



**Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired
Board of Vocational Rehabilitation
Statewide Independent Living Council**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties **DATE:** March 21, 2011
SUBJECT: Seeking Board and Council Nominations
FROM: Dan Rounds, BVR Chairperson
David Miller, BSBVI Chairperson
Margot Burton, SILC Chairperson

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

We are soliciting nominations for vacancies on our respective boards and council. Upon receipt of nominations, we will forward them to the Governor for his review, consideration and selection.

The BVR, BSBVI and SILC are federally mandated. They meet a minimum of four times a year. Member expenses involved with participating in the meetings are reimbursed at state rates i.e., mileage, per diem, and lodging (if necessary).

Each of our groups has a minimum of fifteen members. They represent a cross section of South Dakotans who have a stake in vocational rehabilitation and independent living services. Individuals are selected based upon their personal qualifications and specific requirements for each board/council. People are typically appointed to serve three-year terms. The attached page outlines specific needs of each of our groups.

A nomination packet for each board/council is enclosed: Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (Blue); Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (Yellow); and Statewide Independent Living Council (Green). Nominations must be submitted by **Friday, April 8th**.

If you have any questions, we invite you to contact our staff at 1.800.210.0143 (BVR and SILC) or 1.800.265.9684 (BSBVI). Thank you for your consideration of this request and any subsequent nominations you submit to us.

Composition Requirements Needed to be Filled

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation

As of July 1, 2011 the Board will need representatives from the following categories:

- o Representative of community rehabilitation program service providers;
- o Representatives of individuals with disabilities who have difficulty in representing themselves or are unable due to their disabilities to represent themselves.

Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired

As of July 1, 2011 the Board will need representatives from the following categories:

- o One representative of a parent training and information center (South Dakota Parent Connection);
- o Two representatives from the business, industry and labor. (Preference will be given to individuals who are blind or visually impaired in the above category, because a majority of members must be individuals who are blind and not employed by the designated State Unit).

Statewide Independent Living Council

As of July 1, 2011 the SILC will need representatives from the following categories:

- o One representative of the Directors of the Native American Vocational Rehabilitation Programs;
- o People who:
 - o provide statewide representation;
 - o represent a broad range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds;
 - o who are knowledgeable about centers for independent living and independent living services; and
 - o a majority of whom are persons who are individuals with disabilities and not employed by any State agency or center for independent living.

***Prior to submitting any nomination(s),
Please ask the potential nominee if they are willing and able to serve***