Crowne Plaza - Baton Rouge, LA

### **Adjournment**

**11:00 am**