

## **PROGRAM NARRATIVE**

**Capacity to Provide Service:** This is a proposal for the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living (SNCIL) for one half of the amount of objective 1.1.5 (\$86,000) for community independent living Support Services for a total of \$43,000. The goal and objectives of this project are to improve access to accessible and affordable housing for the Clark County Disability Community for low-income individuals with disabilities ages eighteen and up. This includes diversion from institutions and individuals who need transition services from institutional settings in alignment with the State Plan for Independent Living Plan. The Southern Nevada Center for Independent living is a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization which is section 725 compliant as defined by the Administration on Community Living (ACL). Since 1984, with ACL grant support, SNCIL has been successfully providing housing services along with the CIL core services in Clark County Nevada rural and metropolitan communities. SNCIL is currently certified by HUD to screen, refer and enter low-income individuals with disabilities on to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database for any available housing vouchers and waiting lists. HMIS is a HUD local information technology system used to collect consumer-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to individuals and families at risk of and experiencing homelessness.

**Service Area, Outreach Plans and Proposed Service Delivery to Target Populations:** County has a population of 2,350,611 and 13.% living below poverty level, 8.6% under age 65 with a disability and 16.3% over age 65. The median rent in Clark County is \$1406 monthly. The total number of individuals needing housing exceeds the number of housing units available.

**Outreach:** Outreach will be conducted through existing partnerships, social media and outreach events to include the Veterans Standdown and the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Disability Awareness Day. Services will include SNCIL referrals to the HMIS and existing housing connections to include HUD, Accessible Space, Inc. and other housing partners in Clark County.

**Service Delivery:** To access accessible and affordable housing, eligible individuals will be provided with the five core CIL services as requested. Consumers will have the opportunity to develop a housing goal and accept or waive the development of an Independent Living Plan. SNCIL will conduct a housing needs assessment and provide peer counseling and independent living skills training to complete applications, develop housing location skills and provide housing set up resource sources referrals. Monthly housing workshops will be provided by SNCIL on-site and by zoom.

**Outcomes:** Through the SPIL Goal Improve Access to Independent Living Supports and Services, the objective 1.1.5 and SNCILs interest in providing the five core CIL services to increase accessible and affordable housing we can expect the following outcomes:

- Increase housing services to 40 eligible individuals in Clark County Nevada through the provision of SNCIL services and track the number of individuals progress towards permanent housing including institutional transitions.
- The transition outcome is two individuals to transition from institutional settings to community living.
- The projected diversions to prevent individuals at high-risk to institutionalization is twenty.
- The outcome for permanent housing achieved is five.
- The total number of individuals with a vision of hope for achieving a housing goal at some time is 40.

**Underserved:** All of Clark County rural and urban geographic areas are underserved. ACL funds by one title VII part C CIL which provides the five CIL core services to low-income

individuals of all disabilities and ethnicities to access accessible and affordable housing which include: peer counseling, advocacy both individual and community, independent living skills training, information and referral, transitions services for youth and institutional transitions.

**Evaluation:** Program evaluation and reports to the SILC about housing enrollment and outcomes will include data about assistance provided to develop an independent living plan, while gathering demographics, maintaining data about services requested and provided, housing goal development and follow along throughout the life of the housing goal. Services will include housing workshops which include education about the independent living philosophy, independent living skills training to apply for housing and peer counseling support and encouragement to achieve independent living housing goals. Because of the housing shortage in Clark County numbers enrolled will be tracked and follow up conducted until housing is achieved regardless of the sunseting of SILC funding.

**Challenges:** Challenges to this project include the lack of accessible and affordable housing and continuously rising rents in Clark County. An additional barrier is the availability of move in funds in the community.

**Staff:** Key project staff will be a new hire with a disability with 5 years of experience working at an out of state Center for Independent Living, existing long-term executive director and accounting staff.

**Sustainability:** Because of the housing shortage in Clark County numbers enrolled will be tracked and follow-up conducted until housing is achieved regardless of the sunseting of SILC funding. SNCIL will continue to seek partnerships to assist the Clark County Disability Community with accessible and affordable housing.

**1.1.5** SNCIL is interested in participating in 1.1.5 if interested in providing services outlined in this NOFO with the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living taking the lead.