



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

**221 South Central Avenue, Suite 33
Pierre SD 57501
Phone: 605.494.3613 Fax: 605.224.8320**

DATE: January 16, 2024

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Seeking Nominations

FROM: Cole Uecker, BVR Chairperson
Ryan Groeneweg, 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 outcomes for individuals with disabilities in South Dakota.

The BVR and SILC are federally mandated. Each meets a minimum of four times a year and has a minimum of fifteen members. Each has specific composition requirements which represent a cross-section of South Dakotans. Membership requirements for both mandate that a majority of members must be individuals with disabilities.

We are seeking nominations for vacancies due to occur at the end of June. Upon receipt of all nominations, we will forward them to the Governor for review, consideration, and selection.

Individuals are selected based upon their qualifications, experience, and specific position requirements. Members are typically appointed to serve three-year terms. People with disabilities, parents/guardians of individuals with disabilities, and advocates 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, February 23rd.** You are welcome to nominate yourself. If you are nominating someone else, please ask the potential nominee if they are willing and able to serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and any subsequent nominations you submit to us.

Roles and Responsibilities

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 seeking to reach their employment goals and aspirations through 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.
- 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, 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.

Other Information:

Nominations can be submitted at any time; however, nominations solicited for 2024 are due by February 23rd. A fillable PDF can also be found on line at <https://dhs.sd.gov/en/rehabilitation-services/division-of-rehabilitation-services-boards-councils>.

- ❖ All appointments to the BVR and SILC are made by the Governor.
- ❖ All BVR and SILC meetings were held utilizing ZOOM the last three years. Zoom 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.
- ❖ If you have any questions, please contact BVR/SILC staff at 1.605.494.3613 or at cwagoner@bhssc.org.

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 To:

infors@state.sd.us or

Division of Rehabilitation Services
3800 E Hwy 34, c/o 500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501