



**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 3, 2015
SUBJECT: Seeking Board and Council Nominations
FROM: Brett Glirbas, BVR Chairperson
Eric Rippentrop, BSBVI Chairperson
David Miller, 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 **Wednesday, March 25th**.

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 (BVR)

As of July 1, 2015 the Board will need representatives from the following categories:

- o Representative of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) – who must be either the chairperson or another designee of the SILC;
- o Representative of business, industry and labor;
- o Representatives of disability advocacy groups: a) representing a cross section of individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory and mental disabilities; and b) representing themselves or are unable due to their disabilities to represent themselves.

Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (BSBVI)

As of July 1, 2015 the Board will need representatives from the following categories:

- o Representatives of business, industry and labor;
- o Individuals who are blind or visually impaired; because a majority of members must be individuals who are blind and not employed by the designated State Unit;
- o Representative of the directors of the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation grant program.

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

As of July 1, 2015 the SILC will need representatives from the following categories:

- o At least one director of a Center for Independent Living (CIL) chosen by the directors of the CILs in the state.
- o At least one representative of the directors of 1 or more Centers for Independent Living run by, or in conjunction with, the governing bodies of American Indian tribes located on federal or state reservations.
- 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***