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Maryland Statewide
Independent Living
Council

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2014 Needs Assessment

The Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council (MSILC) is conducting a survey to better serve you. We need you to help us collect information about disability related programs and services that provide opportunities for people with disabilities to live independently in their community. The information collected will assess how those programs and services are meeting the needs of people with disabilities living in Maryland. The results will provide us with statistical and other information necessary to work with advocates and policy makers to improve existing services and help to develop new programs and will be included in a public report.

Your participation in the process, therefore, is important. Please complete the attached survey. We want to hear directly from people with disabilities, their family members, friends, personal assistants/attendants,(PAs) or other stakeholders. Don't hesitate to express your thoughts and ideas about what is needed and how to improve living in Maryland with a disability.

Please feel free to answer the questions as you like and skip any you choose not to answer. The information you share in the survey will remain confidential. We will not use or attach any names to any information in the report.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and ideas. We will post summary survey results on our website at <http://www.MSILC.org> and notify you when the results are available.

This material is available in alternate formats. If you would like to request an alternate format or for any questions please contact Denise Thomas, MSILC Executive Director or via email at: marylandsilc@gmail.com.

Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council
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and 240-599-7965
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Email Us:
MarylandSILC@gmail.com

2014 Needs Assessment

1. Please Identify Yourself

- Person with a disability
- Parent of a minor or guardian with a disability
- Family member/Partner of an adult with a disability
- Community Advocate/Friend/ of an adult with a disability
- Personal Assistant/service provider (skip to SECTION 5)
- Other

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES PLEASE RESPOND (People without disabilities, go to question # 14)

2. Below is a list of statements dealing with your general feelings about yourself as a person with a disability

Please check the answer that best describes how you feel:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
In general I am satisfied with my life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am able to live independently.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am happy in my current living situation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am able to access the services I need.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

4. What is your disability? (You may check more than one)

- Cognitive
- Mental/Emotional
- Physical
- Hearing
- Vision
- Multiple Disabilities
- Other

5. What is your age?

- Under 5
- 5 to 15
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 44
- 45 to 64
- 65 to 84
- 85 and over

6. Describe yourself. Optional (Check all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black/African American
- Caucasian
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Two or more races
- Other (please specify)

7. What is your annual household income?

- \$0-\$19,999
- \$20,000-\$39,999
- \$40,000-\$59,999
- \$60,000-\$79,999
- \$80,000 or more
- Prefer not to answer

8. How would you describe your living arrangement?

- Live alone
- With family
- With unrelated person (s) such as a personal assistant or paid staff
- Group home
- Mental Health Facility
- Project HOME
- Nursing Facility
- Assisted Living Facility
- Alternative Living Unit (Developmental Disabilities Administration)
- No fixed address- homeless

Other (please specify)

9. What is your current employment status?

- Never Employed
- Employed Full time
- Employed Part time
- Not currently employed

10. Are you a Student?

- Yes
- No

11. Are you Retired?

- Yes
- No

12. Are you a Veteran?

- Yes
- No

13. Have you ever had services from any of the following Centers for Independent Living (CILs)? (Check all that apply)

- Accessible Resources for Independence serves Anne Arundel and Howard Counties
- Bay Area Center for Independent Living serves Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queens Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties
- The Freedom Center serves Frederick and Carroll Counties
- The IMAGE Center serves Baltimore City, Harford, and Baltimore Counties
- Independence Now serves Montgomery and Prince George's Counties
- Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living serves Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties
- Resources for Independence in Cumberland serves Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties

14. What do you believe are your 5 greatest needs as a Marylander with a disability?

- a. Disability-related information and referral- Assists people with disabilities in meeting their needs by providing up-to-date information and referrals to various resources and agencies within the region and state. Examples include but are not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), SSI and SSDI Benefits, housing and nursing home transition.
- b. Peer Counseling - Peer counselors are individuals who assist people with disabilities to achieve the independence they desire by sharing experiences, providing educational resources and providing support & friendship.
- c. Independent Living Skills Training and Life Skills Training Services - Provides individuals with disabilities an opportunity to make appropriate choices and learn the skills which will assist them in achieving the highest level of independence possible. Some examples include but are not limited to instruction for household management, financial management and participating in community activities.
- d. Individual and Systems Advocacy - Provides advocacy in the areas of housing, transportation, civil and human rights, education, employment, and other life situations. Self-advocacy is action taken on one's own behalf to protect or improve the individual's life circumstances. Individual advocacy is assistance given to a person which is intended to improve both the person's life circumstances and the

person's self advocacy skills. Systems Advocacy is activity which has the effect of altering laws, regulations, or practices that impact large numbers of people.

- e. Assistive Technology - Any assistive technology device, that is, any item, piece of equipment, purchased services or goods, or product system that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities increase independence of individuals with disabilities and any assistive technology service that assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device. Assistive Technology also includes home modifications and vehicular modifications. These modifications will assist in achieving the highest level of independence possible so people with disabilities can live in a least restrictive environment allowing them to be integrated into the community.
- f. Employment - Any services designed to achieve or maintain full or part time paid employment
- g. Healthcare - the maintenance and improvement of physical and mental health, especially through the provision of medical services.
- h. Transportation - To increase the ability of people with disabilities to independently travel throughout their communities.
- i. Affordable accessible housing - Assisting people with disabilities to locate affordable and accessible housing to achieve community integration through rental subsidies such as Section 8 vouchers or public housing.
- j. Personal Assistance Services - Provides assistance to people with disabilities who manage their care within their own homes. These include, but are not limited to, assistance with personal hygiene functions; communication, household, mobility, work, emotional, cognitive, personal, and financial affairs; community participation; parenting; leisure; and other related needs.
- k. Nursing Home Transition - To assist individuals living in nursing homes, who wish to move into their own home in the community.
- L. Youth Transition Services - Any service that develops skills specifically designed for youth with significant disabilities between the ages of 14 and 24. These services promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and the exploration of career options, including the transition from school to post school activities such as postsecondary education, vocational training, employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation.
- M. Other (please specify)

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2014 Needs Assessment

The Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council (MSILC) is interested in learning how the Community First Choice (CFC) program is working.

Please answer these questions if you need long term services and supports, like a waiver program, or Medicaid personal care services:

15. Do you have Community First Choice Medicaid services now?

Yes

No

16. Did you apply?

Yes

No

17. If yes, what date?

2014

Month

Other (please specify another date of enrollment)

18. Were you denied?

Yes

No

19. If your application was denied, Why?

20. Did you appeal?

Yes

No

21. Did you win your appeal?

Yes

No

Still waiting for a response

22. If you have CFC, are you receiving all the services you need?

Yes

No

23. If you are not receiving all the CFC services you need, please list needed services here

24. Please tell us what you are experiencing with CFC. Please access our Contact Us page at www.msilc.org; if you would like to learn more about CFC policy and procedures.

25. Where do you reside; please enter the zip code of the (person with a disability) or office (service provider)?

26. Comments:

Thank you for your feedback.

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