

Reporting Instrument

OMB Approval No.: 0985-0061
Expiration Date: February 28, 2025

CIL Program Project Performance Report

Fiscal Year: 2023

Grant #: 2305GAILCL

Name of Center: Living Independence for Everyone, Inc.

Acronym for Center (if applicable): LIFE

State: GA

Counties Served: Bryan (GA), Bulloch (GA), Camden (GA), Chatham (GA), Effingham (GA), Evans (GA), Glynn (GA), Liberty (GA), McIntosh (GA), Tattnall (GA), Toombs (GA),

SECTION 1 - GENERAL FUNDING INFORMATION

Section 725(c)(8)(D) of the Act

Indicate the amount received by the CIL as per each funding source. Enter '0' for none.

Item 1.1.1 - All Federal Funds Received

Title VII, Ch. 1, Part B	\$209,795.00
Title VII, Ch. 1, Part C	\$337,707.00
Title VII, Ch. 2	\$0
Other Federal Funds	\$81,572.00
Subtotal - All Federal Funds	\$629,074.00

Item 1.1.2 - Other Government Funds

State Government Funds	\$270,479.00
Local Government Funds	\$0
Subtotal - State and Local Government Funds	\$270,479.00

Item 1.1.3 - Private Resources

Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants	\$62,050.00
Donations from Individuals	\$1,006.00
Membership Fees	\$70
Investment Income/Endowment	\$0
Fees for Service (program income, etc.)	\$50,171.00
Other resources (in-kind, fundraising, etc.)	\$14,109.00
Subtotal - Private Resources	\$127,406.00

Item 1.1.4 - Total Income

Total income = (Item 1.1.1)+(Item 1.1.2)+(Item 1.1.3)	\$1,026,959.00
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Item 1.1.5 - Pass Through Funds

Amount of other government funds received as pass through funds to consumers (include funds, received on behalf of consumers, that are subsequently passed on to consumers, e.g., personal assistance services, representative payee funds, or Medicaid funds)	\$0
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Item 1.1.6 - Net Operating Resources

Total Income (Item 1.1.4) minus amount paid out to Consumers (Item 1.1.5) = Net Operating Resources	\$1,026,959.00
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Item 1.2 - Resource Development Activities

Briefly describe the CIL's resource development activities conducted during the reporting period to expand funding from sources other than chapter 1 of title VII of the Act.

As with the past two years, this year LIFE created new funding opportunities by maximizing the quality and diversity of programming through both newer and longer-standing partnerships.

This was especially evident in fee for service contracts arising out of LIFE's demonstrated expertise and pre-existing relationships. LIFE's ED maintained the service-based fundraising approach only after close consultations with LIFE's accountant, who confirmed the cash flows the approach created were sufficient to maintain the intended growth, and with LIFE's Board, who confirmed the financial position of the Center supported their longer-term vision. Having established a consensus, the Program Director and the Associate Director worked with the Executive Director to use LIFE's expertise to follow the Board's directive: to generate income through efforts that furthered the organizational mission.

The Fee for Service total of \$50,171 found in Item 1.1.3 includes the following:

1) LIFE's Program Director/ATRC Specialist continued to travel down to Darien most Thursdays to staff the AT lab there and consult with PwD living in our more southerly counties out of that office while also generating \$12,671 from the Coastal ADRC in fee for service funding. This partnership led to LIFE learning about two additional opportunities, which are detailed in Section 7.1, both resulting in new and more robust funding opportunities in the years to follow as well as one resulting in additional staff training and thus capacity detailed therein.

2) After a successful year as one of 10 pilot sites in the United States for the Living Well in the Community (LWIC) rollout, Georgia State, through its Center for Leadership in Disability, contracted with LIFE to put on another 3 cohorts of LWIC in year two of the projected three-year rollout. The three installments of the 10-week class not only provided valuable IL Skills trainings to 18 consumers but also generated \$22,500 of revenue for LIFE. It also led to new opportunities, a virtuous cycle where delivery of services for the benefit of PwD in one contract established a successor funding stream. As noted in last year's PPR, the GSU Center for Leadership in Disability partnered with LIFE to offer the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability's Inclusive Community Implementation Process (NiCIP), a systems advocacy program. Implementation of the program, which began the prior reporting year, ramped up this year as the first year of the three-year program concluded at the end of July. The collaboration between GSU, with its ability to access large data sets, and LIFE, with its understanding of its service area and its relationships with PwD living in therein, allowed this group to identify public transportation in Chatham County as the barrier to positive individual health outcomes that would be addressed in the remaining two years of the collaboration. It also generated an additional \$15,000.

In addition to the fee for service opportunities LIFE secured, demonstrated capacity to provide services to the community and strong existing partnerships also led to:

1) hosting a GVRA counselor at LIFE, an AT training collaboration once a month at the LIFE office, and \$35,233 in extra funding through GVRA (part of Section 1.1.2 State Government Funds);

2) continuing partnership with two local volunteer ramp groups and another volunteer contractor resulting in 421 hours of volunteer labor (\$33.49/hr.) to build 4 ramps representing an in-kind benefit of \$14,099 (1.1.2 Other Resources) and a Board connection with Habitat for Humanity officers and the Associate Director's outreach efforts hold promise for additional savings opportunities through this group in the years to come;

3) being selected by the plaintiffs in an Effingham Fair Housing settlement to oversee the allocation of \$50,000 of the settlement towards qualifying fair housing projects in Effingham County (1.1.2

Foundations/Corp);

4) hosting a voting and election watching event in Savannah for REV-UP GA, for which they provided \$50 for supplies (1.1.2 Foundations/Corp).

5) applying for and receiving a \$12,000 grant through the United Way of the Coastal Empire to fund its well-regarded Students for LIFE Youth Transition program (1.1.2 Foundations/Corp).

SECTION 2 - COMPLIANCE INDICATOR 1: PHILOSOPHY

Item 2.1 - Board Member Composition

OILP-ACL Review Tool: Are there at least 51% total board members with significant disabilities? Yes
Enter requested governing board information in the table below:

Total Number of Board Members	Number of Board Members with Significant Disabilities
10	7

Percentage of Board Members with Significant Disabilities	70.00%
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Item 2.2 - Staff Composition

OILP-ACL Review Tool: Are at least 51% of total staff individuals with disabilities? Yes
Enter requested staff information in the table below:

	Total Number of FTEs	FTEs Filled by Individuals with Disabilities	FTEs Filled by Individuals From Minority Populations
Decision-Making Staff	2.9	2.9	0.9
Other Staff	7.4	7.4	2.3
Total Number of Employees	10.3	10.3	3.1

Item 2.2.1 - Staff With Disabilities

Percentage of Staff Members with Significant Disabilities	100.00%
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SECTION 3 - INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SERVICES

Section 704(m)(4)(D) of the Act; Section 725(b)(2) of the Act; Section 725(c)(8)(B) of the Act

Item 3.1 - Number of Consumers Served During the Reporting Period

Include Consumer Service Records (CSRs) for all consumers served during the period

	# of CSRs
(1) Enter the number of active CSRs carried over from the preceding reporting period	85
(2) Enter the number of CSRs started since the start of the reporting period	103
(3) Add lines (1) and (2) to get the total number of consumers served	188

Item 3.2 - IL Plans and Waivers

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Number of consumers who signed a waiver	3
(2) Number of consumers with whom an ILP was developed	185
(3) Total number of consumers served during the reporting period	188

Item 3.3 - Number of CSRs Closed by September 30 of the Reporting Period

Include the number of consumer records closed out of the active CSR files during the reporting period because the individual has:

	# of CSRs
(1) Moved	3
(2) Withdrawn	9
(3) Died	4
(4) Completed all goals set	16
(5) Other	11
(6) Add lines (1)+(2)+(3)+(4)+(5) to get total CSRs closed	43

Item 3.4 - Age

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Under 5 years old	2

	# of Consumers
(2) Ages 5 - 19	3
(3) Ages 20 - 24	8
(4) Ages 25 - 59	78
(5) Age 60 and Older	97
(6) Age unavailable	0
Total number of consumers by age	188

Item 3.5 - Sex

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Number of Females served	115
(2) Number of Males served	73
Total number of consumers by sex	188

Item 3.6 - Race And Ethnicity

Indicate the number of consumers served in each category below. ***Each consumer may be counted under ONLY ONE of the following categories in the PPR/704 Report, even if the consumer reported more than one race and/or Hispanic/Latino ethnicity).***

	# of Consumers
(1) American Indian or Alaska Native	0
(2) Asian	2
(3) Black or African American	123
(4) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
(5) White	51
(6) Hispanic/Latino of any race or Hispanic/ Latino only	7
(7) Two or more races	3
(8) Race and ethnicity unknown	2
Total number of consumers served by race/ethnicity	188

Item 3.7 - Disability

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Cognitive	9
(2) Mental/Emotional	18
(3) Physical	111

	# of Consumers
(4) Hearing	4
(5) Vision	24
(6) Multiple Disabilities	18
(7) Other	4
Total number of consumers served by disability	188

Item 3.8 - Individuals Served by County During the Reporting Period

List each county within the CIL's service area, as indicated in the CIL's application for Part C funds and the approved SPIL. Add additional rows as necessary. For each county, indicate how many individuals residing in that county were served by the CIL during the reporting period.

County Name	Number of County Residents Served
Bryan, GA	8
Bulloch, GA	9
Camden, GA	6
Chatham, GA	118
Effingham, GA	13
Evans, GA	3
Glynn, GA	10
Liberty, GA	9
McIntosh, GA	2
Tattnall, GA	5
Toombs, GA	5
Total number of consumers served by county	188

SECTION 4 - INDIVIDUAL SERVICES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Item 4.1 - Individual Services

OILP-ACL Review Tool: Does the CIL provide evidence of the following services?

Information and referral: Yes

Independent living skills training: Yes

Peer counseling: Yes

Advocacy - individual and systems: Yes

For the reporting period, indicate in the table below how many consumers requested and received each of the following IL services.

Services	Consumers Requesting Services	Consumers Receiving Services
Advocacy/Legal Services	50	50
Assistive Technology	85	85
Children's Services	4	4
Communication Services	31	31
Counseling and related services	10	10
Family Services	33	33
Housing, Home Modification, and Shelter Services	106	106
IL Skills Training and Life Skills Training	52	52
Information and Referral Services	3906	3906
Mental Restoration Services	7	7
Mobility training	5	5
Peer Counseling Services	96	96
Personal Assistance Services	16	16
Physical Restoration Services	5	5
Preventive Services	32	32
Prostheses, Orthotics, and other appliances	0	0
Recreational Services	32	32
Rehabilitation Technology Services	22	22
Therapeutic Treatment	11	11
Transportation Services	42	42
Youth/Transition Services	33	33
Vocational Services	44	44
Other	0	0

Item 4.2 - I&R Information

To inform ACL how many service providers engage in I&R follow-up contacts regarding access to

transportation, health care services or assistive technology, please indicate the following:

The service provider did **X** / did not ____ engage in follow-up contacts with I & R recipients to document access gained to previously unavailable transportation, health care or assistive technology.

Describe how information and referral services and the other IL core and other IL services are provided to those who request such services in formats accessible to the individual requesting the services. Describe any innovative practices (not mentioned elsewhere in this report) to enhance the availability and effectiveness of IL services.

LIFE provided information and referral services to people with disabilities and the community at large. This service included collecting community resources, sharing these resources, making referrals to the appropriate organizations/individuals, and sharing learned information through community education activities. LIFE staff learned about and shared resources in a number of different ways. Examples of enhancements of the I&R referral process included: 1) LIFE attended community meetings, including Family Connections meetings for many of the 11 service counties, mental health meetings like Regional Community Collaboratives, and Aging and Disability Resource Collaboratives, where it was among the partner organizations for the advisory council for the Coastal Georgia and participated as a community partner in Heart of Georgia and Southern Georgia ADRC's meetings. Through its attendance here and at the many meetings detailed in Item 5.7, LIFE staff accessed additional resources in the community which could subsequently be passed along to individuals in need of assistance one-on-one or shared on the LIFE Resources tab on its website. In these meetings, LIFE also shared with attendees about LIFE services and passed along relevant information it had gathered from other sources, multiplying the impact of its original resource gathering efforts. 2) LIFE staff referred individuals inquiring about resources to United Way 211, a database covering many of LIFE's counties which LIFE participated in as a United Way funded agency. This database also referred callers to LIFE. LIFE provided the United Way with a list of its programs and services, and United Way 2-1-1 connected callers to LIFE who were in need of such services. As such, United Way 2-1-1 served as a source of referrals as well as supplemented the network of providers LIFE learned about through its community efforts.

LIFE continued to provide information in numerous formats including Braille, Large Print, and electronic copies, which LIFE offered upon request to consumers and community partners.

One of LIFE's most impactful I&R efforts was in response to local natural disasters. LIFE was able to keep area residents informed during Hurricane Helene, where an evacuation order was never issued but some residents lost power for weeks. Without power at LIFE's office and the surrounding areas and virtually everyone relying on their phones to access information online, LIFE determined the best way to disperse information about the relevant resources was through its website and social media platforms, which people continued to access through their mobile phones. Beginning on Friday, September 27th, 2024, in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Helene, LIFE's Associate Director created a list of helpful resources for our consumers with disabilities in all of LIFE's service counties. Making critical information available to people with disabilities was essential in disaster recovery, and she monitored Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) communications, City of Savannah, Chatham County, FEMA, DPH Coastal Health District, Georgia Power and many local social media pages, ranging from area YMCAs to local churches and various municipalities to mine the rapidly changing information about available resources. The document she created on Google Forms was made available and accessible to the public in real time via LIFE's website, social media and staff email. Shared information included: CodeRED ALERTS, Power Outage Maps, Rapid Response Disaster Fund - United Way of The Coastal Empire, Charging Stations and Free Wi-Fi, Federal Disaster Assistance, Water Boil Advisories, Funding available for families with children and individuals who are medically fragile, Transportation, Food Assistance/Ice/Water, Shelter, Showering, SNAP benefits, AAC Disaster Relief, Cooling Centers, Road Closures, Schools Closures, Debris Removal, Safety Guidelines, Food Safety, Access to dialysis and medications, and Mental Health and Stress

Response as the information became available. Multiple community partners sent people looking for resources to LIFE's page, due to its comprehensive and up-to-date information. The Associate Director continued to update the document until 10/07/2024, the details of which will be in the next PPR, and LIFE directly emailed the information out to its listserv beginning 9/30/24, which also fell in the following fiscal year, and which will be described in next year's PPR.

Item 4.3 - Peer Relationships and Peer Role Models

Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL has promoted the development of peer relationships and peer role models among individuals with significant disabilities.

This fiscal year, like in years past and those to come, the formula for service delivery at LIFE remained centered on the peer relationship. LIFE staff once again observed that peer support improved the sense of well-being for people with disabilities by expanding their support network and empowering them. LIFE staff often deliberately cultivated this relationship, but it also formed organically among consumers in group settings as well as during I&R phone calls with staff members, since staff members with disabilities provided both consumer and I&R services. When an individual became a consumer and engaged in goal setting discussions, this relationship was further strengthened as the parties became better acquainted. Along with creating peer relationships during the provision of service delivery, LIFE also promoted the development of peer relationships among staff, board, and volunteers, an example of which being the Peer Support training facilitated by disAbility link and detailed in Item 7.1. The following activities describe some additional ways in which LIFE promoted these relationships: Through its Facebook page, LIFE offered opportunities for people with disabilities to meet and network with other people with disabilities and learn about disability-related activities, issues, and links. These links included those to recreational and social opportunities in the community as well as to LIFE's website with upcoming events and information about LIFE hosted activities. In LIFE's newsletter, published quarterly, the Peer Support Coordinator invited readers to peer support groups and explained what could be gained from attendance. LIFE provided Social Club once a month, offering an opportunity for PwD to interact with less structured topics that often led to free-form conversations about what was important to participants that day. These peer support opportunities supplemented the regular IL Skills and Peer Support group meetings during the month. A LIFE staff member participated in online peer support for a group with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.

Board and staff members individually promoted the development of peer relationships as well. One LIFE staff member, who has lived experience with the disorder and years of knowledge related to the daily challenges associated with it, participated in online peer support for a group with the Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. There, she offered a listening ear, empathy and resources when appropriate, and the staff member benefited from mutual peer support in this setting as well. A LIFE board member was a founding member of and served on the Board of CEPSSA (Coastal Empire Polio Survivors Association) where she made monthly phone calls to provide peer support to assigned list of polio survivors. LIFE's ED participated in Savannah Brain Injury Association of Georgia (BIAG) support group meetings at Memorial Hospital but which LIFE agreed to host in the Savannah office beginning in November of 2024, details to follow in the next PPR; in order to maintain and grow this peer support opportunity locally and throughout the state, he also served as a Board member of BIAG and as the Board Treasurer. LIFE's ED, in his role as the Vice President of the Southeast Center Directors' Association, helped facilitate the first of two SECDA meetings where Directors, all of whom had disabilities, engaged with one another in a variety of peer support discussions. At the conclusion of the first meeting of the year, he rolled out of this position and attended the second meeting simply as a CIL Director. LIFE also promoted peer relationships through various events that they sponsored during the

reporting year. LIFE regularly held 3 peer support meetings (one designated as a social club event described herein) a month. These included participants sharing personal experiences navigating specific situations as well as a regular, monthly Social Club offering that was less structured and often involved playing games or free form discussion. IL Skills Trainings usually involved peer support among participants towards the end of the session, where members could react to the training. This FY, LIFE held 36 standalone peer support group/social club meetings with a total of 384 participants (including staff). LIFE staff scheduled and facilitated these meetings to remind individuals that they were not alone and to allow people opportunities to share their successes as they become more independent. The meetings proved therapeutic. LIFE staff chose the topics after close consultation with potential participants. Individuals talked openly with one another, finding safety in a group of peers whose own experiences with their own disabilities allowed for empathic dialogue. Peer Support Group meeting themes this year included: Peer Support discussions around Employment (2 parts), Coping with the Holidays, Help with Aging, Dealing with a Disability, Healthy Relationships, Risks to Youth, Parenting with a Disability, Dealing with Rude People, Needed Changes, Mindfulness, Mental Health, Weather Preparedness, Dealing with Crowds, TS Debby, the Danger of Disability, and Promoting Peace.

Item 4.4 - Goals Related to Increased Independence in a Significant Life Area

Indicate the number of consumers who set goals related to the following significant life areas, the number whose goals are still in progress, and the number who achieved their goals as a result of the provision of IL services.

Significant Life Area	Goals Set	Goals Achieved	In Progress
Self-Advocacy/Self-Empowerment	10	2	5
Communication	6	4	2
Mobility/Transportation	44	9	32
Community-Based Living	84	43	33
Educational	17	3	11
Vocational	32	4	25
Self-Care	30	11	18
Information Access/Technology	23	8	15
Personal Resource Management	12	6	4
Relocation from a Nursing Home or Institution to Community-Based Living	11	3	4
Community/Social Participation	22	6	15
Other	2	0	2

Item 4.5 - Improved Access To Transportation, Health Care Services, and Assistive Technology

In column one, indicate the number of consumers who required access to previously unavailable transportation, health care services, or assistive technology during the reporting period. Of the consumers listed in column one, indicate in column two, the number of consumers who, as a result of the provision of IL services (including the four core services), achieved access to previously unavailable transportation, health care services, or assistive technology during the reporting period. In

column three, list the number of consumers whose access to transportation, health care services or assistive technology is still in progress at the end of the reporting period.

Areas	# of Consumers Requiring Access	# of Consumers Achieving Access	# of Consumers Whose Access is in Progress
(A) Transportation	31	22	9
(B) Health Care Services	8	8	0
(C) Assistive Technology	97	67	30

Note: For most IL services, a consumer's access to previously unavailable transportation, health care and assistive technology is documented through his or her CSR. In some instances, consumers may achieve an outcome solely through information and referral (I&R) services. To document these instances as successful outcomes, providers are not required to create CSRs for these consumers, but must be able to report that follow-up contacts with these consumers showed access to previously unavailable transportation, health care and assistive technology.

Item 4.6 - Self-Help and Self-Advocacy

Briefly describe how the CIL has promoted self-help and self-advocacy among individuals with significant disabilities during the reporting period.

LIFE Board and Staff Members took part in/facilitated support groups and organizational meetings throughout the reporting year, providing helpful information where needed, including, but not limited to: People with Cerebral Palsy Facebook Group, Savannah Center for Blind and Low Vision Peer Support Groups, Georgia Council of the Blind, National Federation of the Blind, Ehlers-Danlos Society, Brain Injury Association of Georgia Savannah Chapter, Georgia Radio Reading Service Board of Directors, the Coastal Empire Polio Survivors Support Group, Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Groups and spoke about Parkinson's disease at Georgia Southern University. LIFE's Students for LIFE program continued its post-pandemic resurgence. This year, the Students for LIFE program served a total of 189 students representing 15 schools/internship sites across 6 counties (Chatham, Effingham, Liberty, Bryan, Evans, Bulloch). LIFE did so two ways, through its 1) Students for LIFE classes (S4L); and 2) Power of YOU transition conference (PoY). S4L, through our delivery of classroom-based life skills sessions, served 121 students in 10 schools across 4 counties with 130 total classroom sessions. PoY connected 118 students representing 11 schools across 5 counties with resources. Fifty students from 6 schools were able to participate in both, and one school who came to PoY for the first time, saw such benefit that they signed up to host S4L in FY24. A future middle school collaboration is described in Item 7.1. LIFE staff liberated 9 individuals from nursing homes to the community-based living option of their choice (3 MFP program, 6 NHT). LIFE encouraged consumers & the general public to attend LIFE Board meetings that occur every other month. These meetings were posted on LIFE social media and invitations went out through LIFE's listserv. They were held mostly over Zoom for ease of access but some included an option to be in-person to encourage additional engagement opportunities. A LIFE staff member facilitated weekly (hurricane season)/bi-weekly (off season) meetings of the group Coastal Alliance of CILs Active in Disaster, a group previously founded by LIFE and two SC CILs to ensure representation by and information dispersal to PwD. The group helped monitor the status of Tropical Storm Debby in August and the flooding it caused and Hurricane Helene at the end of the fiscal year and shared information about support and recovery resources associated with these and prior storms. LIFE's outreach around Hurricane Helene is described in Item 4.2. LIFE Staff engaged in

over 2000 hours of staff development this year, inclusive of independent research/reading/studying, internal staff trainings and third-party trainings both virtually and in the community. LIFE staff participated in 329 unique offerings as well as the following day-long and multi-day trainings that included multiple subjects: both a Fall (11/8-11/10) and a Spring (6/5-6/7) Southeast Center Director Association Conference, two team building events (5/10, 12/18) that included skill development and documentation trainings, the Chatham County Hurricane Conference, and the Savannah Autism Conference, both the Hurricane Conference and the Savannah Autism Conference funded through PHWF money as noted in the final section of this report. Though many of the 329 trainings fell into multiple categories, below are examples of categories chosen to highlight frequent or particularly noteworthy efforts, including a title for the subject matter covered, the number of trainings participated in, and an example of one such training.

Accessibility--Physical Space (4): Accessible Parking and Passenger Loading Zones

Assistive Technology/Accessibility Tools (30): DRRP App Factory: Promoting development and accessibility of Health Apps

Benefits Systems/Personal Financial Management (12): Legal Basics: Medicare Parts A, B, and C

Blind/Low Vision Services (5): Friday Training: SCBLV Low Vision services presentation by SCBLV

Chronic Disease Self-Management (7): [See Item 7.1]

Communication (38): 35 Installments of Weekly ASL classes facilitated by an ASL Interpreter

Core Services (including Individual Advocacy) (17): Get to the Core of It Providing I&R Services

Documentation (15): In-house CIL Suite Group Event Training

Emergency Planning (11): The Role of the IL Network Before, During & After A Disaster

Employment (24): GVRA Business Enterprise Program (BEP) program overview

General Disability Awareness/Disability Rights (30): Overview of HHS' Final Rule Implementing Section 504 of the Rehab Act

General Systems Advocacy (18): How to Ask your Non-Profit Communities to Tell Their Stories

Health/Healthcare (9): Know Your Rights to Equal Healthcare Services Part 2. The Southeast ADA Center

Housing/Homelessness (11): Expanding Home Accessibility Services: Strategies for Sustaining Cross-Sector Collaborations webinar

Management/Operations Training (17): Master the Basics: Guide to Leadership and Supervision

Mental Health/Substance Addiction (4): ACL Webinar Supporting Someone in Crisis for Direct Support Professionals

Nursing Home Transition/Community-Based Living (6): 6,000 Waiting (on Medicaid waivers and nursing homes)

Recreation/Travel (8): Sports Makes Us More Webinar

Item 4.7 - Additional Information Concerning Individual Services or Achievements

Please provide any additional description or explanation concerning individual services or achievements reported in Section 4, including outstanding success stories and/or major obstacles encountered.

As documented throughout this report, armed with additional funding to support new positions, LIFE added talent, subject matter expertise, and organizational capacity which allowed it to tackle new programs, build deeper connections with the community and organizational partners therein, and, as shown here in Section 4, identify and meet the needs of PwD in LIFE's service area. The extensive outreach of the year prior, the integration of tools born out of the pandemic like Zoom, which remained an option for almost all of LIFE hosted events, the redesign of the makerspace in the office to welcome the Neurodiversity Is Beautiful group and encourage other meetings at LIFE, and the afore mentioned

addition of new staff positions all supercharged service delivery numbers in FY23. Not only did the number of consumers served rise from 141 to 188, but the number of services delivered increased from 1464 to 4622, a record for LIFE. The primary driver in this service number increase was the rise in Information and Referral Services from 1053 in the prior reporting year to 3906. LIFE's Program Director engaged in extensive outreach and information dispersal efforts throughout the year but especially prior to and after Tropical Storm Debby and Hurricane Helene, where the Program Director and the Associate Director worked tirelessly to proactively get up-to-date information out to residents in the community and respond to their requests for resources needed in preparation for and recovery from the respective storms. However, though Information and Referral services jump was most observable, LIFE increased the number of services of every category that it provided without exception. For example, Advocacy services increased by 20, Assistive Technology by 18, Communication Services by 23, Family Services by 25, Housing/Home Modification/Shelter Services by 33, just to name a few. All of these numbers reflected LIFE's focused effort to broaden the scope of its engagement. For example, LIFE's monthly social club meetings and other offerings reflected not only a belief in the value of peer support and community but also a wider recognition of the importance and value of participating in activities solely because one enjoyed doing so, regardless of additional benefit. Thus, it was unsurprising that the number of Recreational Services delivered almost tripled from 11 to 32 this reporting year.

In addition to increased delivery numbers, LIFE's efforts were affirmed by the many statements of gratitude it received from its consumers. A few are listed below.

"I wanted to say to LIFE, Inc. I've been in this program for some years now and anytime I had a question, an issue or had a concern you always made it easy to communicate with you. You always kept me informed about any apartments that had any vacancies. You made it easy as possible with keeping me informed about what I needed to do, where I needed to go and when I needed to be there, and for that, I am forever grateful. I adore my new home and I just want to Thank You and LIFE INC for giving me the opportunity to anticipate in the (HUD 811) program." - ND

"Because of my vision impairment, returning to the workforce was difficult, and challenging at best. However, since receiving the Patriot device, my employment experience has become an adventure. It's magnifying features has been a game changer. I'm now able to see powerpoint presentations from afar. This affords me the opportunity to engage and interact with my colleagues. The computer interface capability is amazing. It enhances my work performance, and increases my proficiency. Confidence is an important attribute as an employee, and with the assistance of this new technology I've been empowered tremendously. Thank you." -JTC

"I'm just happy to be home. Thank you, thank you, thank you!" - BF

"I was living in a homeless shelter due to my condition being disabled. LIFE assisted me with the help of [LIFE IL Coordinator] Sabrina Floyd getting me into housing, an apartment, in a more safer environment off of the streets and better living conditions moving forward to sustaining a more productive life & I would like to thank you Ms. Floyd for your time and effort and encouragements to moving forward." - J

"Just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate you guys helping me get my iPad. It's my window to everything I do from my job with Avon, notes for SCBLV peer group, as well as NFB. My iPad is my calendar and my notes. Thank you so much." -PV

SECTION 5 - PROVISION OF SERVICES

Item 5.1 - Compliance Indicator 2: Provision of Services on a Cross-Disability Basis

Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL has ensured that IL services are provided to eligible individuals with a diversity of significant disabilities and individuals who are members of populations that are unserved or underserved, without restrictions based on the particular type or types of significant disability and in a manner that is neither targeted nor limited to a particular type of significant disability.

LIFE's Core Services were made available to individuals and consumers who are members of populations that are unserved or underserved, without restrictions based on the particular type or types of significant disability and in a manner that is neither targeted nor limited to a particular type of significant disability. LIFE services were offered and delivered in accessible locations, including LIFE's Savannah office which has automatic doors and appropriately positioned and graded ramps to ensure access, providing opportunities for cross-disability populations to participate. Individuals could also engage with LIFE via Zoom, allowing participation in school classrooms, at job worksites, and in individuals' respective homes. LIFE staff could travel to LIFE's most rural areas including in-person site evaluation measuring for home modifications. LIFE staff utilized Zoom, Go To Meeting, or other virtual platforms to participate in info fairs, conduct presentations and meet with consumers in an effort to reach underserved populations, and LIFE staff member presence in community meetings, including Family Connections meetings, provided opportunities to get to know a diverse range of support organizations serving varied populations. Not only did this provide LIFE staff access to resources to pass along to consumers and other PwD, as described in Section 4.2 of this report, it also offered the opportunity to make LIFE services known to these partners so that they could refer their consumers to LIFE as appropriate, further expanding who LIFE could serve. This year, the Students for LIFE program served a total of 189 students representing 15 schools/internship sites (Savannah High, Jenkins High, Johnson High, Windsor Forest High, Islands High, New Hampstead High, Richmond Hill High, Liberty County Transition Academy, Effingham County High, South Effingham High, Statesboro High, Claxton High, Project SEARCH Candler, Project SEARCH Effingham, Project SEARCH GSU) across 6 counties (Chatham, Effingham, Liberty, Bryan, Evans, Bulloch). LIFE did so two ways, through its 1) Students for LIFE classes (S4L); and 2) Power of YOU transition conference (PoY). S4L, through the delivery of classroom-based life skills sessions, served 121 students in 10 schools across 4 counties with 130 total classroom sessions. PoY connected 118 students representing 11 schools across 5 counties with resources. Fifty students from 6 schools were able to participate in both, and one school who came to PoY for the first time, saw such benefit that they signed up to host S4L in FY24. This program allowed participants to gain self-efficacy skills and to understand their power in making independent choices to live productive lives. Experience delivering these lessons in a classroom setting, coupled with relationships developed with school administrators, will help expedite the implementation of the fiscal year 2024 middle school collaboration described in Item 7.1.

Item 5.2 - Alternative Formats

Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL has ensured the availability in alternative formats of all of its written policies and materials and IL services, as appropriate.

LIFE's Service Delivery Manual, By-Laws, Administrative/Personnel Policies, newsletters and brochures were available in large print, Braille, and electronic format upon request. LIFE's Board meeting minutes, as well as training materials, were available in alternate format upon request. LIFE was fortunate to have a Duxbury Brailier in-house and a staff member who was trained on its use. LIFE could also Braille material for other agencies when requests are received, a service which LIFE performed this year for Savannah Cultural Arts Center as part of LIFE's collaboration with SCAC at the Summer Arts Camp for Blind/Low Vision that took place June 5-9, detailed more fully in the Item 5.7.

Item 5.3 - Equal Access

(A) Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL has ensured equal access of individuals with significant disabilities, including communication and physical access, to the center's services, programs, activities, resources, and facilities, whether publicly or privately funded. Equal access, for the purposes of this indicator, means that the same access is provided to any individual with a significant disability regardless of the individual's type of significant disability.

This fiscal year, LIFE continued to provide physical and communication access to programs and services to a cross-disability population. LIFE's office remained located in a commercial shopping center, and the parking lot which LIFE shared with numerous other businesses offered ample parking dedicated for persons with disabilities. All entrances to the LIFE office could be opened and closed using automatic doors which LIFE installed at the beginning of its lease. Visiting individuals used these automatic doors by pressing the appropriately located button outside the building to enter and the corresponding button inside the office to exit. LIFE built an ADA compliant ramp to the back entrance in 2019 and this year striped a parking space and added signage to designate the space as an accessible space in the staff parking area to add to existing offerings. An accessible restroom remained available with raised print and Braille signage. LIFE was again accessible to people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. ASL interpreters were available upon request for all LIFE sponsored activities that involve public attendance or participation. LIFE's office was also equipped with blinking fire alarms. LIFE was accessible to people with visual disabilities this fiscal year. Volunteer readers were available when requested. Information provided by LIFE was Brailled when requested. LIFE used an in-house Braille printer to expedite these requests. LIFE was accessible to persons with multiple chemical sensitivities, with signage designating the office space a scent-free environment displayed at the front and staff informing potential visitors prior to their arrival. LIFE strongly encouraged consumers to arrange for their personal assistance. However, the organization continued to recognize that some consumers would be unable to provide for their personal care. Assistants were available upon request to persons attending LIFE sponsored events. LIFE hosted a NFB Newsline Channel to post information concerning services and programs to the print disabled population. LIFE, where possible, offered hybrid options inclusive of Zoom coverage to allow access to individuals otherwise prevented from coming into the office.

(B) Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL has advocated for and conducted activities that promote the equal access to all services, programs, activities, resources, and facilities in society, whether public or private, and regardless of funding source, for individuals with significant disabilities. Equal access, for the purposes of this indicator, means that the same access provided to individuals without disabilities is provided in the center's service area to individuals with significant disabilities.

LIFE advocated for equal access to services, resources, and facilities in the community through individual and systems advocacy. Examples are detailed throughout this Report, but especially Item 7.1, which describes specific instances of promoting equal access to emergency planning/response/recovery resources, durable medical equipment, youth education, and healthy living opportunities (also detailed in Item 1.2). Item 1.2 also captures transportation advocacy efforts furthered through NiCIP. In addition to all of LIFE staffs' work, the Board also actively participated in advocacy for equal access. In many instances, Board members promoted equal access by educating the community about LIFE services. One member talked to her occupational therapist about LIFE offerings and one of LIFE's newest Board members, himself an occupational therapist at a local hospital, served as the rehabilitation manager and clinical coordinator there, helping mold systems to be more inclusive of the needs of PwD. These types of connections helped LIFE meet people transitioning out of medical model services back into the community and promoted access to needed services. On other occasions, Board members connected LIFE with community partners to grow LIFE service offerings to increase access. An example of this included a Board member discussing LIFE with friends working at Habitat for Humanity, an organization which Associate Director was later able to connect with to speak with and encourage to serve as a volunteer contractor group with the LIFE home mod program. In another instance, a Board member connected LIFE's ED with a local Public Health & General Preventative Medicine Physician and a local psychologist working as a Psychology Disability Examiner. Through this relationship, LIFE's ED advised on the first annual Symposium on Health Equity in Celebration of Disability Pride Month held at Savannah State, where LIFE's ED also delivered opening remarks at the event where LIFE hosted an information table.

LIFE Board members often aided in the delivery of services at LIFE. One Board member who worked at the UGA Extension, conducted multiple IL skills event trainings at LIFE, including diabetes awareness class, a financial planning training, and home buying workshop. One Member assisted in the delivery of the Living Well in the Community class, and one participated in the class. Members also joined LIFE staff to host the Disability Caravan at LIFE to welcome attendees who were there to learn about the history of LIFE and the history of supports for PwD in Savannah, and participated in a Marks to Make art exhibit hosted at the LIFE office.

Board Members' involvement in the community, whether personal or professional, promoted equal access well beyond their involvement with LIFE. Members hosted Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Groups (some at LIFE), served as the President of the Coastal Empire Polio Survivors Association where they made monthly peer support calls to polio survivors, spoke about Parkinson's disease at Georgia Southern University, volunteered at the Savannah Center for Blind and Low Vision (SCBLV) where she helped in the office and participated in a social group that brought new and old members back to the Center there, helped to provide heating for the homeless through Come As You Are Deliverance Ministries, provided free workshops about dementia at some of the area branches of Live Oak Libraries, worked with Chatham County to offer or host internship programs in various departments, worked at a summer program for children, volunteered with CASA, and volunteered building beds for children through the non-profit Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Item 5.4 - Consumer Information

Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL has ensured that consumers have the opportunity to develop and achieve their goals (either with or without an ILP) and that the consumer has the opportunity to express satisfaction with the center and such consumer satisfaction results are evaluated by the center.

The IL coordinator and consumer worked together to establish IL goals and objectives. The initial

conversation began with a discussion where the IL coordinator talked with the consumer about what they wanted and needed, thereby establishing potential goals. After identifying what the consumer wishes to achieve, the LIFE staff member then helped the consumer develop steps (objectives) to allow the consumer to accomplish these goals. At the conclusion of this planning session, the consumer possessed an ILP, a step-by-step guide to accomplishing their goals. These goals and objectives were usually written in the consumer's own words and were developed and monitored whether or not the consumer chose to reduce his or her goals to writing in the form of an ILP or preferred to waive this option. Achievements of consumer goals and objectives were recorded. Consumer records were secured in a locked cabinet to ensure that confidentiality was guaranteed. Out of the 188 consumers served this reporting year, all but 3 made the decision to create an ILP. LIFE consumers were given an opportunity to express their satisfaction/dissatisfaction via telephone inquiries which were conducted in a timely manner at the conclusion of their time as a consumer while the consumer's experience is still fresh in his or her mind. These phone calls were made to each consumer by a third party to make sure they were satisfied with the services provided. Nearly all of LIFE's consumers reported that they had become more independent as a result of the services provided. The LIFE staff member who conducted the satisfaction survey typed up the results and left the hard copy report for the Associate Director/Office Manager to file in the consumer's CSR. During the reporting year, the Associate Director initially and, after April, the Office Manager hired that month, reviewed the surveys prior to filing them and discussed any noteworthy feedback during the Wednesday staff meeting. At a later administrative staff meeting, the Associate Director and the Program Director had the opportunity to share with the Executive Director if any issues were discussed in the Wednesday meeting, which would have included issues with consumer surveys. If satisfaction surveys had reflected any ongoing issues, the three directors would have addressed it through some combination of alterations to service delivery strategies, oversight protocols, or specific trainings. However, no surveys indicated any such issues. LIFE received many letters of gratitude and compliments on our service provision from our consumers throughout this reporting year. These letters are also included in the CSR's. The LIFE staff member who facilitated the delivery of LIFE services always informed the consumer of LIFE's grievance procedure when the consumer requested services. No grievances were filed against LIFE during the reporting year. LIFE also offered an opportunity to provide feedback through its website (www.lifecil.com).

Item 5.5 - Consumer Service Record Requirements

Briefly describe how, during the reporting period, the CIL ensured that each consumer's CSR contains all of the required information.

Documentation was signed and dated as described below.

The IL Coordinator maintained a Consumer Service Record (CSR) that included the following information:

- 1) On the left side of the file folder in the following order (from top to bottom):
 - a) Home-mod Checklist
 - b) Signed ILP
 - c) Signed CSR
 - d) LIFE and Consumer Service Commitment
 - e) Signed Release of information for LIFE Staff and funding sources
 - f) Signed Indemnity form (Waiver of liability)
 - g) Permission to build (if needed)
 - h) Any other documentation: * Copies of housing applications * Birth Certificate * Social Security card * Picture ID * Verification of income, etc.

i) Identification/Demographics (address)

2) On the right side of the file folder:

a) Contact logs

b) Letters

c) Other correspondence

The IL Coordinator and consumer worked together to establish IL goals and objectives. These goals and objectives were developed and monitored whether or not an IL plan was created, and this year all but 3 consumers did create an ILP. The IL Coordinator captured the achievement of the consumer goals and objectives regardless of if an ILP was waived or signed. Consumer records were secured in a locked cabinet to guarantee confidentiality.

Item 5.6 - Community Activities

Community Activities Table

In the table below, summarize the community activities involving the CIL's staff and board members during the reporting period. For each activity, identify the primary disability issue(s) addressed as well as the type of activity conducted. Describe the primary objective(s) and outcome(s) for each activity. Add more rows as necessary.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcomes(s)
Increasing Other Access	Community Education & Public Information	698.25	By strengthening community partnerships and gathering feedback from PwD about systemic barriers to accessing the community, LIFE will facilitate change and empower PwD to navigate and ultimately eliminate these barriers themselves.	Accomplished through LWIC advocacy classes (275+ hours), supporting FODAC's Savannah opening, accessibility site reviews, hosting of support groups, partnering w/GVRA, NiCIP systems advocacy efforts & helping w/Summer Arts Camp for Blind/Low Vision.
Increasing Opportunities for Affordable, Accessible housing Units	Community and Systems Advocacy	52.75	Participate in trainings, advocate for funding to grow housing stocks, and offer resources to support PwD looking for housing.	Participate in 4/26 Fair Housing Luncheon, secure Fair Housing Settlement funding (Item 1.2), host two part Fair Housing training, explore grant funding through HUD, meet with Homes for Humanity, prepare for Info Fair at Old Savannah City Mission.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcomes(s)
Increasing Access to Communication	Community and Systems Advocacy	276.5	Partner with other agencies/organizations/groups to support emergency planning efforts and ensure that PwD are included in the planning/response/recovery processes and the rights and needs of PwD are identified and addressed.	Participate in 31 Coastal Alliance and 37 Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies meetings, presented at three organizations, presented at six S4L locations, and hosted an Emergency Preparedness event w/Red Cross and CEMA at LIFE July 11th.
Increasing Accessibility to Transportation	Community and Systems Advocacy	60	Promote growth of inclusive, accessible transportation offerings through participation in community meetings, networking with providers, and sharing rider experience with providers.	Prepare for and participate in 12 community meetings led by service providers (10 in Chatham, 1 in Glynn, 2 of those in Chatham around micro transit), support grant rollout in Chatham, and provide user ride sheets re. timeliness to CAT for 8 months.
Increasing Access to Other Legal Rights & Legislative Process	Community Education & Public Information	62	Educate the community including those with disabilities about voting procedures and rights.	LIFE staff attended REV-UP GA bi-weekly meetings to access state-wide voting information and insights, worked with partners to learn about voter ID laws, how to check voter status, voter rights, rides to polls, hosted voter education event at LIFE.
Promote Growth	Outreach Efforts	157.75	Present to the community about LIFE services and the rights of PwD as well as provide disability etiquette presentations upon request.	Prepare for and deliver presentations to the community, including 5 disability etiquette trainings and 9 other presentations which included an IL Skills presentation about employment.
Promote Growth	Collaborating and Networking	268	Participate in meetings in the community to ensure representation by PwD, to gain skills and information to improve service delivery and advocacy efforts, and to acquire knowledge to distribute to residents of LIFE's service counties.	Attend 79 community meetings and events, including these meetings: 17 Tuesdays with Tootle advocacy, 2 SECDA, 9 SILC/CIL ED Peer Support, 7 GVRA/CIL/SILC ED, 14 Family Connections, 3 Coastal ADRC.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcomes(s)
Increased Access to Education/Employment	Community Education & Public Information	84.5	Increase availability of employment supports and opportunities for PwD through trainings and relationship building efforts.	LIFE conducted 7 Board Employment Subcommittee meetings, hosted an IL Skills training around employment success, collected employer testimonials and published on LIFE's website and in newsletters and supported 2 DIF grant applications
Promote Growth	Community Education & Public Information	126.75	Host information tables at 3rd party group events about LIFE, the services it offers, and the rights of PwD.	Hosted a LIFE information table at 15 different sites in 6 counties (Chatham-7, Bryan-4, Glynn, Effingham, Toombs, Liberty), three of which LIFE also presented to the attendees about LIFE's services.
Increasing Access to Other Legal Rights & Legislative Process	Community Education & Public Information	89.25	Support cross country trip on Disability Caravan bus which showcased the history of advocacy and growth of supports for PwD across the US.	Starting with a phone call on 12/21, helped plan/advertise/host a two day stop in Savannah: Juliet Gordon Low House and SCBLV on 5/30; 5/31: Jepson Art Museum in morning, finished at LIFE with a disability history/rights in Savannah presentation.

Item 5.7 - Description of Community Activities

For the community activities mentioned above, provide additional details such as the role of the CIL staff board members and/or consumers, names of any partner organizations and further descriptions of the specific activities, services and benefits.

The first Community Activity listed above, identified by the tags "Increase Other Access" and "Community Education and Public Information," corresponds to the category internally labeled as "Barrier Identification and Removal." Having spent 698.25 hours of staff time in furtherance of this objective, the activities that fell under it were varied and the barriers it sought to address were also numerous. The largest effort captured therein was the Living Well in the Community class delivery, which involved a significant amount of staff training, community outreach to find host sites and engage potential attendees, staff instructional time, all amounting to over 275 hours. The individual advocacy curriculum was a 10-installment class, each installment being 2 hours, and the class topics were: 1) Orientation/Goal Setting; 2) Building Support; 3) Healthy Reactions; 4) Staying the Course; 5) Healthy Reactions; 6) Seeking Information; 7) Healthy Eating; 8) Physical Activity; 9) Advocacy; and 10) Maintenance. As noted in Item 1.2, this led to an opportunity to begin facilitation of the systems advocacy program called NiCIP, also included in this entry. LIFE provided physical and digital

accessibility reviews of multiple sites, including the Jepson Center and Wheelchair's website, captured here as well. LIFE also supported the Savannah Cultural Arts Center's Blind and Low Vision camp in June, as one of LIFE's staff members who is blind provided peer support at the camp and helped participants fully participate in camp activities. LIFE also provided Brailing services for the camp documents. Additional work included found in this title included: 1) development and outreach around the Neurodiversity Is Beautiful classes, 2) support of FODAC's opening of a Savannah office, 3) sharing of vaccination campaigns like NIAM through LIFE social media, 4) providing Disability Etiquette trainings to the staff of the Savannah Cultural Arts Center, GA DPH, and the Bulloch Health Department, 5) checking in with the owner of an ASL interpreting service about the appropriate use of ASL interpreters in the community on a quarterly basis, 6) hosting an ADA Employment Event, 7) advocating for a rise in the income cap allowed for applicants to the City of Savannah Water Reduction Program, 8) training on the GVARA business enterprise program, 9) participating in a tour of an art installation at Savannah Center for Blind and Low Vision, 10) educating a Georgia Senator's local representative about the needs of PwD after meeting him at the CAT Microtransit kickoff event.

The second Community Activity listed above, identified by the tags "Increasing Opportunities for Affordable Accessible Housing Units" and "Community Education and Public Information," corresponds to the category internally labeled as "Housing/Homelessness," and LIFE staff spent 52.75 hours on efforts related to this. This category captured multiple training opportunities, including a two part in-house training and a Savannah/Chatham Fair Housing Council Fair Housing Luncheon, planning and participation in a 3/29 vaccine event at Old Savannah City Mission where LIFE talked with attendees about housing options, negotiations around the obtaining of the Effingham Fair Housing settlement, a call with Equitable Investors about local housing stock available for them to purchase and refurbish then rent out using housing vouchers through a program called Homes for Humanity, and exploration of a HUD grant LIFE considered applying for.

The third Community Activity listed above, identified by the tags "Increase Access to Communication" and "Community and Systems Advocacy," corresponds to the category internally labeled as "Emergency Planning Efforts," a major priority for LIFE staff, as the 276.5 hours invested indicates. This included local meetings like the CEMA ESF 6 and 11 meeting, state meetings like the Georgia Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities & Older Adults, regional meetings like the Coastal Alliance of CILs Active in Disaster, which LIFE cofounded with SC Coastal CILs years earlier, and national meetings like the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies. It also included LIFE led emergency preparedness presentations for the Southern Georgia Gerontological Society as well as at the Tatemville Golden Age Center and the Moses Jackson Golden Age Center. The CEMA Hurricane Evacuation drill detailed in Item 7.1 is captured here as is the time spent at the hurricane conference described in the PHWF narrative. LIFE's connection to FEMA Region 4 representative Jacqueline Renner through Mike Houston who LIFE's ED knew from Coastal Alliance meetings and from prior recovery work also fell into this category.

The fourth Community Activity listed above, identified by the tags "Increasing Accessibility to Transportation" and "Community and Systems Advocacy," corresponds to the category internally labeled as "Transportation," an objective supported by 60 hours of dedicated time invested in the community. This included attendance at meetings in both Chatham County (the majority of the meetings) and Glynn County, support of CAT's Microtransit rollout, participation of staff in trainings about transportation advocacy, participation in surveys, transmittal to CAT of rider sheets showing scheduled vs. actual pickup/drop off times, and then, in July when the NiCIP group decided to focus on transportation as a barrier, recruitment of CAT representatives to participate in meetings.

The fifth Community Activity listed above, identified by the tags "Increasing Access to Other Legal Rights and the Legislative Process" and "Community Education and Public Information," corresponds to the category internally labeled as "Voting," and includes 62 hours of staff time. This included attendance at REV-UP GA bi-weekly meetings, two trainings at Project SEARCH Students for LIFE sites, hosting a voter event titled "Every Voice/Every Vote" open to the public, support for efforts to provide rides to the polls, providing trainings around Voter ID laws, voter rights and how to check your voter status.

The sixth Community Activity listed above, identified by the tags "Promote Growth" and "Outreach

Efforts," corresponds to the category internally labeled as "Presentations," and includes 157.75 hours of staff time planning and delivering presentations to the community. This included 5 disability etiquette trainings (Coastal ADRC, Bulloch Health Department, the Department of Health Coastal Health District, Richmond Hill City Center--where multiple community partners attended, and the UGA Marine Extension in Brunswick), the Disability Pride event on 7/27 held at Savannah State University, a 3/18 presentation to attendees at the First District Transition Alliance, a 2/5 presentation to the Coastal Museums Alliance about employment, and a presentation as part of a panel at the 10/22 Georgia Chapter of National Federation of the Blind convention.

The seventh Community Activity listed above, identified by the tags "Promote Growth" and "Collaboration and Networking," corresponds to the category internally labeled as "Meetings/Partnerships--Community," and includes 268 hours of staff time attending community meetings. This included numerous "Infotainment" oriented Tuesdays with Tootle which addressed a wide range of advocacy topics, meetings with funders like GVRA, Lion's Club meetings, a GCDD Board orientation meeting for a LIFE staff member who joined the GCDD Board this fiscal year, multiple Family Connections meetings where LIFE identified local partners and initiatives of import, a Chatham County Mental Health Symposium, quarterly ADRC meetings, a SECDA meeting in Louisville and one in Raleigh, and the Savannah Autism Conference captured in the PHWF narrative.

The eighth Community Activity listed above, identified by the tags "Increase Access to Education/Employment" and "Community Education and Public Information," corresponds to the category internally labeled as "Employment," and captures 84.5 hours of staff time learning about and furthering efforts to improve employment opportunities for PwD. This included participating in a JAN training on Autism and job accommodations, meeting with a GRS Board member, writing a letter of support for a Disability Inclusion Fund application submitted by Disability Connections as well as one through the Georgia Advocacy office and SYNERGIES Work, both with LIFE playing a role in implementing were it awarded to either applicant, participation in a SCBLV work readiness event and extensive work recruiting for and conducting Board Employment Subcommittee meetings, which led to LIFE staff obtaining a testimonial about the merits of hiring PwD from a local employer.

The ninth Community Activity listed above, identified by the tags "Promote Growth" and "Collaboration and Networking," corresponds to the category internally labeled as "Info Fairs," and includes 126.75 hours of staff time planning for and participating in community information fairs where staff hosted a LIFE table and discussed LIFE services. Examples include Peace in the Park, North Bryan Community Night, Smart Senior Pop Up at St. Joes/Candler, Disability Pride Celebration at Savannah State, Brunswick Info Fair and Farmers' Market, Effingham County Fun Field Day, Toombs County Transition Fair, Old Savannah City Mission Georgia Advocacy Office Housing Info Fair, Bryan County Special Needs Resource Fair and Easter Egg Hunt, First District Transition Alliance, and Hello Neighbor Resource Fair.

The tenth Community Activity listed above, identified by the tags "Increasing Access to Other Legal Rights & Legislative Process" and "Community Education & Public Information," corresponds to a two day event internally labeled as "Disability Caravan," and includes 89.25 hours of staff time planning for and participating in the Caravan's stop in Savannah as part of its cross country journey that drew attention to the history of the disability rights movement in the United States. LIFE staff helped connect riders/planners with local organizations, and LIFE staff participated in the other stops in the community as well as hosting a speaker at the LIFE office.

SECTION 6 - ANNUAL PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL PLANNING OBJECTIVES

6.1 - Work Plan for the Reporting Period

Item 6.1.1 - Achievements

OILP-ACL Review Tool: Does the work plan include goals and objectives and also describe the CIL's progress on each of those goals or objectives during the project period? Yes

Discuss the work plan's proposed goals and objectives and the progress made in achieving them during the reporting period.

LIFE accomplished its 67-item work plan in almost its entirety, leaving only two incomplete. This represents a 97.1% completion rate, and one of the two items incomplete was dependent on third party participation which did not materialize, the other being 2/3 complete. The exceptions are noted below in "Item 6.1.2 Challenges" section, as well as the reason behind its misses. Item 6.1.1 reflects only those Work Plan items that were completed. The parenthetical notation at the end of next to each Work Plan item (each of which is labeled "WP" to avoid confusion with substantive headings) is labeled with a Goal/Subsection heading referencing the specific objective from the Strategic Plan that it attempts to further (to demonstrate how closely the Work Plan adheres to its governing document, the Strategic Plan).

The successful implementation of the Work Plan reflected a continued commitment to employee-led implementation structures centered around staff empowerment. LIFE staff reviewed the Strategic Plan and provided input as to the feasibility of proposed Work Plan objectives in advance. Once the Work Plan was finalized, LIFE staff identified which of the items interest them and generally aligned with their work responsibilities and volunteered to take responsibility for the respective item's completion. The participants in the individual workgroups which oversaw each effort elected a President and a Vice President. These officers reviewed the objectives with their teams and established future dates for accountability check-in meetings. They recorded the efforts in furtherance of the Work Plan goal at each meeting and shared successes and barriers throughout the year with the ED, Associate Director and the Program Director, which allowed any issues to be addressed by involving additional staff members, sharing of community contacts or clarifying the intention behind the establishment of each outcome sought. LIFE staff confirmed all of the below Work Plan items were accomplished and documented what actions were taken to do so.

Examples of how these items were achieved can be found throughout this Report including in the Community Activities description in Item 4.7. However, capturing every detail here would be redundant, exceed available character limits and render this entry unreadable.

Mission: To promote independent living and advance community change for EVERYONE.

Goal 1: To advocate for equal access to services, programs, activities, resources and facilities.

A: Transportation--To identify consumers' unmet need with respect to transportation services in our service area and during crisis (ex. hurricane evacuation) and work to develop resources to address said need.

- WP: LIFE staff members will either attend or host at minimum a total of 10 meetings to discuss available accessible transportation options or development of new options. (G1, A., I.) 5/8
- WP: We will seek information about two other transportation systems in similarly sized/situated counties in the SE in order to borrow ideas to apply to challenges. (G1, A., II.)
- WP: LIFE Staff members will collect at least 10 surveys from our consumers about their experiences during natural disasters. (G1, A., III.)
- WP: LIFE staff will share personal and consumer experience information with CAT, such as requested time vs. pick up time, timing of arrival at destination and courtesy of the drivers.
- WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will attend at least 6 CAT hosted meetings a year and present consumer feedback during two of them. (G1, A., IV.) 5/8
- WP: LIFE will host at least one Peer Support or IL Skills event a year to share information about CAT Mobility and on-demand offerings. (G1, A., IV.)
- WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will attend scheduled CAT Microtransit pop-up events as they arise. (G1, A., IV.) 5/8
- WP: At least twice a year, LIFE staff members will offer to provide disability etiquette classes to CAT. (G1, A., V.)

B: Services--To identify barriers to access of services for our consumers and others with disabilities in our service area and work to remove or determine ways to circumvent these barriers

- WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will attend, at minimum, 6 community meetings promoting access to services besides transportation services each year including 2 outside of Chatham County. (G1, B., I.)
- WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will present to, at minimum, 3 organizations about how to make services more accessible for PwD. (G1, B., I.)
- WP: LIFE will hold at least 2 staff trainings what both public and private health insurance providers offer and what should factor into choice of plans. (G1, B., II.)
- WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will identify at least one community organization a year to educate on ADA requirements, work with them on compliance and highlight the collaboration in LIFE electronic media and/or newsletter. (G1, B., III.)
- WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will identify at least one new contractor in its service area per year. (G1, B., IV.)
- WP: LIFE Staff members will support the formation of volunteer contractor groups by pitching the need during at least 10 community meetings per year and introducing any interested parties to existing volunteer groups. (G1, B., IV.)
- WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will reach out quarterly to local ASL interpreters and agencies to confirm consistent usage and continued availability. (G1, B., V.)
- WP: LIFE's Board will create Board Subcommittees and LIFE's Board and Staff will invite and involve outside community members in planning efforts through these Subcommittees. (G1, B., VI.)
- WP: LIFE staff will participate in community meetings focused keeping people safe from disease spread and will disseminate vetted information to consumers and other PwD about vaccine availability. (G1, B., VI.)

C: Resources--To identify existing community resources that support consumers and others with disabilities in our service area and promote access to these resources

- WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will meet and/or correspond with at least 10 people who are members of the public sector in Georgia, including but not limited to GVRA, DCA, DPH, Emergency Management Agencies, and schoolteachers and administrators. (G1, C., I.)
- WP: LIFE will partner with relevant community organizations to put on at least one outreach/fundraising event. (G1, C., II.)
- WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will annually identify and explore 1 new fee for service opportunity. (G1, C., III.)
- WP: LIFE Staff will develop one new source of funding per year. (G1, C., IV.)

D: Legislative--To advance community change by facilitating access by consumers to the legislative process

-WP: LIFE staff will update LIFE's website once a year after elections to ensure all elected representatives from the service area are correct and their information is provided or webpage is linked. (G1, D., I.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will engage with (virtually, telephonically or in person) with at least two elected representatives a year. (G1, D., II.)

E: Legal--To enhance community capacity through efforts to enforce existing rights of PwD and promote access to legal resources for individuals living with disabilities in our service area

-WP: LIFE will host at least one IL Skills event around the importance of voting and how to do so. (G1, E., I.)

-WP: LIFE staff will attend at least 10 community meetings that include discussions around access to voting. (G1, E., II.)

-WP: LIFE staff will publicize voter protection resources on LIFE's digital media platforms and make PwD aware of them both in the trainings and individual meetings in case issues arise. (G1, E., III.)

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Goal 2: To promote personal, organizational, and community growth through educating, training, and sharing personal experiences.

A. Educating--To educate consumers, staff, and the greater community about the rights of individuals with disabilities

-WP: LIFE will host speakers at IL Skills events and staff meetings who cover at least 4 of the following subjects: Fair Housing, Nursing Home Transition, SSI/SSDI, Employment, Access to Courts, Alternative Access to Print Materials, and/or Engagement with Law Enforcement; then record and upload at least 2 of them. (G2, A., I.)

-WP: LIFE staff will offer disability etiquette training to at least 3 organizations/agencies in the community each year and collaborate with them to provide the training when offer is accepted. (G2, A., II.)

-WP: LIFE staff will offer at least one IL Skills training session around disability etiquette. (G2, A., III.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will promote at least two community employment efforts targeting PwD on LIFE's digital media platforms. (G2, A., IV.)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff will reach out to at least 5 Secondary or Post-Secondary Educational organizations to make them aware of LIFE's services, including the S4L program. (G2, A., V.)

-WP: LIFE staff will put on at least 2 staff trainings about the process, pitfalls, and available supports involved in nursing home transition efforts. (G2, A., VI.)

B. Training--To provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities, governmental and non governmental organizations, and other area residents to receive training that supports independent living in the community

-WP: LIFE staff will conduct at least a total of 12 peer support and IL Skills classes each year with at least two being in person, one of which to be held in expansion counties. (G2, B., I.)

-WP: LIFE staff will offer at least one IL Skills class and one staff training on ADA employment protections for PwD and/or employment incentives for hiring PwD. (G2, B., II.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will identify at least one group/organization that advocates for or facilitates recreational opportunities for PwD and contact them to see how we can help to support or grow efforts. (G2, B., III.)

C. Sharing--To facilitate the sharing of information regarding resources, upcoming events, and consumer successes with residents of our service area

-WP: LIFE staff will host or support third party efforts to hold an event that supports the hiring of PwD. (G2, C., I.)

-WP: LIFE Staff will host at least 6 social club events where PwD and community peers can get together to play games or engage in other fun activities. (G2, C., II.)

-WP: LIFE staff will provide, on LIFE's Facebook page, links to at least 5 relevant community partners supporting PwD. (G2, C., III.)

-WP: LIFE staff will create a space on LIFE's website to show relevant upcoming events from community partners. (G2, C., III.)

-WP: LIFE staff will creating an "Elections" tab on LIFE's website to provide information about voting with a focus on the rights of PwD (G2, C., III)

-WP: LIFE staff will feature at least one business who requested a site evaluation in LIFE's newsletter each year. (G2, C., IV.)

-WP: We will publish at least 6 success stories on one of the LIFE controlled platforms, to include LIFE's Facebook page, LIFE's newsletter, LIFE's website and LIFE's YouTube channel. (G2, C., V.)

-WP: LIFE staff will create a "Successes" tab on LIFE's website to showcase individual consumer success stories and LIFE's impact on the community. (G2, C., V.)

-WP: LIFE staff will publish on LIFE's website LIFE's service numbers pulled from the PPR once approved by ACL. (G2, C., VI.)

-WP: LIFE staff will feature at least one story per newsletter about rural county services/events LIFE participated in or wishes to promote. (G2, C., VII.)

-WP: LIFE staff will ensure that the "Resources" tab on the website specifies resources available for all of its counties. (G2, C., VII.)

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Goal 3: To offer individual and community-based services and programs to enhance independent living.

A. Individual Services--To efficiently and effectively deliver LIFE services to individual consumers to promote independent living and empower consumers to meet their own needs.

-WP: With instructor permission, LIFE staff will provide in-person instruction to participating S4L classes at least three times. (G3, A., I.)

-WP: LIFE staff will host at least 6 IL skills classes. (G3, A., II.)

-WP: LIFE staff will deploy at least 3 modular ramps in our service area. (G3, A., III.)

-WP: LIFE staff will publicize LIFE's ability to offer alternative formats on LIFE media as well as directly offering the program to at least 3 community partners. (G3, A., IV.)

-WP: LIFE staff will host at least one Peer Support event in the community. (G3, A., V.)

-WP: LIFE staff will create a list of accessibility issues with the LIFE Paperwork and identify steps to address the issues. (G3, A., VI.)

B. Community Based Services (networking; partnerships; 3rd Party directed)--To deliver community based services to consumers in our service area.

-WP: LIFE staff will offer at least 6 IL Skills classes. (G3, B., I.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will meet with two organizations to discuss collaboration around a recreational program. (G3, B., II.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will attend at minimum 5 community meetings about improvement to service county transportation systems. (G3, B. III.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will participate in at least 5 meetings addressing homelessness and ensure that PwD needs are addressed. (G3, B., IV.)

C. Programs--To develop/maintain/strengthen programs designed to deliver community-based services to consumers throughout LIFE's expanded service area.

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will offer disability etiquette training to at least 5 organizations/agencies. (G3, C., I.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will partner with FODAC and GVRA to increase the availability of DME for PwD by participating in community meetings with both organizations and learning how to integrate consumers into the new referral process. (G3, C., II.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will offer LIFE's alternative formats to at least 5 community partners. (G3, C., III.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will offer to conduct accessibility surveys of physical and digital space for 5

organizations/institutions in the community. (G3, C., IV.)

-WP: LIFE staff will engage in outreach around the development of at least 1 home mod volunteer group in our service area. (G3, C., V., b.) & (G3, C., V., c.)

-WP: LIFE staff will offer to 3 organizations or provide to 1 organization LIFE's AFP as a fee for service offering. (G3, C., VIII., a.)

-WP: LIFE staff will offer 5 trainings to some combination of staff and consumers on available AT offerings and record at least one. (G3, C., VIII., b.)

-WP: LIFE Board will identify one mental health initiative for LIFE to pursue. (G3, C., VIII.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will identify and collaborate with at least 5 organizations providing mental health related supports, 2 of which must cover expansion county residents. (G3, C., IX.)

Item 6.1.2 - Challenges

Describe any substantial challenges or problems encountered by the CIL, and the resolutions/attempted resolutions.

The entry below shows the two Work Plan items LIFE did not complete this fiscal year, the reasons behind the misses and the plans to address the shortfalls. Other challenges included the resignation in April of the individual managing the website and whose responsibilities had to be shifted to the Associate Director, and the resignation of one of the IL Coordinators in the Screven office. Additionally, though the on-boarding of 3 new staff members in the Savannah office added productivity and capacity to LIFE as demonstrated throughout this Report, initial investments of time and funding (including costs associated with the Walton Options-led Peer Support training detailed in Item 7.1) offered some slight headwinds to delivery efforts initially. Tropical Storm Debby and Hurricane Helene also both impacted the service area, Helene arriving in Florida on September 26th and the impacts of which Savannah residents experienced beginning the next day, Friday, September 27th. However, Helene's impacts were most acutely felt by area residents during the weeks that followed this fiscal year through the loss of power, flooding and wind damage. Details about LIFE's efforts to circulate information are included herein, but the subject will be more fully explored in next year's PPR.

Goal 3: To offer individual and community-based services and programs to enhance independent living.

C.Programs--To develop/maintain/strengthen programs designed to deliver community-based services to consumers throughout LIFE's expanded service area.

-WP: LIFE Staff will apply for 3 grants to fund home modifications in our area. (G3, C., V., a.)

-LIFE received funding through two grants outside of its state funding that were used to fund home modifications, but fell 1 application short of meeting this item. LIFE instead focused its efforts on deploying existing funding and identifying qualifying properties in Effingham County that would benefit from use of the \$50,000 of Fair Housing settlement moneys, where three ramps were deployed, primarily through the use of one of the volunteer groups on two of the projects, a component of the in-kind contributions described in Item 1.2 of this Report. LIFE will continue to seek funding opportunities in the next fiscal year.

-WP: LIFE staff will deploy at least one session from the Students for LIFE in an expansion county setting. (G3, C., VI.)

-Despite LIFE's involvement with the First District Transition Alliance, a collaborative of educators and community service providers that serves 13 of LIFE's service counties, of which four are expansion counties, LIFE was still unable to get into any of the schools in its nine-county expansion area to present S4L. LIFE's S4L Coordinator will continue to work with members of the LIFE Expansion office

to find future opportunities in the area. LIFE's ED met with the Wayne County Public Schools Assistant Superintendent in early 2025 and learned that a staffing change in special education at the county level likely would delay any opportunities for entry into the schools there. However, this conversation and the email thread which followed established a commitment by both parties to work together once the new hire was established in the position with a goal of presenting in the schools at the beginning of the next school year.

Item 6.1.3 - Comparison with Prior Reporting Period

As appropriate, compare the CIL's activities in the reporting period with its activities in prior periods, e.g., recent trends.

In year 2 of the Strategic Plan, this Work Plan sought to pursue the leads uncovered in year 1 of the strategic plan, stay the course where LIFE had gained traction, trim items no longer relevant or that exceeded short term capacity, and add items that corresponded to new sections of the Board revised Strategic Plan. The differences in Work Plans included moving on from a van donation which never materialized to identifying transportation systems elsewhere to mimic, replacing the already completed requirement of participation in trainings about how to make services accessible with a goal of applying the trainings of the previous year by presenting at organizations about how to make services accessible, ending the quest for a Medicaid Waiver exclusive to mental health after recognizing the federal funding requirement did not exist, rolling trainings around mental health coverage in insurance formularies to more generalized insurance training, transitioning from Board growth numbers to organization of subcommittees to tackle specific subject matter issues, moving vaccination efforts from funding incentives to education with the expiration of the prior funding sources, adding multiple website information sharing items which were overseen by the Digital Media Consultant, adding an in-person target for S4L instruction with the relaxation of Covid restrictions, solidifying the specific ask regarding LIFE paperwork accessibility which built off the prior year's issue identification objective, eliminating other van donation items due to lack of a donation, moving to systems growth around DME delivery (the results of which are noted in Item 7.1 about a FODAC collaboration) over simple DME delivery numbers, and again moving away from adding Board members with the focus being output of those already on through Subcommittee formation noted earlier.

Services delivery efforts and advocacy initiatives undertaken throughout the year and documented in this Report correspond to the alterations found in this year's work plan. One of the most noticeable changes from last year was the huge jump in consumers served. Though LIFE staff had always prided themselves in the extensive systems advocacy work which was once again captured here, a jump in consumers served from 141 to 188 this year as well as the increased attendance at Peer Support/Social Club events by 126 (there were 4 more events this year, too), demonstrated that the outreach LIFE had engaged in post-pandemic was bearing fruit. However, it was also a reflection of funders' willingness to invest in LIFE, allowing LIFE to add skill sets and numbers to its ranks, and thus capacity. Planning calls and emails with GVRA in October led to a GVRA representative providing trainings on iPad/iPhone usage at LIFE's office in January, and a meeting of Georgia CIL ED's with GVRA representatives in Macon led to additional funding being dispersed through the CIL network. This allowed LIFE to increase the number of accessible ramps delivered from 11 in FY22 to 17 this reporting year. The additional stable funding also combined with the Public Health Workforce money, discussed in more detail in the Public Health Workforce section of this report, to allow LIFE to add two new positions: an Office Manager/Community Educator and a Support Coordinator, a hire described in detail in the PHWF section. Increased funding also allowed LIFE to continue to employ a part-time Digital Media Consultant, who improved the impact of digital information dispersal platforms. The Support Coordinator especially used her pre-existing community contacts arising out of prior experience working in the non-profit world to start conversations in new settings and thereby engage additional populations, helping drive consumer numbers. With more staffing, other offerings like

Students for LIFE expanded. This year, LIFE staff provided 130 total classroom sessions of Students for LIFE, up from 87 sessions the year before. Additionally, with LIFE staff busy but with the prospect of future availability, LIFE's ED could appropriately staff current community partnerships like the soon-to-conclude Living Well in the Community and the newly established NiCIP work while he sought out future opportunities that would replace the current collaborations when they concluded. This approach allowed LIFE's ED to submit proposals for the Coastal AAA contracts and to take on the Pathways to Partnerships collaboration, both future six figure, multi-year funding opportunities detailed in Item 7.1, that simultaneously added to LIFE's funding streams, while enhancing what could be offered through LIFE and who was reached, all part of a service delivery approach to growth detailed in Item 1.2. LIFE additionally hired a part-time Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator to more effectively coordinate community education efforts coming out of the Center, like the collaboration around the Disability Caravan and other efforts, many of which are highlighted in Item 5.7. This Coordinator's capacity for organizing advocacy initiatives was made even more impactful by the improved capacity to disseminate information digitally because of the Digital Media Consultant's and Associate Director's work improving the website.

6.2 - Work Plan for the Period Following the Reporting Period

Item 6.2.1 - Annual Work Plan

List the CIL's annual work plan goals, objectives and action steps planned for the period following the reporting period.

Mission: To promote independent living and advance community change for EVERYONE.

GOAL 1: To advocate for equal access to services, programs, activities, resources and facilities.

A: Transportation--To identify consumers' unmet need with respect to transportation services in our service area and during crisis (ex. hurricane evacuation) and work to develop resources to address said need.

-WP: LIFE staff members will either attend or host at minimum a total of 10 meetings to discuss available accessible transportation options or development of new options. (G1, A., I.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff members will engage with residents of Chatham County as well as area service providers to identify barriers and begin creating proposed solutions. (G1, A., I.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will work with community partners/residents to create a survey to use with Chatham residents to gather information about their experiences with the transit system. (G1, A., II.)

-WP: LIFE Staff members will collect at least 10 surveys from our consumers about their experiences during natural disasters. (G1, A., III.)

-WP: LIFE staff will share personal and consumer experience information with CAT, such as requested time vs. pick up time, timing of arrival at destination and courtesy of the drivers. (G1, A., IV.)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will attend at least 6 CAT or MPO affiliated meetings a year and present consumer feedback during two of them. (G1, A., IV.)

-WP: LIFE will host at least one Peer Support or IL Skills event a year to share information about CAT Mobility and on-demand offerings. (G1, A., IV.)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will attend scheduled CAT Microtransit pop-up events as they

arise. (G1, A., IV.)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will invite CAT representatives to participate in NiCIP transportation advocacy efforts. (G1, A., IV.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff members will partner with other individuals and organizations to create a survey to measure effectiveness of current transportation offerings and unmet transportation needs. (G1, A., IV.)

-WP: At least twice a year, LIFE staff members will offer to provide disability etiquette classes to CAT. (G1, A., V.)

B: Services--To identify barriers to access of services for our consumers and others with disabilities in our service area and work to remove or determine ways to circumvent these barriers

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will attend, at minimum, 6 community meetings promoting access to services besides transportation services each year including 2 outside of Chatham County. (G1, B., I.)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will present to, at minimum, 3 organizations about how to make services more accessible for PwD. (G1, B., I.)

-WP: LIFE will hold at least 2 staff trainings what both public and private health insurance providers offer and what should factor into choice of plans. (G1, B., II.)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will attend at least 6 meetings discussing mental health and addiction needs and supports. (G1, B., III.)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will identify at least one community organization a year to educate on ADA requirements, work with them on compliance and highlight the collaboration in LIFE electronic media and/or newsletter. (G1, B., IV.)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will identify at least one new contractor in its service area per year. (G1, B., V.)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will reach out quarterly to local ASL interpreters and agencies to confirm consistent usage and continued availability. (G1, B., VI.)

-WP: LIFE's Board will create Board Subcommittees and LIFE's Board and Staff will invite and involve outside community members in planning efforts through these Subcommittees. (G1, B., VII.)

-WP: LIFE staff will participate in community meetings focused keeping people safe from disease spread and will disseminate vetted information to consumers and other PwD about vaccine availability. (G1, B., VII.)

C: Resources--To identify existing community resources that support consumers and others with disabilities in our service area and promote access to these resources

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will meet and/or correspond with at least 10 people who are members of the public sector in Georgia, including but not limited to GVRA, DCA, DPH, Emergency Management Agencies, elected officials, and school teachers and administrators. (G1, C., I.)

-WP: LIFE will partner with relevant community organizations to put on at least one outreach/fundraising event. (G1, C., II.)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will annually identify and explore 1 new fee for service opportunity. (G1, C., III.)

-WP: LIFE Staff will develop one new source of funding per year. (G1, C., IV.)

D: Legislative--To advance community change by facilitating access by consumers to the legislative process

-WP: LIFE staff will update LIFE's website once a year after elections to ensure all elected representatives from the service area are correct and their information is provided or webpage is linked. (G1, D., I.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will engage with (virtually, telephonically or in person) with at least two elected representatives a year. (G1, D., II.)

E: Legal--To enhance community capacity through efforts to enforce existing rights of PwD and promote access to legal resources for individuals living with disabilities in our service area

-WP: We will host at least one IL Skills event around the importance of voting and how to do so. (G1, E., I.)

-WP: We will attend at least 10 community meetings that include discussions around access to voting. (G1, E., II.)

-WP: We will publicize voter protection resources on LIFE's digital media platforms and make PwD aware of them both in the trainings and individual meetings in case issues arise. (G1, E., III.)

Goal 2: To promote personal, organizational, and community growth through educating, training, and sharing personal experiences.

A. Educating--To educate consumers, staff, and the greater community about the rights of individuals with disabilities

-WP: LIFE will host speakers at IL Skills events and staff meetings who cover at least 4 of the following subjects: Fair Housing, Nursing Home Transition, SSI/SSDI, Employment, Access to Courts, Alternative Access to Print Materials, and/or Engagement with Law Enforcement; then record and upload at least 2 of them. (G2, A., I.)

-WP: LIFE staff will offer disability etiquette training to at least 3 organizations/agencies in the community each year and collaborate with them to provide the training when offer is accepted. (G2, A., II.)

-WP: LIFE staff will offer at least one IL Skills training session around disability etiquette. (G2, A., III.)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will participate in at least one effort annually to engage youth with disabilities in pre-employment skills building outside of Students for LIFE. (G2, A., IV.)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff will reach out to at least 5 Secondary or Post-Secondary Educational organizations to make them aware of LIFE's services, including the S4L program. (G2, A., V.)

-WP: LIFE staff will put on at least 2 staff trainings about the process, pitfalls, and available supports involved in nursing home transition efforts. (G2, A., VI.)

B. Training--To provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other area residents to receive training that supports independent living in the community

-WP: LIFE staff will conduct at least a total of 12 peer support and IL Skills classes each year with at least two being in person, one of which to be held in expansion counties. (G2, B., I.)

-WP: LIFE staff will offer at least one IL Skills class and one staff training on ADA employment protections for PwD and/or employment incentives for hiring PwD. (G2, B., II.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will identify at least one group/organization that advocates for or facilitates recreational opportunities for PwD and contact them to see how we can help to support or grow efforts. (G2, B., III.)

-WP: LIFE staff will host or support third party efforts to hold an event that supports the hiring of PwD. (G2, C., I.)

-WP: LIFE Staff will host at least 6 social club events where PwD and community peers can get together to play games or engage in other fun activities. (G2, C., II.)

-WP: LIFE staff will provide, on LIFE's Facebook page, links to at least 5 relevant community partners supporting PwD. (G2, C., III.)

-WP: LIFE staff will create a space on LIFE's website to show relevant upcoming events from community partners. (G2, C., III.)

-WP: LIFE staff will feature at least one business who requested a site evaluation in LIFE's newsletter each year. (G2, C., IV.)

- WP: We will publish at least 6 success stories on one of the LIFE controlled platforms, to include LIFE's Facebook page, LIFE's newsletter, LIFE's website and LIFE's YouTube channel. (G2, C., V.)
- WP: LIFE staff will create a "Successes" tab on LIFE's website to showcase individual consumer success stories and LIFE's impact on the community. (G2, C., V.)
- WP: LIFE staff will publish on LIFE's website LIFE's service numbers pulled from the PPR once approved by ACL. (G2, C., VI.)
- WP: LIFE staff will feature at least one story per newsletter about rural county services/events LIFE participated in or wishes to promote. (G2, C., VII.)
- WP: LIFE staff will ensure that the "Resources" tab on the website specifies resources available for all of its counties. (G2, C., VII.)

Goal 3: To offer individual and community-based services and programs to enhance independent living.

A. Individual Services--To efficiently and effectively deliver LIFE services to individual consumers to promote independent living and empower consumers to meet their own needs.

- WP: With instructor permission, LIFE staff will provide in-person instruction to participating S4L classes at least two times. (G3, A., I.)
- WP: LIFE staff will host at least 6 IL skills classes. (G3, A., II.)
- WP: LIFE staff will deploy at least 3 modular ramps in our service area. (G3, A., III.)
- WP: LIFE staff will publicize LIFE's ability to offer alternative formats on LIFE media as well as directly offering the program to at least 3 community partners. (G3, A., IV.)
- WP: LIFE staff will host at least one Peer Support event in the community. (G3, A., V.)
- WP: LIFE staff will confirm paperwork barriers have been addressed, and, if issues persist, will address at least the two most impactful ones. (G3., A., VI.)

B. Community Based Services (networking; partnerships; 3rd Party directed)--To deliver community-based services to consumers in our service area.

- WP: LIFE staff will offer at least 6 IL Skills classes. (G3, B., I.)
- WP: LIFE Board and staff will identify volunteer supports needed and related transferrable skills associated with such tasks. (G3, B., II.)
- WP: LIFE staff will review existing policies and procedures associated with the volunteer program and modify them where needed to allow effective recruitment for the identified tasks. (G3, B., II.)
- WP: LIFE Board and staff will recruit volunteer participation through assorted avenues, not limited to direct solicitation of existing consumers, advertising in community meetings, posting on social media, and direct outreach to partnering organizations.
- WP: LIFE Board and staff will attend at minimum 5 community meetings about improvement to service county transportation systems. (G3, B. III.)
- WP: LIFE Board and staff will participate in at least 5 meetings addressing homelessness and ensure that PwD needs are addressed. (G3, B., IV.)

C. Programs--To develop/maintain/strengthen programs designed to deliver community-based services to consumers throughout LIFE's expanded service area.

- WP: LIFE Board and staff will offer disability etiquette training to at least 5 organizations/agencies. (G3, C., I.)
- WP: LIFE Board and staff will partner with FODAC and GVRA to increase the availability of DME for PwD by participating in community meetings with both organizations and learning how to integrate consumers into the new referral process. (G3, C., II.)
- WP: LIFE Board and staff will offer LIFE's alternative formats to at least 5 community partners. (G3, C., III.)
- WP: LIFE Board and staff will offer to conduct accessibility surveys of physical and digital space for 5

organizations/institutions in the community. (G3, C., IV.)

-WP: LIFE Staff will apply for 3 grants to fund home modifications in our area. (G3, C., V., a.)

-WP: LIFE staff will engage in outreach around the development of at least 1 home mod volunteer group in our service area. (G3, C., V., b.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff members will engage representatives affiliated with at least one school district in its expansion counties about the merits of hosting a Students for LIFE class or other LIFE sponsored youth transition program in their area. (G3, C., VI.)

-WP: LIFE staff will offer to 3 organizations or provide to 1 organization LIFE's AFP as a fee for service offering. (G3, C., VIII., a.)

-WP: LIFE staff will offer 5 trainings to some combination of staff and consumers on available AT offerings and record at least one. (G3, C., VIII., b.)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff members will identify one mental health initiative for LIFE to pursue. (G3, C., VIII.)

-WP: LIFE staff will identify and collaborate with at least 5 organizations providing mental health related supports, 2 of which must cover expansion county residents. (G3, C., IX.)

Item 6.2.2 - SPIL Consistency

OILP-ACL Review Tool: Does the CIL describe how the work plan is consistent with the approved SPIL? Yes

Explain how these work plan goals, objectives and action steps are consistent with the approved SPIL.

The 5 goals of the Georgia SPIL are as follows:

- 1) The Georgia Independent Living Network (GILN) is funded and supported to provide increased IL services to people with disabilities.
- 2) Increase education and resources on transportation options for individuals with disabilities in local communities statewide.
- 3) Increase education and resources on housing options for individuals with disabilities in local communities statewide.
- 4) Persons with disabilities will have resources to live independently in the community of their choice through the application of services and supports.
- 5) Increase emergency preparedness options for people with disabilities in local communities statewide.

LIFE's ED contributed to the creation of the SPIL, and it aligns closely with LIFE's goals. LIFE embedded the SPIL Objective Indicators into its Work Plan (shown below) to ensure it captures the needed information, though its philosophic alignment goes far beyond these individual outcome measuring activities.

SPIL Goal 1: As noted throughout this PPR, LIFE has limited grant writing/event planning activities in favor of investment in service delivery, which has in turn resulted in additional funding opportunities arising. LIFE has contributed insights to the SILC about what is needed from a monetary perspective to run a CIL but not participated beyond that education. As such, no Work Plan goals can meet SPIL G1 objectives.

SPIL Goal 2: LIFE dedicated a section (Goal 1, A) of its Strategic Plan to advocacy for transportation resources, and built Work Plan items to satisfy this objective, as well as addressing it in the Work Plan Goal 3 covering Community Based Services.

SPIL Goal 3: The complexity of the interconnection of local, state and federal systems involved in developing affordable, accessible housing stocks outstrips LIFE's ability to impact planning efforts without a more nuanced understanding of the issues at hand. As such, the Work Plan addresses housing shortfalls primarily through trainings, with the idea that the next Strategic Plan and thus Work

Plan will more proactively engage the appropriate Agencies/entities to advocate for expanded options. LIFE also dedicated a Community Activity to capturing LIFE efforts around housing and homelessness prevention, detailed in Section 4.7.

SPIL Goal 4: Independent living is the focus of LIFE, found in its mission statement, and furthered by the delivery of its five core services to consumers and found throughout LIFE's Strategic Plan, especially LIFE's Strategic Plan Goal 3, A. and B and corresponding Work Plan items, shown in full in PPR Item 6.2.1.

SPIL Goal 5: LIFE's dedication to Emergency Planning efforts, necessary due to annual hurricane impacts (this year TS Debby and Hurricane Helene) is not as fleshed out in the Strategic Plan and thus Work Plan due to ongoing emersion in the subject matter, including collaborations like that with CEMA and the Coastal Alliance of CILs Active in Disaster and emergency planning and response noted throughout this PPR but especially in Section 7.1.1.

The SPIL objective measurements addressed are show below embedded in the corresponding sections of LIFE's Work Plan. The unit of measure for the SPIL objective is shown in parentheses.

Mission: To promote independent living and advance community change for EVERYONE.

GOAL 1: To advocate for equal access to services, programs, activities, resources and facilities.

A: Transportation--To identify consumers' unmet need with respect to transportation services in our service area and during crisis (ex. hurricane evacuation) and work to develop resources to address said need.

-WP: LIFE staff members will either attend or host at minimum a total of 10 meetings to discuss available accessible transportation options or development of new options. (G1, A., I.)

SPIL

2.1.1 GILN will attend local, regional, and state meetings to collaborate on transportation initiatives and remain abreast of transit options. (# of meets/trainings)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff members will engage with residents of Chatham County as well as area service providers to identify barriers and begin creating proposed solutions. (G1, A., I.)

SPIL

2.1.2 GILN will provide at least three trainings statewide on ADA transportation rights, dispatcher/driver etiquette, and advocacy/problem-solving techniques (# of meetings or persons met with)

-WP: LIFE Staff members will collect at least 10 surveys from our consumers about their experiences during natural disasters. (G1, A., III.)

SPIL

5.1.1 Ensure local emergency preparedness plans are inclusive of people with disabilities by reviewing emergency plans and suggesting changes as needed (Number of Collaborative Hours)

-LIFE Board and Staff members will attend at least 6 CAT or MPO affiliated meetings a year and present consumer feedback during two of them. (G1, A., IV.)

SPIL

2.2.1 Each CIL will connect with their Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) at least twice annually. (# of meetings)

-WP: LIFE will host at least one Peer Support or IL Skills event a year to share information about CAT Mobility and on-demand offerings. (G1, A., IV.)

SPIL

2.1.2 GILN will provide at least three trainings statewide on ADA transportation rights, dispatcher/driver etiquette, and advocacy/problem-solving techniques (# of meetings/trainings)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will attend scheduled CAT Microtransit pop-up events as they arise. (G1, A., IV.)

SPIL

2.4.1 CILs will partner with micro-transit entities to secure funding for transit options. (Transit Provider Connections Made)

-WP: LIFE Board and Staff members will invite CAT representatives to participate in NiCIP transportation advocacy efforts. (G1, A., IV.)

SPIL

2.4.1 CILs will partner with micro-transit entities to secure funding for transit options. (Transit Provider Connections Made)

-WP: LIFE Board and staff members will partner with other individuals and organizations to create a survey to measure effectiveness of current transportation offerings and unmet transportation needs. (G1, A., IV.)

SPIL

2.4.1 CILs will partner with micro-transit entities to secure funding for transit options. (Transit Provider Connections Made)

-WP: At least twice a year, LIFE staff members will offer to provide disability etiquette classes to CAT. (G1, A., V.)

SPIL

2.1.2 GILN will provide at least three trainings statewide on ADA transportation rights, dispatcher/driver etiquette, and advocacy/problem-solving techniques (# of meetings/trainings)

Goal 2: To promote personal, organizational, and community growth through educating, training, and sharing personal experiences.

A. Educating--To educate consumers, staff, and the greater community about the rights of individuals with disabilities

-WP: LIFE will host speakers at IL Skills events and staff meetings who cover at least 4 of the following subjects: Fair Housing, Nursing Home Transition, SSI/SSDI, Employment, Access to Courts, Alternative Access to Print Materials, and/or Engagement with Law Enforcement; then record and upload at least 2 of them. (G2, A., I.)

SPIL

3.1.1 Partner with CILs and other state agencies to provide "train-the-trainer" and consumer training on affordable and inclusive housing bi-annually. (CIL Hours of Education)

B. Training--To provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other area residents to receive training that supports independent living in the community

-WP: LIFE staff will conduct at least a total of 12 peer support and IL Skills classes each year with at least two being in person, one of which to be held in expansion counties. (G2, B., I.)

SPIL

5.2.1 CILs will provide annual consumer trainings on emergency preparedness. (Number of CIL Trainings)(Number of Individuals Reached)

Goal 3: To offer individual and community-based services and programs to enhance independent living.

A. Individual Services--To efficiently and effectively deliver LIFE services to individual consumers to promote independent living and empower consumers to meet their own needs.

B. Community Based Services (networking; partnerships; 3rd Party directed)--To deliver community-based services to consumers in our service area.

-WP: LIFE Board and staff will attend at minimum 5 community meetings about improvement to service county transportation systems. (G3, B. III.)

SPIL:

2.1.1 GILN will attend local, regional, and state meetings to collaborate on transportation initiatives and remain abreast of transit options (# of meets)

2.2.1 Each CIL will connect with their Metropolitan Planning Organization

SECTION 7 - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Item 7.1 - Other Accomplishments, Activities and Challenges

Describe any additional significant accomplishments, activities and/or challenges not included elsewhere in the report, e.g., brief summaries of innovative practices, improved service delivery to consumers, etc.

LIFE continued its focus on emergency planning and recovery efforts. Many of the details of this can be found in Item 5.7 describing the Community Activities Table entry for Emergency Planning and Recovery Efforts. The two below events also increased this momentum as LIFE headed into the next fiscal year.

3/20/24 CEMA Hurricane Exercise

LIFE, Inc. staff and board members participated in the Hurricane Registry full-scale exercise with Chatham Emergency Management Agency, Wednesday March 20, 2024. Prior to the event, LIFE partnered with FODAC, the DME provider referenced throughout this application, to secure DME for the exercise, and FODAC transported it out to the event to lend it to the emergency planners for the day. Through the exercise, LIFE was able to help the registry workers train for real life situations by simulating an evacuation with individuals with functional and/or access needs during a county wide evacuation. The drill started with CEMA workers picking up evacuees from a designated meeting point, transporting them to the mock shelter location, feeding the evacuees while at the shelter and then transporting the evacuees back to the designated drop off point. The drill actors were provided fictitious names and scenarios such as language barriers, traveling with a pet that is not a service animal. CEMA was grateful for LIFE's participation and were eager to learn how to better support PwD in an evacuation.

4/16/24 CEMA Hurricane Conference

Two LIFE staff members attended the CEMA Hurricane Conference, where they participated in the following sessions across the day: "Beyond Resilience: Continuity Planning as an Instrument of Organizational Change," "Chatham County's Hurricane Registry Evacuation Process" (where LIFE's ED spoke up about LIFE's role in the above 3/20 drill and the importance of involving PwD in the planning process), and "Chatham County Emergency Operations Center and Islands Towers Project: Improving Communications with Disasters in Mind."

LIFE's continued pursuit of training opportunities and engagement with Chatham Emergency Management Agency, as shown in the two CEMA efforts here, led to LIFE's addition, beginning in FY24, to the 5-year Emergency Support Function--6: Mass Care/Sheltering Plan, ensuring representation of PwD.

LIFE's work growing resources in the community included supporting the addition of a site to distribute DME, described below.

8/22/24 FODAC Grand Opening in Savannah

For years, LIFE partnered with Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) to provide refurbished durable medical equipment to area residents at a nominal cost through quarterly deliveries to LIFE in coordination with the ReUse ordering database. The partnership ran even deeper than that, with FODAC participating in emergency planning meetings through the Coastal Alliance of CILs Active in Disaster, a group co-founded by LIFE, and signing a MOU with the LIFE and the Coastal SC CILs in the group to share resources during a disaster response. LIFE's ED also had a previously partnering with FODAC during his time working at Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse in Stone Mountain, where

FODAC's office was located, and FODAC supplied a letter of recommendation for LIFE's bid for the Coastal AAA AT contract, referenced in Item 1.2 and below. As this snapshot of a long-standing collaboration demonstrates, LIFE's ties to FODAC, even when FODAC's main office was situated 200 plus miles away, were well-established. This fiscal year, FODAC opened a southern office in Savannah (an effort LIFE supported and which was initially referred to in Item 5.7 Description of Community Activities of the last PPR) to more effectively project into the southern areas of the state as well as potentially Florida during disasters and into the coastal region of Georgia and South Carolina. LIFE had previously made introductions to try to help FODAC find a suitable space and was happy to hear that FODAC had located a property in the area that met their needs. On 12/12/23, LIFE's ED met with the Savannah HME ReUse Manager who was to be responsible for facilitating the operation of the Savannah location, and LIFE's ED met with her frequently throughout the remainder of the fiscal year. After the December meeting, LIFE's Board and Staff immediately began making introductions to other area partners and brainstorming how to collaborate with FODAC. Once the space refurbishment was completed, FODAC agreed to take much of the DME stored at LIFE to their new Savannah location, freeing up additional space at the LIFE office. As the Savannah FODAC location began local distribution efforts, LIFE's quarterly deliveries became monthly and any item that someone requested on an expedited basis could often be filled directly from the stock of DME at the Savannah FODAC location. Though issues with an onsite delivery trucks prevented it initially, LIFE and FODAC discussed the possibility of, on rare occasions, delivering larger DME items directly to consumers who could not come in to the LIFE or FODAC locations where no other options existed. Then, on August 22nd, LIFE staff travelled to the new FODAC location for the grand opening where LIFE Board and staff networked, LIFE's ED met with GVRA's ED who was in town (see below), and CEO Chris Brand recognized the many partnerships that made the expansion possible, thanking LIFE by name for its support. The partnership continues to grow and further developments will be explored in future PPRs.

Power of YOU! Youth Transition Conference

LIFE's commitment to supporting youth with disabilities this year included not only the additional offerings of the Students for LIFE program noted in Item 4.6 but also through the increased attendance at the Power of YOU! Youth Transition Conference and the planning efforts for a new middle school collaboration, both detailed below.

This year's Power of YOU! Conference continued its rebirth. Beyond simply the student numbers shown in Item 4.6, it included over 200 combined students, teachers, parents, and community partners. The atmosphere was festive as students celebrated their accomplishments and shared their goals for the future. Students toured the 15 resource tables to learn about services and programs which could support them as they transitioned from school to independent living. Many of the youth also created artworks to showcase on the collaborative Wall of Possibilities, proudly displaying their unique interests and strengths. The centerpiece of the event was a motivational presentation by tenth grade student, who spoke about her experience using supported decision-making to achieve her goals.

Pathways to Partnerships

An August 23rd meeting just prior to the FODAC grand opening (see above) with the GVRA ED, a member of the state rehabilitation council and a Transition Specialist at SCCPSS who facilitated one of the Project Search sites which hosted S4L classes, all met to discuss area needs, and this conversation included a discussion about a transition program in the middle schools (aged 10-14) called Pathways to Partnerships. Conversations continued through the end of the fiscal year, and LIFE was notified on 10/21/24 that it had been chosen as 1 of 3 CILs for the 2nd cohort. Conversations and meetings continued into the next fiscal year and resulted in a contract to deliver services beginning 3/1/25, the details of which will be more fully explored in next year's PPR.

LIFE continued its efforts to expand who it reached and also to diversify its funding streams through successful bids to deliver services to older Americans, set forth in detail here.

Coastal AAA Contracts

The State Unit on Aging alerted the Coastal AAA about concerns that the AAA was providing direct services to consumers, which was not allowed if another organization in the area existed which could do so. As such, on February 19, 2024, the Coastal AAA issued two RFPs, one for Health and Wellness Evidence Based Programs (EBP) and one for Assistive Technology (AT), applications due at the end of

March for service delivery to begin 7/1/24. LIFE had previously worked closely with the Coastal AAA on numerous efforts including serving on the Coastal ADRC Advisory Council and had a contract in place to staff the AT lab in Darien to demonstrate assistive technology for the benefit of area residents there. As for the EBP contract, LIFE's experience with the successful delivery of the Living Well in the Community curriculum established the organization's capacity to put on evidence-based programming. The need identified in the two RFPs aligned well both with LIFE's mission and its staffs experience. Additionally, the margins for both contracts were very tight, and there was a risk that no potential bidders would emerge. The cessation of services under these contracts would have been extraordinarily detrimental for the needs of PwD, since, though funded through Older Americans moneys, most of those served were older Americans with disabilities. After consultation with the LIFE Board, LIFE's ED prepared bids for both RFPs, and both contracts were awarded to LIFE, scheduled to begin 7/1/24.

For the EBP contract, LIFE staff spent over 10 hours researching and ultimately deciding on a training module, Chronic Disease Self-Management, which directly dealt with disability. This seven week curriculum (a Session 0 followed by six 2.5 hour long classes), taught how to apply 12 interventions to break the symptom cycle (1. Physical Activity; 2. Medications; 3. Decision-Making; 4. Action Planning; 5. Breathing Techniques; 6. Sleep; 7. Problem Solving; 8. Using Your Mind; 9. Understanding Your Emotions; 10. Communication; 11) Healthy Eating; 12) Working with Providers). Three LIFE staff began a 13-session training class, investing 100 staff hours training on program delivery prior to the close of the fiscal year, preparing them to deliver classes in the coming year while also making them aware of another series of tools they could discuss with consumers to overcome barriers to goal achievement. Classes began in January of 2025 and the reimbursement regime payments were to follow the completion of each 7-week cohort.

In the meantime, after further consultation with regulators, the Coastal AAA learned they could keep the AT contract in house. LIFE had not yet begun delivering services under the new AT contract, and both LIFE's Board and Staff saw the wisdom of keeping the AT program housed at the Coastal AAA, where no additional training was needed and the referral process from intake to delivery was already in place, thus creating a substantial cost savings. Instead of moving forward with the new AT contract, LIFE and the Coastal AAA enhanced the previously existing fee for service contract under which LIFE staffed the AT lab. The amended contract described a more robust AT lab support with additional funding took the place of the prior AT lab contract at a higher rate reflective of new responsibilities, and the ADRC agreed to compensate LIFE for the time spent on the application. The Evidence Based Programming contract remained in full force, and LIFE delivered the first cohort of beginning in January of 2025. As such, despite the challenges, LIFE ultimately added another funding stream and upgraded its original contract to provide AT support in Darien, all while enhancing capacity through an intense staff training for the nationally recognized Chronic Disease Self-Management program. The financial and capacity impacts will be more fully explored in the next PPR.

In anticipation of all the opportunities to engage consumers throughout the year and in the years to come, LIFE remained steadfast in its commitment to equipping LIFE staff with the skills needed to assist consumers. Examples of this can be found in Item 4.6, but one in particular, described here, merited additional detail.

Peer Support Training Through disAbility Link

With new additions to staff and others wanting a refresher on peer support, LIFE contracted with disAbility Link to bring in a renowned peer support trainer to facilitate a three-day training which it opened to include LIFE's Board President, three consumers, one of whom also volunteers at LIFE, and seven staff members. This installment, much like its predecessors in years' past, proved incredibly helpful for participants. Everyone, regardless of their role with LIFE, benefited from the training. During the sessions, participants learned about new peer support tools and approaches while also getting to know one another better in a setting that removed any artificial barriers created through titles. The Board member used what he learned to facilitate his Alzheimer's Support Groups and one of the consumers took the lessons learned back to his community advocacy efforts. The LIFE staff members used their knowledge to work with consumers to help them identify new goals and allow LIFE staff to provide the requested services. It also prepared them to take on the new initiatives that awaited in the

next fiscal year.

SECTION 8 - TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Item 8.1 - Training And Technical Assistance Needs

Training And Technical Assistance Needs	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs --- Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
Applicable Laws	
Medicaid/Medicare/PAS/waivers/long-term care	4
Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999	6
Evaluation	
Community Needs Assessment	10
Financial: Resource Development	
Diversification of Funding Base	1
Fee-for-Service Approaches	3
Program Planning	
CIL Executive Directorship Skills Building	2
Conflict Management and Alternative Dispute Resolution	8
First-Line CIL Supervisor Skills Building	5
Program Design	9
Outreach to Unserved/Underserved Populations	
Rural	7

Item 8.2 - Additional Information

Provide additional information, comments, explanations or suggestions not included elsewhere in the report.

OILP-ACL Review Tool: Based on the narrative responses, is the CIL in compliance with each of the evaluation standards? Yes

OILP-ACL Review Tool: If the CIL administers multiple Subchapter C grants, is the information in this report distinct and specific only to THIS grant? Yes

PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE (PHWF) - DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grant Number	
Reporting Period	10/01/2023 - 09/30/2024
State	GA

Item 1 - Total Number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)

Total Number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	1.07
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Item 2 - Type of Public Health Professional(s) Hired

Type	#
Case Investigator	0
Contact Tracer	0
Social Support Specialist	1.07
Community Health Worker	0
Public Health Nurse	0
Disease Intervention Specialist	0
Epidemiologist	0
Program Manager	0
Laboratory Personnel	0
Informaticians	0
Communication and Policy Experts	0

Item 3 - The Activities They Are Engaged In To Advance Public Health

This year, LIFE used the PHWF moneys in a number of different ways to advance public health. One of the first was to develop the makerspace and continue to support the Neurodiversity Is Beautiful project, an effort referenced in the last report. The mission of the Neurodiversity Is Beautiful (NIB) project was to empower neurodiverse adolescents and young adults in creating a social and emotional peer support group in which they could establish authentic connections with others like them. Within weekly group sessions, NIB group members were led through socially significant and evidence-based curricula to demonstrate acquisition, fluency, mastery, and generalization of important life skills, social skills, and life satisfaction skills. To achieve these goals, the early founders of NIB, Heather Bird (BCBA) and Lila Black (LPC), created an NIB makerspace which was designed with neurodiversity inclusion and acceptance in mind. The makerspace was a collaborative workspace in which members of groups met to connect, create, and build upon each other's various skill sets. NIB's makerspace included a large inclusive activity table space, a couch and bean bag chair to offer sensory support and generalization opportunities, and 2 high-tech computers which were accessible to members of the

groups. Community members praised the makerspace as being an environment that was inherently calm and peaceful while also being accessible for various group projects. Two social skills groups were hosted within this space; one group was tailored to the needs of neurodiverse adolescents while the other group supported neurodiverse young adults 18 and up.

Another way LIFE used the PHWF funding was the addition of a Support Coordinator at the end of last fiscal year who connected new individuals with LIFE and its services. This individual assisted in the expansion of LIFE offerings, cofacilitating the Living Well program and bringing in and working with 35 new consumers this fiscal year. As a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) with a master's in psychology and a dedicated advocate, the Support Coordinator brought unique professional qualifications to LIFE's staff. However, it was her roots in the local community, where she was widely recognized for her outreach efforts and unwavering commitment to service even prior to her tenure at LIFE, that cemented her impact. Her personal journey with Hospice Savannah provided her with a unique perspective on the critical role of supportive care, allowing her to authentically advocate for the resources available through LIFE and its community partners. As a local author, she also had previously used her platform to foster meaningful relationships and used this experience with personal narrative to inform her peer-led approach to service delivery.

In addition to adding new offerings and adding staff, LIFE used PHWF funding to obtain professional training for staff in two primary areas of focus, education and emergency planning.

As noted and described in detail in Item 7.1, LIFE used PHWF funding to pay for two LIFE staff to attend the Chatham Emergency Management Agency Hurricane Conference in April. The expertise gained at this training were valuable for future disaster planning, as were the connections made (many of the presentations LIFE staff attended were facilitated by CEMA staff, the same staff overseeing ongoing local efforts). The Q&A sessions at one provided LIFE the opportunity to discuss its collaboration on the hurricane drill noted in this Report and to remind planners of the importance of involving PwD in the planning process rather than assuming or guessing what peoples' needs might be in particular situations. By demonstrating a desire to learn more about emergency management and consistently showing up in the training and planning spaces provided, LIFE became a known commodity in the emergency planning circles. This familiarity led to new opportunities in emergency planning and recovery efforts in FY24 like the CEDRC long-term recovery group and the CEMA ESF6 and ESF8 planning groups. As the above text demonstrates, the expenditure of PHWF funding allowed for subject matter knowledge acquisition while also providing future opportunities for advocacy like those requested by Item 5.3(B).

LIFE also used PHWF money to send 5 LIFE staff members involved with its efforts to support youth with disabilities to the 2024 Savannah Autism Conference hosted by The Matthew Reardon Center for Autism. It was a day packed with information, as LIFE staff heard from experts on the crucial role of play in learning, the extraordinary ability of therapy animals to support physical and social development, and strategies for creating more accessible spaces. LIFE staff gained greater insight into how they could grow LIFE services and advocate for inclusion in the community and returned from the Conference with information about how to make the Students for LIFE lessons more accessible and engaging. The Students for LIFE coordinator, in conjunction with her coworkers, began to focus their efforts on developing more hands on activities during lesson facilitation.

SECTION 9 - SIGNATURES

Please sign and print the names, titles and telephone numbers of the CIL director and board chair.

Neil C. Ligon	
NAME AND TITLE OF CENTER DIRECTOR	PHONE NUMBER
Neil C. Ligon - Signed Digitally	03/24/2025
SIGNATURE OF CENTER DIRECTOR	DATE

NAME AND TITLE OF CENTER BOARD CHAIRPERSON	PHONE NUMBER
SIGNATURE OF CENTER BOARD CHAIRPERSON	DATE