



September 13, 2023

Dear New Members of the Montana Statewide Independent Living Council,

Welcome to the Montana Independent Living Council and thank you for your willingness to serve.

Independent living in Montana began in earnest with the passage of the 1986 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act. Since that time, our Council and Montana's four Centers for Independent Living have worked diligently to provide high quality independent living services across the state. Much of the success of Independent Living in Montana is attributable to the vision and the work of the Council. It is the Council's responsibility to write and update the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) in conjunction with the Division of Disability Employment and Transitions and Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The Division takes our partnership seriously as we collaborate to improve the self-determination and inclusion of people with disabilities in mainstream Montana life.

Montana values your contributions in developing long range strategies addressing issues facing Montanans with disabilities. The work of the Council is meaningful and makes a difference for all Montanans. We hope you find your role as a member of the Council to be fulfilling and valuable as you work towards meeting its mission and vision.

Please feel free to contact me at (406) 444-4179 or Chanda.Hermanson@mt.gov. Again, thank you, and I very much look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Chanda Hermanson

Administrator
Disability Employment and Transitions Division
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services