

Reporting Instrument

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

CIL Program Project Performance Report

Fiscal Year: 2024

Grant #: 2405GAILCL

Name of Center: Living Independence for Everyone, Inc.

Acronym for Center (if applicable): LIFE

State: GA

Counties Served: Appling (GA), Bacon (GA), Brantley (GA), Bryan (GA), Bulloch (GA), Camden (GA), Candler (GA), Charlton (GA), Chatham (GA), Effingham (GA), Evans (GA), Glynn (GA), Liberty (GA), Long (GA), McIntosh (GA), Pierce (GA), Tattnall (GA), Toombs (GA), Ware (GA), Wayne (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 | \$216,616.00 |
| Title VII, Ch. 1, Part C | \$339,703.00 |
| Title VII, Ch. 2 | \$0 |
| Other Federal Funds | \$0 |
| Subtotal - All Federal Funds | \$556,319.00 |

Item 1.1.2 - Other Government Funds

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| State Government Funds | \$483,430.00 |
| Local Government Funds | \$0 |
| Subtotal - State and Local Government Funds | \$483,430.00 |

Item 1.1.3 - Private Resources

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants | \$18,501.00 |
| Donations from Individuals | \$1,094.00 |
| Membership Fees | \$105 |
| Investment Income/Endowment | \$0 |
| Fees for Service (program income, etc.) | \$58,555.00 |
| Other resources (in-kind, fundraising, etc.) | \$15,656.00 |
| Subtotal - Private Resources | \$93,911.00 |

Item 1.1.4 - Total Income

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Total income = (Item 1.1.1)+(Item 1.1.2)+(Item 1.1.3) | \$1,133,660.00 |
|---|----------------|

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 |
|--|-----|

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 | \$1,133,660.00 |
|--|----------------|

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 three years, LIFE again created new funding opportunities by maximizing the quality and diversity of programming through both newer and longer-standing partnerships. LIFE's ED continued the service-based fundraising approach after consultation about financial position and liquidity impacts with both the Board and LIFE's accountant.

This approach again paid dividends. The growth of Other Government Funding from the prior year arose out of the continuation of many existing sources of state governmental funds and the addition of new sources, as indicated in Item 1.1.2, that demonstrated the wisdom of focusing on service delivery. One new source of funding was the contract with the Coastal Area Agency Area on Aging out of Darien to deliver Evidence Based Programming. The application and securing of this contract was detailed in depth in last year's PPR and is further noted in Section 4.6 describing staff training obligations. Participants did not have to have a disability, only be age 60 or older, but LIFE's choice to deliver the 6 session Chronic Disease Self-Management class meant that those who chose to participate all had a disability. As such, the class, delivered 5 times in different settings, generated \$53,270 but also generated greater engagement. At the conclusion of the class, many participants signed up as consumers and participated in other offerings, like the 10-week Living Well in the Community (LWIC) independent living training discussed below. LIFE was also chosen to facilitate the 2nd cohort of the Pathways to Partnerships youth transition program targeting 6th through 8th grade students. LIFE was awarded the contract in March, providing seed money in the amount of \$40,000 spread over the ensuing 7 months to allow for administrative effort finding a school, staff training hours and delivery of the first. The legislative set-aside money to expand services to all counties continued from 7/1/23 of the prior year was extended an additional 3 months after its conclusion on 6/30, totaling \$140,932, and the expansion area contract which began in 7/1/23 of the prior year was extended an additional 3 months after its conclusion on 6/30, totaling \$149,733. Contracts with DAS for nursing home transition through MFP (\$30,595) and NHT (\$68,900) rounded out the state government funds.

LIFE also grew existing and acquired new sources of private resources, as shown in Item 1.1.3. Item 1.3, Foundations/Corporations includes: 1) \$6000 of funding awarded from NCIL to support consumers impacted by Tropical Storm Debbie and Hurricane Helene, 2) United Way grant funding to facilitate the Students for LIFE program in area schools (2nd award beginning 7/1 reduced from annual award of \$12,000 to \$9,933.71 due to insufficient donations), and 3) SILC funding for home modification in Augusta (\$1018). The Fee for Service total of \$58,555 included the following: 1) LIFE's Program Director/ATRC Specialist traveled to Darien most Thursdays to staff the AT lab and provide consultations for people with disabilities in the southern counties, while also generating fee-for-service funding of \$7755 through the Coastal ADRC. 2) Partnerships for Inclusive Disaster Strategies awarded a contract to LIFE \$2500 to provide stories about how it supported PwD during Tropical Storm Debbie and Hurricane Helene recovery. 3) As noted in the past two PPRs, 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 described in Section 4.6. 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 year to follow, and generated \$17,500 out of the collaboration (further described in Section 4, Community Activities Table). 4) 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 4 cohorts of LWIC in year three of the projected four-year rollout. The four installments of the 10-week class not only provided valuable IL Skills trainings to 31 consumers but also generated \$30,000 of revenue for LIFE. 5) LIFE generated savings through the use of volunteer time of \$15,656, delivering 3 additional ramps. All of these funding sources resulted in a growth in income from \$1,026,959 last fiscal year to \$1,133,660 in this reporting year.

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 |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 13 | 9 |

| | |
|---|--------|
| Percentage of Board Members with Significant Disabilities | 69.00% |
|---|--------|

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 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 3.4 |
| Total Number of Employees | 11.7 | 11.7 | 4.3 |

Item 2.2.1 - Staff With Disabilities

| | |
|---|---------|
| Percentage of Staff Members with Significant Disabilities | 100.00% |
|---|---------|

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 | 135 |
| (2) Enter the number of CSRs started since the start of the reporting period | 145 |
| (3) Add lines (1) and (2) to get the total number of consumers served | 280 |

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 | 5 |
| (2) Number of consumers with whom an ILP was developed | 275 |
| (3) Total number of consumers served during the reporting period | 280 |

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 | 2 |
| (2) Withdrawn | 23 |
| (3) Died | 3 |
| (4) Completed all goals set | 28 |
| (5) Other | 3 |
| (6) Add lines (1)+(2)+(3)+(4)+(5) to get total CSRs closed | 59 |

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 | 2 |
| (3) Ages 20 - 24 | 16 |
| (4) Ages 25 - 59 | 122 |
| (5) Age 60 and Older | 138 |
| (6) Age unavailable | 0 |
| Total number of consumers by age | 280 |

Item 3.5 - Sex

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

| | # of Consumers |
|---|-----------------------|
| (1) Number of Females served | 165 |
| (2) Number of Males served | 115 |
| Total number of consumers by sex | 280 |

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 | 1 |
| (2) Asian | 2 |
| (3) Black or African American | 167 |
| (4) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 1 |
| (5) White | 98 |
| (6) Hispanic/Latino of any race or Hispanic/ Latino only | 5 |
| (7) Two or more races | 3 |
| (8) Race and ethnicity unknown | 3 |
| Total number of consumers served by race/ethnicity | 280 |

Item 3.7 - Disability

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

| | # of Consumers |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) Cognitive | 28 |
| (2) Mental/Emotional | 26 |
| (3) Physical | 138 |

| | # of Consumers |
|---|-----------------------|
| (4) Hearing | 3 |
| (5) Vision | 40 |
| (6) Multiple Disabilities | 32 |
| (7) Other | 13 |
| Total number of consumers served by disability | 280 |

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 |
|---|--|
| Appling, GA | 3 |
| Bacon, GA | 4 |
| Brantley, GA | 3 |
| Bryan, GA | 9 |
| Bulloch, GA | 9 |
| Camden, GA | 2 |
| Chatham, GA | 175 |
| Effingham, GA | 10 |
| Evans, GA | 4 |
| Glynn, GA | 10 |
| Liberty, GA | 12 |
| Long, GA | 2 |
| McIntosh, GA | 2 |
| Pierce, GA | 4 |
| Tattall, GA | 3 |
| Toombs, GA | 5 |
| Ware, GA | 7 |
| Wayne, GA | 16 |
| Total number of consumers served by county | 280 |

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 | 174 | 174 |
| Assistive Technology | 124 | 124 |
| Children's Services | 8 | 8 |
| Communication Services | 176 | 176 |
| Counseling and related services | 23 | 23 |
| Family Services | 39 | 39 |
| Housing, Home Modification, and Shelter Services | 119 | 119 |
| IL Skills Training and Life Skills Training | 179 | 179 |
| Information and Referral Services | 11370 | 11370 |
| Mental Restoration Services | 7 | 7 |
| Mobility training | 7 | 7 |
| Peer Counseling Services | 162 | 162 |
| Personal Assistance Services | 26 | 26 |
| Physical Restoration Services | 35 | 35 |
| Preventive Services | 40 | 40 |
| Prostheses, Orthotics, and other appliances | 2 | 2 |
| Recreational Services | 44 | 44 |
| Rehabilitation Technology Services | 31 | 31 |
| Therapeutic Treatment | 0 | 0 |
| Transportation Services | 78 | 78 |
| Youth/Transition Services | 20 | 20 |
| Vocational Services | 54 | 54 |
| 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 12 of LIFE's 20 service counties (including 8 of 9 Expansion 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 there and at the many meetings detailed in Section 5.6 and 5.7, LIFE staff accessed additional resources in the community which could subsequently be shared with 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 2-1-1, 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. This occurred 3 times, where LIFE provided services for Savannah Cultural Arts Center twice (the 4/10 for the Beyond Site Exhibit and the mental health-related exhibit on 8/15) and for Savannah Center for Blind and Low Vision on 10/11.

As noted in the last PPR which covered the period in which LIFE's Hurricane Helene response first began, one of the best examples of LIFE's robust I&R program was in its response to this storm. In light of the significant challenges posed by Hurricane Helene, LIFE led the development of a comprehensive Post-Hurricane Resource Guide specifically designed for individuals with disabilities residing in its 20 service counties across Southeast/Coastal Georgia. This information sharing was particularly impactful in counties like Ware and Wayne which had not previously experienced hurricane impacts and thus lacked VOADs and institutional knowledge around response. Recognizing the disproportionate impact that natural disasters often had on people with disabilities, LIFE sought out accurate and up-to-date information from federal and local emergency management agencies, disability service providers, healthcare professionals, and community organizations to ensure the guide was both accurate and accessible. The finalized resource included vital information on shelter accessibility, transportation options, medical support, communication tools, and recovery services -- all tailored to meet the varied needs of individuals with disabilities and their caregivers during and after a disaster. The creation of this guide represented a critical step toward inclusive emergency preparedness and equitable disaster response. By providing a centralized, easy-to-navigate tool, LIFE empowered individuals with disabilities to make informed decisions, access vital services, and maintain their independence during times of crisis. The guide became a template for how LIFE collected and

disseminated information and served as a foundational resource for LIFE's disability-inclusive disaster preparedness. Posting this information on LIFE's digital platforms, circulating it through LIFE's listserv, and using it in conjunction with staff coordinated outreach efforts to consumers maximized community access for area residents. This included those who were affiliated with LIFE as consumers and as individuals accessing LIFE's information and referral services as well as those encountering LIFE through community partners and digitally through web searches. LIFE staffs' consumer outreach campaign continued in earnest from 9/30/24 through 10/8/24, but its digital postings offered continued access to information long after that.

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.

The delivery of the Chronic Disease Self-Management class was one example of the evolution of the I&R to consumer relationship. Funded through a contract with the state to provide Evidence Based Programming to older adults, the Chronic Disease Self-Management program provided six 2.5 hour classes teaching skills/processes to help participants achieve their desired long-term outcomes. Since the contract was to serve older adults, there was not a requirement that they be consumers of LIFE. After weeks of peer led conversations with LIFE's lesson facilitators, participants' perception of disability frequently changed, losing much of its stigma. When LIFE staff offered the opportunity to sign up as consumers at the conclusion of the cohorts, including at a party at one of the host locations, many chose to do so, joining LIFE Peer Support Groups and LWIC cohorts which will be captured in the next PPR.

As detailed throughout this report and the text below, the uniqueness of LIFE Board and staff lived experiences shaped their interests and capacity for empathy. This made community connection possible while also impacting how material was presented to recipients of LIFE's services. Along with creating peer relationships during the provision of service delivery further noted below, LIFE also promoted the development of peer relationships among staff, board, and volunteers. These connections provide especially consequential as LIFE affiliated individuals took personal connections, interests and experiences and made them institutional strengths. LIFE's Associate Director, who had lived experience with the Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and years of knowledge related to the daily challenges associated with it, participated in informal peer support with individuals formerly affiliated with a more formal the Ehlers-Danlos syndrome support group unaffiliated with LIFE. There she offered a listening ear, empathy and resources when appropriate. However, she brought not only her general knowledge of navigating inaccessible spaces, attitudinal barriers, and overly restrictive systems to her work with consumers but also shared details about Ehlers-Danlos at a peer support group held at LIFE, spurring further discussion about individual's experiences with disabilities thereafter. LIFE's Program Director, having spent a lifetime learning to navigate the world using AT, used her knowledge of devices and connections with AT providers to her role with LIFE. Using this information, she met with

her consumers and helped them acquire the necessary equipment to support their independent living efforts (as seen elsewhere in the delivery of 70 AT devices and 4 vehicle modifications). One LIFE staff member's experience at Shepherd Center inspired her to pursue the creation of a wheelchair users' support group in Savannah to build a better informal support network in the area. Her research efforts were noted in this report, and LIFE continues to support a group's formation in the fiscal year to follow. LIFE's Peer Support & Emergency Preparedness Coordinator once again used her experience evacuating from hurricanes to inform her work in emergency preparedness. Not only did she continue to facilitate the regional Coastal Alliance of CILs Active in Disaster, but she worked with two other LIFE staff members to host emergency preparedness trainings. She facilitated trainings with LIFE's Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator at 5 community centers in Chatham (Liberty City Community Center, Tatenville Neighborhood Center, Woodville Neighborhood Center, Moses Jackson Community Center, Tremont Golden Age and Youth Center), and with the Associate Director to present to the Savannah Center for Blind and Low Vision. Additionally, she facilitated a miniseries of disaster preparedness Zoom sessions. The 4 presentations, delivered between 7/2 and 8/6, covered Tornados, Floods, Power Outages and the use of Emergency Apps. The consumers asked plenty of questions and felt they were prepared for hurricane season.

LIFE's ED sat on the Vocal Point (formerly GaRRS) and BIAG Board of Directors. His relationship with that GaRRS/Vocal Point, an organization serving those with disabilities limiting their access to printed materials, helped secure their participation in the SenseAbility event described in Sections 5.6 and 5.7, where that organization offered their service to attendees and signed up individuals. LIFE's ED also sat on the Brain Injury Association of Georgia's Board of Directors where he served as Treasurer. BIAG was an organization with which he had been affiliated since participating in support groups in Atlanta almost two decades ago. The BIAG relationship, inclusive of Board and Savannah Support Group affiliation, allowed the local Savannah support group to migrate over and meet at the LIFE Savannah office when they could no longer meet at the Memorial Hospital location across the street where they had previously convened. Art created by group members during recreational sessions adorned a wall in the LIFE's Makers Space group meeting area. LIFE's ED also served on both the United Way of the Coastal Empire Agency Executive Council, representing LIFE specifically and PwD in the community generally as UWCE attempted to identify and connect people with existing services as well as find ways to bridge existing holes. LIFE's ED additionally served as one of two Agency Executive Committee Liaisons to the UWCE Community Investments Committee, using his experience both with the application process as well as the support needs of PwD to steer offerings to best serve the community.

One of the employees out of the Screven office served on the Board of the Wayne County Arts Council and used these skills/resources to integrate art into peer support activities as well as use the connections to promote art activities out of the Screven office. Another LIFE staff member in Screven, inspired by the experience in their own personal circle:1) facilitated IL Skills/peer support groups at Garden Gate Center where the women, having someone facilitating/co-facilitating lessons who was familiar with their journey, connected more easily with the lessons delivered & 2) ably assisted with the 7 Memory Cafes put on at LIFE or in the surrounding community in Wayne County. These Memory Cafes, the first hosted 10/28/24 in the community, offered a virtual travel tour and accompanying food, information and games about various destinations to provide respite to people living with dementia and their caregivers. The efforts were facilitated in conjunction with the Dementia Care Specialist/Caregiver Specialist out of the Heart of Georgia AAA. The LIFE staff member's lived experience supporting a family member with dementia drove her passion to support the offerings and to advertise them throughout the community.

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. LIFE saw a substantial uptick in engagement with its media platforms and began work on a TikTok channel which will be described in the next PPR.

LIFE also promoted peer relationships through various events that they sponsored during the reporting

year. LIFE regularly held 2 peer support meetings and one designated 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 fiscal year, LIFE held 23 standalone peer support group meetings with a total of 293 participants (including staff) and another 11 Social Club offerings with a total of 192 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: post-Helene check-in, holiday tech, dating tips, traveling with a disability, self-advocacy, avoiding scams, disability etiquette, and barriers to being active. LIFE also hosted 16 IL Skills classes out of the Savannah office, the usual 12 plus the 4 mini-preparedness classes described above, and the classes had a total of 210 people inclusive of staff attend. Titles of the offerings included Diabetes Awareness, Advocacy Extravaganza, and Every Voice Every Vote. As noted above, LIFE expansion staff also facilitated 10 IL Skills workshops at Garden Gate in Waycross (Ware County). The topics primarily focused on building job skills and related independent living topics to allow attendees to prepare for their transition back to the community.

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 | 28 | 2 | 24 |
| Communication | 12 | 6 | 6 |
| Mobility/Transportation | 85 | 26 | 50 |
| Community-Based Living | 78 | 18 | 45 |
| Educational | 26 | 11 | 14 |
| Vocational | 45 | 9 | 31 |
| Self-Care | 47 | 18 | 27 |
| Information Access/Technology | 39 | 24 | 15 |
| Personal Resource Management | 21 | 3 | 15 |
| Relocation from a Nursing Home or Institution to Community-Based Living | 16 | 5 | 9 |
| Community/Social Participation | 38 | 3 | 30 |
| Other | 3 | 0 | 3 |

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 | 54 | 47 | 5 |
| (B) Health Care Services | 38 | 36 | 1 |
| (C) Assistive Technology | 149 | 138 | 10 |

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.

As described in Section 4.3, LIFE board and staff members brought their own unique experiences and interests to the services they facilitated and the individuals with whom they worked. This also drove their desire to empower others, as could be seen throughout their service delivery offerings, a few of which are highlighted below.

The Living Well in the Community (LWIC), noted in Sections 5.6 and 5.7, was a more established, 10 session program which LIFE delivered to 34 consumers. It was purportedly in its third and final year of delivery, though it was subsequently extended for another year. LWIC was a free, peer-led workshop series for adults with any type of disability who wanted practical tools to support healthier, more independent living. Rather than focusing on one-size-fits-all wellness advice, the program took a whole-person approach - helping participants build skills, confidence, and sustainable habits based on their own goals and priorities. Through interactive sessions on topics like goal setting, healthy communication, advocacy, building support, and maintaining positive routines, participants learned strategies they could immediately apply in daily life while receiving meaningful support from peers who understood their lived experiences, explained in depth in Section 4.3. The topics covered in the class were Goal Setting, Building Support, Healthy Reactions, Staying on Course, Healthy Communication, Seeking Information, Eating Well, Physical Activity, Advocacy and Maintenance. LIFE's experience delivering LWIC made the facilitation of a similarly structured but new CDSM class run far more smoothly than would customarily be expected of a first year program.

Experience delivering the LWIC program described above featured prominently in the successful bid to facilitate the Evidence Based Program contract, through which LIFE delivered the Chronic Disease Self-Management (CDSM) program. It was a six-session interactive program designed by Stanford University and facilitated by trained staff members which LIFE provided to 46 individuals. This new

offering did not require participants to be LIFE consumers. Instead, they only had to be 60 or older. Thanks to this independently funded program, LIFE reached a new group of individuals with messages of empowerment. Participants developed skills through action planning and feedback, behavior modeling, problem solving techniques, and decision making. Topics included appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength and endurance, fall prevention, healthy eating, better breathing techniques, appropriate use of medication, working more effectively with health care providers, communicating with friends and family, communicating with oneself, communicating with the health care system, as well as action-planning, problem-solving, and decision-making. The CDSM framework focused on achieving the outcomes the participants personally identified, not those dictated to them. CDSM facilitation offered a thorough skill building curriculum complete with 5 opportunities to create an action plan, witness facilitators model their own, and receive instructor and group feedback to reinforce techniques and become comfortable with the process. Those participating grew more confident when armed with an understanding of how to achieve their goals. Paired with the instructors' participation in the action planning process, the 46 participants across the year left the class capable of determining their own goals and sustaining the efforts needed to achieve them.

Another longer-standing program targeting youth, Students for LIFE (S4L) served 135 students through its Students for LIFE classes presented to 14 different cohorts of students at 9 locations sites across 4 counties (Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham, Evans). The 134 sessions facilitated, up slightly from 130 the year before, provided those students with 135 hours of support and skill-building instruction to help them identify goals and live independently as they prepared to transition out of high school. The Power of YOU! youth transition conference (PoY) hosted 127 students, up from 118 the year before. It provided the opportunity for attendees from 10 locations located in Bryan, Chatham, Effingham and Evans Counties to mingle with others outside of their usual classes/internship sites and practice independent living skills, all while accessing resources through the vendors present at the event. These opportunities to learn independent living and self-advocacy skills, identify their future goals and take charge of their own life path even prior to entering adulthood positioned participants to be successful moving forward.

LIFE's experience facilitating S4L and its prior work supporting access to voting led to its involvement with a new youth voting initiative. Stacey Ramirez from REV-UP Georgia wrote/applied for an American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) grant. The AAPD approved this application, and REV-UP Georgia recruited LIFE to fulfill the goals of the program. Initially titled Gaylon Tootle Youth Power & Participation Toolkit and later renamed Gaylon Tootle Youth Vote Advocate), REV-UP Georgia designed the program to expand the existing "Are You Vote Ready?" campaign by empowering youth leaders with disabilities, particularly from rural communities of color in Georgia, so they could lead accessible civic engagement efforts. The program aimed to both build political power and increase youth participation in voting and civic processes, while centering the voices of youth with disabilities. The LIFE Ambassadorship for the Gaylon Tootle Leadership Program titled the "Gaylon Tootle Youth Voting Rights Advocates" provided an invaluable learning experience for 2 participating LIFE staff members. It created opportunities to connect and collaborate with members of AAPD REV-UP, and LIFE staff planned to set up informational tables at various colleges and farmers markets aimed at increasing voter engagement and education during the next fiscal year.

The afore noted programs provided self-determination skills to participants of varied ages across the year. The most unique offering, a systems advocacy program called National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability's Inclusive Community Implementation Process (NiCIP), built skills in furtherance of a group goal rather than an individual one. LIFE partnered with Georgia State School of Public Health Center for Leadership in Disability to implement this program. Entering its second year and described in the prior PPR, it also is described briefly in Section 5.6 and 5.7. In year 1, the group built an inclusive health coalition (IHC) of community stakeholders and identified what issue the group sought to tackle. The two biggest issues the group identified were housing and transportation, both of which were incredibly complex and involved multiple agencies and organizations. As the program only ran for three years, the group chose to pursue the identification and elimination of barriers to accessing transportation in Chatham County as the group's goal, as it offered greater local access to the decision makers and a shorter timeline for solution implementation. This proved prescient, as issues with

Chatham Area Transit (CAT) Paratransit services grew more and more pervasive. The November IHC meeting reviewed 7 identified issues but lacked CAT representation. After that meeting, and in the absence of CAT participation, the group chose to build a survey and distribute it amongst riders to determine the specific issue it would address. By the conclusion of the March meeting, the group had finalized the survey and Georgia State prepared a link to capture and sort responses while retaining anonymity of the respondents. IHC participants, inclusive of community partners, LIFE Board and LIFE staff, circulated the link among riders. At the July meeting, Georgia State brought the results of the completed surveys to the meeting. After reviewing survey responses, the IHC decided to focus on training riders on how to use the system, something they could assist with even as it remained a struggle to engage with CAT. Upon leaving the July meeting, one of LIFE's Board Members identified that she had previously been a colleague of CAT's new CFO and made the introduction to LIFE's ED in the days which followed. As he engaged in CAT's CFO, LIFE's ED learned that the whole reservation system was being overhauled with the creation and deployment of an app. IHC discussions around supporting this rollout and educating riders about the new reservation system soon commenced. At the September meeting, the IHC developed an educational session to support and empower the community of Savannah, equipping riders with the knowledge and confidence to effectively utilize CAT. The IHC decided to begin in a place where they could create a more immediate effect, which meant starting within the community. Changing CAT as a system required time, but the group intended to play their part. As the fiscal year closed, LIFE's ED made plans to participate as a stakeholder in the interview process for the next CAT Director of Paratransit Services, communication between the other IHC members and CAT had begun to improve, and an outline of the training session was in place. The intervening events which took place thereafter will be discussed in depth in the next PPR.

In addition to the empowering programs LIFE offered, LIFE staff also facilitated event specific trainings. On July 23rd, LIFE staff facilitated the ADA celebration honoring the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The theme of the event was "Our Rights, Our Voices, Our Power". This one-day event marked the 35th anniversary of the ADA and was led by people with disabilities to honor progress, share lived experiences, and build community. The celebration featured a keynote address by Karen Smith, a local disability advocate and long-time community volunteer, whose personal story and professional contributions were both powerful and inspiring. The event also included a storytelling panel where individuals with disabilities (staff and attendees) shared first-hand accounts of how the ADA has impacted their lives. These stories deeply resonated with the audience and set a meaningful tone for the day. Additional highlights included a community art project, a resource fair with local organizations, ASL interpretation, and light refreshments. Attendees were actively engaged throughout the event--asking thoughtful questions, participating in creative activities, and offering positive feedback about the inclusive and empowering environment. The celebration served as both a reflection on how far the disability rights movement has come, and a reminder of the work that still lies ahead. The high level of engagement and sense of community among the 41 attendees underscored the importance of continuing to center efforts around people's lived experiences, to advocate for accessibility, and to celebrate disability pride.

With an influx of new but talented staff across both offices and the presence of two advocacy programs with intense fidelity requirements and corresponding lengthy instructor trainings, LIFE Staff engaged in over 2000 hours of staff development this year in the Savannah office and another 1500 hours in the Screven office. These trainings were inclusive of independent research/reading/studying, internal staff and third-party trainings both virtually and in the community. With 8 employees across two offices starting this year, new hires participated in standard on-boarding training, including with LIFE procedures, its focus on peer support/consumer control/consumer directed services, IL history and the tenants of independent living, and documentation responsibilities. It also involved staff participation in and training on how to deliver Living Well in the Community and training on how to deliver Chronic Disease Self-Management and Pathways to Partnerships (all 3 noted in 1.2), as well as preparation to host Support Groups for those using wheelchairs and preparation for building volunteer groups at LIFE. Employees in the Screven office focused on the subjects most pertinent to the nine-county expansion area, including housing/homelessness, youth engagement, advocacy & understanding rights (watched all ADA Live! Episodes 1-132), funding/capacity building, rural outreach, physical accessibility,

healthcare and support for people living with dementia, which corresponded with Memory Cafes hosted in that area. Additional cross-office Friday trainings are described in Section 8.1.

Much of LIFE Board and Staff community engagement was more described in Section 4.3, but other impactful community efforts occurred as well. 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, the Coastal Empire Polio Survivors Support Group, Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Group. LIFE staff liberated 8 individuals from nursing homes to the community-based living option of their choice (4 MFP--2 Wayne, 1 Bulloch, 1 Toombs--and 4 NHT--2 Chatham, 1 Bulloch, 1 Glynn). 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 over Zoom for ease of access but most 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, as discussed in Section 4.3.

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.

This fiscal year's report represents the high-water mark for consumers served and services delivered during LIFE ED's tenure. Despite the headwinds discussed in depth in Item 6.1.2, LIFE engaged with 280 consumers in the reporting year, up from 188 the year prior. LIFE's included the Expansion County consumers served in this report, individuals it previously did not include in its PPR, as these efforts were not funded through Part C. Captured here, these counties contributed 39 consumers to the list, explaining some but not all of the 92 consumer rise. The only two counties where no LIFE consumers lived this year were Candler and Charlton, Charlton sitting in the south-westerly corner of LIFE's service area and Candler along its northern border. As discussed elsewhere in this report, LIFE staff explored part-time space options in Candler to remedy this connectivity issue and continued to look into space in its southerly locations as well. These efforts will come to fruition in the fiscal year to follow and be discussed in the corresponding PPR to follow.

Chatham was the county of residence showing by far the greatest growth from the year prior year, rising from 118 to 175 individuals, which, when combined with the expansion county consumers, explained the entirety of the consumer growth, with the other counties' consumer resident numbers collectively decreasing by 4. Housing the majority of LIFE's service area population, it was unsurprising that the site of its largest population and the location of its primary business residence drove growth. LIFE gained visibility through programs like CDSM and LWIC, LWIC being primarily delivered in person. Hybrid peer support and IL skills trainings offered a virtual option, but in-person perks like food and off-line conversation among attendees further incentivized participation in-person as well. As LIFE's Facebook engagement rose, word spread about its events and greater attendance followed. LIFE hosted a peer support event in the community per its work plan requirement and intends to look into doing more, including those outside of Chatham, in the year to follow, to drive increased engagement.

From an age perspective, the increase in consumers aged 25-59 (up to 122 from 78) and aged 60+ (up to 138 from 97) represented the largest increases. As most of the interaction with individuals aged 5-19 took place through the Students for LIFE program, classes customarily hosted at the schools or

internship sites where participants engaged as I&Rs and usually required parental permission to sign up, it was not surprising that this category did not see the same exponential growth. LIFE explored ways to convey the Center's value outside of the classroom and help wary parents understand the value helping their children sign up. The P2P program, with its direct lines of communication with parents through its parental support groups and list serves, offered promise that the middle school students met during lesson delivery will become future consumers, especially if P2P is delivered closer to LIFE's Savannah in year 2. Aged 20-24 consumers doubled from 8 to 16, and the recent hiring of staff to deliver youth and younger adult tailored programming in the fiscal year to follow looked to build on this momentum. The increase in the older demographics noted above signing up as LIFE consumers could be explained a number of ways. First, many of the services offered tend to disproportionately benefit older individuals (like nursing home transition services), cover subjects of greater interest to older individuals (like healthy living and managing chronic diseases), offer financial incentives for participation (gift cards through CDSM) and occur during LIFE office hours when most working-aged, employed individuals were at work. The description of CDSM participants becoming consumers in Section 4.3 is an example of interest programmatic offerings driving consumer numbers. With LIFE paperwork continuing to be a barrier, those who visited the office in-person had an easier time getting signed up, and individuals aged 25+ came into the office more frequently. Efforts to simplify paperwork and offer engagement opportunities tailored to individuals under age 25 looked to improve engagement with these groups while LIFE ongoing efforts around impactful programming continued to drive growth for those aged 25+.

LIFE not only served more consumers, but it provided more services to those with whom it worked. The numbers were striking compared to the year before. Examples included: Advocacy/Legal Services (50 to 174), Assistive Technology (85 to 124), Communication Services (31 to 176), IL Skills Training and Life Skills Training (52 to 179), Recreational Services (32 to 44), and Transportation Services (42 to 78). Discussing these jumps first, there were multiple explanations. Starting with one of the smallest jumps, the increase in Recreational Services reflected a continued focus on activities beyond mere survival. LIFE's hiring practices, its Social Club offerings, holiday themed peer support events and the like began a growth which LIFE intended to carry on into the year which followed. The uptick in Assistive Technology services reflected the Program Director's excellent work identifying technological interventions through her work at the LIFE AT lab in Savannah and the lab at the ADRC in Darien. Her ability to find technology solutions coupled with additional expenditures due to home mod moneys being reallocated elsewhere (see Item 6.1.2) drove this growth. LIFE staff provided additional transportation services, especially in Chatham County, where Chatham Area Transit paratransit services challenges discussed throughout this report drove demand for supports.

LIFE provided more Advocacy, Communication, and IL Skills Training services this reporting year. Significant cuts to long-standing community support programs for PwD coupled with ongoing threats to the ones that remained drove this demand. LIFE provided information about proposed Medicaid, Social Security, and other benefit program cuts to its consumers and information. It also provided information about how to contact elected representatives, thereby empowering them to advocate for themselves. With formal supports under threat, LIFE focused on IL Skills training, distributing information and engaging consumers in an attempt to strengthen their informal support structures and grow their capacity to live more independently whenever possible.

All of those service upticks paled in comparison to the number of Information and Referral Services delivered. Up from 3906 to 11,370, and several factors drove this as well. First, like the services noted above, the governmental supports and services PwD often used were constantly under threat, and they searched for alternatives. LIFE aided many with this. Next, the recovery from Helene involved a number of information distribution efforts orchestrated through email campaigns coupled with staff phone calls. Training of LIFE service delivery staff was yet another driver of this increase. As noted in 8.1, the Friday trainings covered a wide range of topics which fed this. First, the documentation trainings ensured that both new and existing staff better captured their efforts. However, as Section 8.1 showed and an additional 3500 hours of staff training noted in Section 4.6 explained, LIFE staff also learned about a wide range of supports and interventions. Coupling this knowledge with a proactive approach to checking in with consumers and electronic as well as telephonic outreach campaigns

ensured information moved more freely and in a timely manner to the people who needed it. In addition to increased delivery numbers, LIFE's efforts were affirmed by the many successes and statements of gratitude it received from its consumers. A few are listed below.

Home Mod Success: With the installation of a custom modular ramp, Ms. S. now has safe and independent access to her home. As a full-time wheelchair user and lower-limb amputee, daily outings had previously been a challenge, especially for essential medical appointments like dialysis. The new ramp has transformed her daily routine: she can now enter and exit her home safely, on her own schedule, without relying on others for assistance. This improvement not only ensures her physical safety but also restores a sense of autonomy and confidence, allowing her to focus on her health and daily life rather than navigating barriers. This installation demonstrates how accessible home modifications can profoundly impact independence, dignity, and quality of life for people with disabilities.

Quotes from Service Recipients

"I can set goals and take it step by step. My personal goals. Feels so good to see myself make progress. I want to stick with it." DK

"I used to get frustrated so easy and snap at people. This class taught me ways how to communicate better and stay more calm. It really helps me." BG

"I have learned so much, you're an excellent teacher, I'm really going to miss the classes - it was so much more than I expected." RM

"I learned it's okay to start small and that's important. It helps knowing that even little steps make a difference -as long as I keep moving. Oh, and 'put pen to paper and make a plan' I remember that!" CP

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, TEAMS 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. This was particularly important in LIFE's expansion counties where it attended Family Connections meetings in 8 of the 9 counties served there. 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. In a rural area like that served by the Screven office, these efforts remained essential, as residents traditionally proved less receptive to outside offers of support. Collaboration with organizations like Heart of Georgia AAA on dementia trainings and Okefenokee Region Transition Alliance on youth supports helped LIFE better understand community concerns and partner with trusted area groups in outreach efforts. The long-standing partnership with Wayne County Family Connections had proven one of LIFE's most important. First arising out of the former ED of that group's assisting LIFE's ED in establishing community connections at the expansion office's opening in 2019-2020 and later with identifying space when the initial lease ran out, the partnership continued its evolution. This year, a current member of LIFE's Screven staff developing a productive relationship with the group's current ED. LIFE intended to continue growing this and other area partnerships, including its continued pursuit of opportunities to offer its S4L classes in area schools.

This year, Students for LIFE (S4L) served 135 students through its Students for LIFE classes presented to 14 different cohorts of students at 9 locations sites (Savannah High, Statesboro High, Claxton High, Project Search Effingham, Project Search Georgia Southern Armstrong Campus, Project Search Candler, Johnson High, Jenkins High, Savannah-Chatham E-Learning Academy) across 4 counties (Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham, Evans). The 134 sessions facilitated, up slightly from 130 the year before, provided those students with 135 hours of support and skill-building instruction to help them identify goals and live independently as they prepared to transition out of high school. The Power of YOU! youth transition conference (PoY) hosted 127 students, up from 118 the year before. It

provided the opportunity for attendees from 10 locations (New Hamstead High, Windsor Forest High, Effingham County High, South Effingham High, Richmond Hill High, Claxton High, Savannah High, Project Search Georgia Southern Armstrong Campus, PS Candler, PS Effingham) located in Bryan, Chatham, Effingham and Evans Counties to mingle with others outside of their usual classes/internship sites and practice independent living skills, all while accessing resources through the vendors present at the event.

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 Braille 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 on two occasions and Savannah Center for Blind and Low Vision.

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 Savannah 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 were detailed throughout this Report, but especially Section 4.6 which described transportation engagement and the NiCIP program and 5.7 noting community engagement efforts across numerous subjects including access to housing, mental health supports, healthcare more generally, voting, education and employment.

In addition to all of LIFE staffs' work, the Board also actively participated in advocacy for equal access, some of this already described in Section 4.3. Examples included: presented "The Validation Method of Dementia" at Georgia Southern University at the Center for Social Gerontology, put LIFE brochures in her niece's nail shop in Jesup, provided information to case managers at St. Joseph's/Candler Hospitals, set up a table at the Farmer's Market and shared about White Cane Day and the National Federation for the Blind, awarded the Pillars of Partnership to the Edel Caregiver Institute at Hospice Savannah, taught at the Alzheimer's Association in Port Royal, SC, became the peer support president for Savannah Association for the Blind and Low Vision, attend a quarterly meeting of the Coastal Empire Polio Survivors Association February 6 and continued making peer support calls to polio survivors, presented about health and wellness at The Power of YOU!, volunteered at a gala which raised over \$450,000 for Alzheimer's research, attended the annual Citizen Advocacy dinner with approximately 150 people, talked about LIFE and provided brochures to the Amedysis Home Health Care in Toombs County and to FYZICAL, a physical therapy practice focusing on balance issues in adults in the Savannah area, worked with apartment dwellers with mold issues, advising them about working with landlords, participated in the Small Business Chamber Toastmasters Club which met at the LIFE office April 29, attended health and wellness expo on Wilmington Island, worked with Live Oaks Library to put up LIFE flyers, talked to clients with disabilities about LIFE, promoted LIFE at Candler Hospital and also connected patients with FODAC (DME), connected LIFE with Savannah State (see Section 7.1), visited Walmart and Fire Department in Expansion area to get word out about LIFE, through job at UGA Extension, partnered with Social Apostolate Soup Kitchen

LIFE Board members often aided in the delivery of services at LIFE. One Board member who worked at the UGA Extension, conducted an IL skills event trainings at LIFE titled "Lease Smart: Renter's Education Workshop." 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). Board Members brought SBC Toastmasters to LIFE and made Toastmasters and City of Savannah employees aware of LIFE, began work on a wheelchair tennis tournament in Savannah, recruiting future players at Abilities Unlimited and speaking to Landings Tennis about the Special Pops Program as a supporter, connected Women's Heart Health with LIFE with an upcoming presentation in February, continued work supporting the Bob Habas Fund for Independence, agreeing to donate for key chains to be used as a thank you for donors of \$25.

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 wished 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 280 consumers served this reporting year, all but 5 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. The LIFE staff member who conducted the satisfaction survey typed up the results and left the hard copy report for the Associate Director to file in the consumer's CSR. During the reporting year, the Associate Director 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 were 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 5 of LIFE's 280 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 | Outreach Efforts | 99.25 | Work in the community to ensure access to mental health support and substance abuse support resource through participation in trainings, collaborating with other community organizations, and engaging in other information distribution activities. | Attended 20 meetings, inclusive of the 3 day NAMI Conference, GA Recovers in Communities, 5 Wayne County Recovery Coalition meets, 5 TRUST Partnership meets (Brantley/Ware/Pierce), 7 trainings, & Braille transcription for Mental Health Art Exhibit. |

| Issue Area | Activity Type | Hours Spent | Objective(s) | Outcomes(s) |
|--|--|-------------|--|--|
| Increased Access to Education/Employment | Outreach Efforts | 839.25 | Provide valuable info and opportunities for skill-building to young adults with disabilities transitioning from school to independent life. Introduce, explore, and encourage practice of independent living concepts. | Deliver 134 classes to 135 students through 130.5 hours of instruction in 9 host sites (14 cohorts). Topics (ex): Cleaning Your Home, Cooking/Food Safety, Emergency Prep, Nutrition & Physical Activity, Managing Money, Goal Setting, Decision Making. |
| Increasing Other Access | Collaborating and Networking | 457.5 | 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. | Participate in Family Connections Meets for 12 counties, GCDD meetings, CIL/SILC ED meets, Southern GA/Heart of GA/Coastal ADRC meets, 3 Lion's Club meets, hosted Toastmasters, United Way Community Investments Committee and Executive Council meets. |
| Increased Access to Education/Employment | Collaborating and Networking | 430 | Partner with P2P staff, GVRA and community stakeholders to implement an independent living program for 6th-8th grade students, which includes screening and selection of participating school systems. | On 12/2, hosted the P2P team, then investigated P2P, identified potential host sites, hired/transitioned responsibilities to staff the program, chose location, trained, attend regional/cohort team meets & delivered Lesson 1 9/26 in Liberty County. |
| Increasing Access to Appropriate Health Care | Community Education & Public Information | 21 | Promote access to health care and related services by educating the community generally and PwD specifically about the availability of existing healthcare supports, the benefit of expanding these resources and the impact of their disappearance. | Partner with GCDD to visit elected official to educate about the impact of Medicaid cuts for PwD, train about CAPABLE program through Hospice Savannah, LIFE Board member working at UGA Extension facilitated Diabetes Alert workshop. |

| Issue Area | Activity Type | Hours Spent | Objective(s) | Outcomes(s) |
|---|--|-------------|---|---|
| Increased Access to Education/Employment | Outreach Efforts | 238 | Empower youth by connecting them with employment/education/community resources and to peer communities, and encourage them by celebrating their progress toward greater independence achieved throughout the school year. | Planning (beginning in October of 2024), advertising, and delivering the Power of YOU! Youth Transition Conference which was attended by 127 students/youth from 4 counties and 10 different schools/internship sites. |
| Increasing Other Access | Collaborating and Networking | 209 | 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. | Provide 4 disability etiquette trainings, 3 Braille transcription services, reviewed digital accessibility for 2 companies (app and database), 2 disability site reviews, advised re. playground in Jesup, support art creation/exhibits in both offices |
| Promote Growth | Outreach Efforts | 103 | Educate the community through presentations about LIFE, its location, the services it provides, and how to work with LIFE as well as the rights of PwD. This includes providing disability etiquette presentations upon request. | Plan for and present to third party groups on 5 occasions about LIFE, its services, on one occasion about an assistive technology offering, on another about Medicaid, and preparation for delivery of 4 disability etiquette programs. |
| Promote Growth | Outreach Efforts | 173 | Host information tables at 3rd party group events about LIFE, the services it offers, and the rights of PwD. | Prep for and host LIFE table at 16 info fairs (1 Bacon/1 Bulloch/1 Candler/3 Chatham/2 Effingham/2 Glynn/1 Long/1 Pierce/2 Ware/2 Wayne) targeting populations to include families/older adults/children, in order educate community about LIFE services. |
| Increasing Access to Other Legal Rights & Legislative Process | Community Education & Public Information | 50.25 | Participate in meetings where identify and address barriers to voting and barriers to accessing elected representatives; host events to educate PwD about their rights; support voting efforts to ensure legal rights are protected. | 12 REV-UP GA meetings, Work Plan meetings to get information onto LIFE website (accomplished), host IL Skills Every Voice Counts, Every Voice Matters, negotiate then 2 staff participate in Gaylon Tootle Youth Leadership Pilot to energize youth vote |

| Issue Area | Activity Type | Hours Spent | Objective(s) | Outcomes(s) |
|--|--|-------------|---|---|
| Increasing Access to Appropriate Health Care | Community Education & Public Information | 200.25 | Identify community partners to help host Living Well in the Community cohorts, finalize details, deliver lessons in a manner that optimizes impact and lesson retention. | Deliver 4 cohorts of the 10 lesson Living Well in the Community program to 31 consumers leveraging key community partnerships with Operation Good Hope and African American Health Info & Resource Center, among others, to host. |
| Increasing Access to Appropriate Health Care | Community Education & Public Information | 879.25 | Identify community partners to host/recruit, take part in Chronic Disease Self-Management training, finalize details of class delivery, deliver lessons. | LIFE staff (3) participate in 13 session training with 2 practice teach sessions, investigate host sites, identify and deliver 6 lesson class to 5 cohorts of participants. Additionally, host celebration at host site to complete consumer paperwork |
| Increasing Accessibility to Transportation | Collaborating and Networking | 39.75 | Promote growth of inclusive, accessible transportation offerings through participation in community meetings, networking with providers, and sharing rider experience with providers. | Attend 6 CORE MPO Bike & Pedestrian and 6 TEPIAC (Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Advisory Committee) meets, partner with Chatham Area Transit on App rollout (2 meets) and provide feedback sheets charting pickup times (7). |
| Increased Access to Education/Employment | Collaborating and Networking | 67.75 | Increase availability of educational and employment supports and opportunities for PwD through trainings, relationship building efforts and information dissemination to ensure access to these resources. | Attend 2 1st District Transition Alliance meetings/events, hold 3 Board Employment subcommittee meetings, partnerships with Savannah Tech and Savannah State, 3 employment/education staff trainings (JAN, DREDF, nTide), plan elected official outreach. |
| Increasing Accessibility to Transportation | Outreach Efforts | 38.5 | Using the NiCIP structured approach as overseen by Georgia State Center for Leadership in Disability staff, LIFE Board and staff, along with community stakeholders, will engage in advocacy to improve access to transportation in Chatham County. | During the second year of the NiCIP program, the IHC met 4 times and participants helped design a survey to better understand community need around transportation in Chatham and created implementable solutions with this data (plan training). |

| Issue Area | Activity Type | Hours Spent | Objective(s) | Outcomes(s) |
|---|--|-------------|---|---|
| Increasing Opportunities for Affordable, Accessible housing Units | Collaborating and Networking | 69 | Participate in trainings, advocate for funding to grow housing stocks, and offer resources to support PwD looking for housing, including engaging with those who are presently unhoused. | Participate with Housing Savannah in drafting/submission of Affordable/Accessible Housing Op-Ed, host 2 housing related IL Skills events, attend 2025 Housing Savannah Housing Summit, & involvement in homelessness coalitions. |
| Increasing Access to Communication | Community Education & Public Information | 366.5 | 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. | Meets: 38 Coastal Alliance/39 Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies/22 CEDRC long term recovery/6 ESF6 & 2 ESF8 meets, present to 4 orgs and 4 S4L locations, attend/present at CEMA Hurricane Conference, LIFE 4-part disaster prep mini-series. |
| Increasing Access to Appropriate Health Care | Community Education & Public Information | 343.5 | Engage with the community to educate staff and enhance community resources, including respite opportunities, for those living with dementia and their families/caregivers. | Primarily expansion office staff partner with Heart of Georgia AAA Dementia Care Specialist/Caregiver Specialist to train on how to support people living with dementia, then plan and host 8 Memory Cafes across the year in Expansion office counties. |
| Increasing Access to Communication | Community Education & Public Information | 111.25 | In collaboration with GVRA (assisted with advertising) and other community partners, LIFE hosted the SenseAbility showcase local supports for individuals who are Blind/Low Vision, Deaf/HoH, and Blind/Deaf. | SCBLV & LIFE showcased AT, an O&M specialist was present from SCBLV, too. Heart Languages provided ASL interpreting services, allowing us to interact with a Deaf attendee. Vocal Point had a booth/signed up users. LIFE provided review of services. |

| Issue Area | Activity Type | Hours Spent | Objective(s) | Outcomes(s) |
|---|--|-------------|--|---|
| Promote Growth | Collaborating and Networking | 110.75 | Attend Fall training/director peer support meeting in Nashville (Empower TN), then as new Secretary/Treasurer, help facilitate planning around and attend second meet in Biloxi 6/9 to try to engage MS EDs. | Attend Nashville SEEDA meeting (11/12-11/15) and Biloxi SEEDA meeting (6/9-6/13). Elected Secretary/Treasurer in Nashville. Trainings/peer support sessions throughout (ex. ACL training, mental health, emergency planning, working with municipalities) |
| Increasing Other Access | Technical Assistance | 21.5 | Share our knowledge about how to build, monitor and satisfy the objectives of a Work Plan in furtherance of the organization's mission and its strategi plan with CILs across the country. | LIFE's ED and Program Director worked with IL Training & Technical Assistance Center, reviewed internal practices, contributed to slide development, presented live on 6/11 to CIL leaders across the country, now available on demand. |
| Increasing Access to Other Legal Rights & Legislative Process | Community Education & Public Information | 74.75 | In celebration of the 35th anniversary of the signing of the ADA, host an event that highlights the historical importance of the ADA's signing and provides an opportunity for others to engage with the advocacy process. | Planning and delivery of a community-led celebration of the ADA's 35th anniversary featuring: Keynote address by local disability rights leader Karen Smith, Storytelling panel, "My ADA Story," creative expression activities & community resource fair |

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.

This Fiscal Year, LIFE administrative staff primarily designed the Community Activities table to capture activity themes, grounding the reporting in the issue addressed wherever possible. However, as noted in Section 1.2, this year LIFE again sought to address unmet community support needs of PwD while simultaneously increase funding. The additional funding sources acquired and their respective reporting regimes required LIFE to specify which efforts were funded by what source. For example, the "NiCIP" entry described below addressed transportation needs in Chatham County as tackled by that systems advocacy program specifically, while another Community Activity entry titled "Transportation" addresses transportation more generally. Again, this occurred around student supports. The entry titled "Pathways to Partnerships" and the one titled "Students for LIFE" both covered planning and delivery of youth transition supports to non-consumers, the first for students 6th-8th grade through the

program of the same name and the latter high school-aged students through a program unique to LIFE funded through a United Way of Coastal Empire grant as well as Part C. Both of these Activities are separate from the general category "Education/Employment."

The choice to make some categories specific to the way the information was delivered (ex. "Presentations") and some to the topic (ex. "Housing/Homelessness Intervention" or more generally "Barrier Identification and Removal") meant that staff efforts could be allocated to more than one category, with multiple staff members working on each event. Thus, some of the efforts were represented in multiple Community Activities entries, but none of the hours were duplicated. Where overlap occurred, the hours calculations were based on the time allocated by particular staff members to each Community Activity. The choice to categorize community activities like this, i.e. not following a parallel naming structure, reflected the funder documentation requirements noted previously as well as an effort to highlight organizational outreach priorities and what issues it found most pressing in its service counties.

Additionally, this year's PPR included LIFE participation in endeavors out of its 9-county expansion office which were not funded through Part C funds but instead primarily through the state sources. These efforts were frequently noted in the breakout of time assigned to each activity, and descriptions here as well as in Section 5.6 include LIFE's work in these counties.

The below narratives provide additional information to supplement the information found in Section 5.6 and better describe the depth and diversity, thematically and geographically, of LIFE's interactions in the community.

The 1st Community Activity (hereafter "CA"), identified by the tags "Increasing Other Access" and "Outreach Efforts," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Mental Health/Substance Abuse." The need for these supports was especially acute in LIFE's 9 expansion counties, where staff interests and efforts aligned with this need. Of the time captured, Expansion office staff contributed 87.25 hours to the effort. Expansion staff participated in many of the meetings noted in Section 5.6, attended GA Recovers in Communities Bus Tour-Farmers Market in Jesup, GA, attended a two-day training titled "Building Prevention Workshop Training-Youth/Adult Substance Abuse" and attended the afore noted TRUST Partnership meetings covering Pierce, Brantley, and Ware Counties that addressed opioid abuse. LIFE addressed mental health support needs as well. For example, three staff members in the Screven office obtained their certifications in Youth Mental Health First Aid, and two staff out of the Savannah office attended the Chatham County Mental Health symposium in May as well. Additionally, staff in both offices learned about mindfulness techniques during two office wide staff trainings.

The 2nd CA, identified by the tags "Increased Access to Education/Employment" and "Outreach Efforts," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Students for LIFE." Topics of the classes included both concrete activity-centered classes like Cleaning Your Home, Cooking and Food Safety, Emergency Preparedness (helping them talk to their parents about plans), Nutrition & Physical Activity, Grocery Shopping, Health & Hygiene, and Managing Your Money, as well as more process-based trainings like Self-Awareness, Decision Making, and Goal Setting that support activity-based efforts. Additionally, i-Decide Georgia presented to two sites' participants to supplement the existing Decision Making curriculum. LIFE staff offered the program in the following sites: Savannah High, Statesboro High, Claxton High, Project Search Effingham, Johnson High, PS Candler, Jenkins High, PS Armstrong, and Savannah Chatham E-learning Academy.

The 3rd CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Other Access" and "Collaborating and Networking," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Meetings/Partnerships." This category captured community meetings that didn't exclusively address one of the specified CA topics. This included participation in Family Connection meetings in Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham and Effingham out of Savannah and every service county excepting Appling out of the Screven office.

The 4th CA, identified by the tags "Increased Access to Education/Employment" and "Collaborating and Networking," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Pathways to Partnerships." This program, the preparation for which was noted in last year's PPR, began in earnest with a meeting at LIFE on 12/2 with the P2P administrative team. Securing a host school proved challenging, as did staffing the program, both detailed in Section 6.1.2. The trainings for program delivery staff to allow

them to facilitate 6th, 7th and 8th grade curriculums combined with the weekly/monthly meetings with specific subsets of LIFE's 5 member P2P team (ED, S4L Coordinator, 3 P2P specific staff) to make up the bulk of the hours spent. LIFE's 3 staff member P2P lesson delivery team successfully facilitated Lesson 1 to two classes at Lewis Frazier Middle in Liberty Co. on 9/26 with the remaining 9 lessons delivered in FY25-26. LIFE's P2P contract awarded it \$40,000 for its efforts this year.

The 5th CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Access to Appropriate Health Care" and "Community Education & Public Information," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Access to Healthcare." Preparation for an educational presentation to Representative Buddy Carter about the impact of Medicaid cuts on PwD in his district as well as a staff training about CAPABLE, an interdisciplinary service support program featuring occupational therapy, nursing supervision, and handiwork services offered through Hospice Savannah were the biggest efforts captured therein. The 6th CA, identified by the tags "Increased Access to Education/Employment" and "Outreach Efforts," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Power of YOU!" This conference took place at the Hellenic Center on 4/25 and was attended by 127 students from 10 schools/sites. The event featured a phenomenal peer speaker, journaling activity, photo booth, 12 resource tables, and an interactive scenario challenge game. Students and teachers expressed how much they enjoyed POY! this year, and the speaker (a LIFE consumer who later in the year joined the LIFE staff as a member of the P2P team) expressed his appreciation of the opportunity to share his story and practice public speaking skills.

The 7th CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Other Access" and "Collaborating and Networking," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Barrier Identification and Removal." This section captured one LIFE staff member's extensive research around founding a support group for wheelchair users, LIFE ED's support of a neurodiverse community group called Dragonfly Social as they hosted events and explored incorporating, LIFE AD's disability site reviews at Wesley Oak Church and EmployAbility as well as planning for another at Wesley Monumental Church next fiscal year, and LIFE staffs' collaboration on an IL Skills Disability Etiquette training and 4 other offerings in the community for Worksource Coastal, United Way of the Coastal Empire, the Coastal ADRC, and Savannah State University respectively. Also included here were the digital accessibility reviews of the Experian Consumer Credit Reporting Agency app and a review of the digital accessibility of Wellsky, the online database housing information for the nursing home transition and P2P programs as well as two staff trainings led by LIFE staff on nursing home transition as mandated by the Work Plan.

The 8th CA, identified by the tags "Promote Growth" and "Outreach Efforts" with 103 hours of staff time allotted to it, corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Presentations." Much of the time captured here reflected preparations for the four Disability Etiquette trainings noted above. It also included the preparation and participation in two Savannah State Radio shows and preparation and delivery of presentations to the following locations/groups: MS Support Group, Savannah Business Chamber at a Toastmasters meeting, Encompass Health Rehab Hospital, Representative Carter/Senator Warnock/Senator Ossoff's offices about impact of Medicaid cuts for PwD, Hospice Savannah, and Garden Gate Treatment Center in Waycross (Ware County).

The 9th CA, identified by the tags "Promote Growth" and "Outreach Efforts" with 173 hours of staff time allotted to it, corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Info Fairs." These efforts were divided almost equally between the Savannah and Screven offices, with 93 hours in the 11 core counties (Savannah office) and 80 hours in the Expansion counties. Many of the efforts targeted youth or families, like the Springfield Elementary Champions Night (Effingham), the Savannah Spring Fling (Chatham), Long County Summer Reading and Resource Fair, Day of the Child (Bacon), and Ware County Family Day, while others were more targeted towards older individuals, like the Coastal Area Agency on Aging Health and Resource Fair in Brunswick (Glynn). The February Buddy Ball event hosted in Metter (Candler) represented both an attempt to connect with youth and with the Candler Co. community, an issue noted in Section 6.1.2.

The 10th CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Access to Other Legal Rights & Legislative Process" and "Community Education & Public Information," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Voting." These entries included planning and delivery of the IL Skills event, "Every Voice Counts, Every Vote Matters: Access Without Barriers." This interactive session on voter rights and participation,

included a tribute to disability voting advocate Gaylon Tootle and the Are You Vote Ready? Initiative, tips for voter registration and accessible voting, resources for transportation to the polls, voter ID assistance, and accommodation rights. A community effort to honor Gaylon led to the creation of the Gaylon Tootle Youth Leadership Program. Funded through a grant by American Association of People with Disabilities, two LIFE staff participated as Gaylon Tootle Youth Voting Rights Advocates, the initial efforts captured here. Section 4.6 described this effort in greater detail. LIFE staff in the expansion office attended an Eggs and Issues event put on by the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce and captured here where LIFE staff listened to three GA State Legislative Representatives present about how they were furthering constituent interests and priorities at the Capitol. The LIFE Work Plan group tasked with supporting voting efforts gathered information about voting rights and supports available to enforce these rights, as well as elected official contact information and ensured it was uploaded to the website under the Voting tab located there.

The 11th CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Access to Appropriate Health Care" and "Community Education & Public Information," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Living Well in the Community." This 10-lesson curriculum was customarily delivered twice a week over 5 weeks and was facilitated by some combination of two of the four LIFE staff members certified on delivery. The program, its lessons and community partnerships that made it successful were all described in greater depth in Section 4.6. This year, 31 consumers across 4 cohorts graduated from the program and it generated \$30,000 in revenue, as noted in this year's Section 1.2 narrative. Time noted here was primarily associated, first with identification of host sites and then with preparation for and later delivery of the sessions.

The 12th CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Access to Appropriate Health Care" and "Community Education & Public Information," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Older Americans Education (AAA)." This effort came out of the successful bid for the Coastal Area Evidence Based Programming contract noted in the prior PPR funded through the Older Americans Act. Much of the time captured here corresponded to the intense 13-session staff training in which three LIFE staff participated. LIFE followed the model previously identified in the Living Well in the Community model where host sites assisted with recruitment. Considering limited knowledge of many of the participants about virtual meeting software like Zoom, the host sites also supported participant IT needs. The 5 cohorts were held at either or both of Savannah Summit and Williams Court Apartments. Both locations had their own computer labs and were supported by either a LIFE staff member who travelled to the site or a host site employee familiar with the participating residents. The supporters assisted with Zoom issues as they arose. The six-week class covered the following information: appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength and endurance, fall prevention, healthy eating, better breathing techniques, appropriate use of medication, working more effectively with health care providers, communicating with friends and family, communicating with oneself, communicating with the health care system and action-planning/problem-solving/decision-making.

The 13th CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Accessibility to Transportation" and "Collaborating and Networking," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Transportation." These efforts included participation in an Amtrack meeting set up by the SILC, attending as an observer in a Brunswick Area Transit Survey meeting (must be a Glynn County resident to be a voting participant, so had to roll off in a prior year), attending two public listening sessions about the Chatham Area Transit (CAT) app rollout, and collaboration with CAT around hiring a new paratransit services director, which culminated with LIFE's ED participating in these interviews in October.

The 14th CA, identified by the tags "Increased Access to Education/Employment" and "Collaborating and Networking," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Education/Employment." These efforts included participation in the 1st District Transition Alliance and Okefenokee Regional Transition Alliance (ORTA was an expansion area effort) meetings, connecting with Savannah State University through a LIFE Board member, participating in 1st District Transition Alliance Expo where LIFE had an info booth. It additionally included multiple IL Skills sessions around employment put on at Garden Gate in Waycross.

The 15th CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Accessibility to Transportation" and "Outreach Efforts," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "NiCIP." NiCIP, NCHPAD's Inclusive Community

Implementation Process, a program overseen by the GA State Center for Leadership in Disability and facilitated by LIFE, hosted 4 IHC meetings to design and rollout a community survey to identify barriers to accessing transportation in Chatham County. The group reviewed the data collected and identified educating riders about existing procedures and providing a town hall forum to engage in productive problem-solving collaboration with users as the primary goals for year 3. Section 4.6 described the offering in greater depth.

The 16th CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Opportunities for Affordable, Accessible housing Units" and "Collaborating and Networking," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Housing/Homelessness Intervention." Here LIFE staff learned about bond issued affordable housing projects through meetings with the SILC and Housing Savannah, delivered an IL Skills training on renting in partnership with LIFE Board member and UGA Extension employee, and authored an Op-ED on affordable, accessible housing which was submitted to and ultimately ran in the Savannah Morning News.

The 17th CA listed above, identified by the tags "Increasing Access to Communication" and "Community Education & Public Information," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Emergency Preparedness." LIFE remained a leading voice for disability representation in emergency response efforts in Georgia. Section 4.2, 4.3, 4.6, and 7.1 contained additional details about LIFE's emergency planning efforts.

The 18th CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Access to Appropriate Health Care" and "Community Education & Public Information," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Dementia Support." LIFE's Board President facilitated an Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group at LIFE for much of this FY, but the majority of this time was planning and delivering Memory Cafe respite offerings at the Screven office and the community as well as training staff about how to work with individuals living with dementia.

The 19th CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Access to Communication" and "Community Education & Public Information," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "SenseAbility." This was the first annual event advertised through GVRA. Savannah Center for Blind and Low Vision served as the largest partner for this event, further detailed in Section 5.6. Vocal Point came down from Atlanta and signed participants up for its radio reading services. This connection grew through LIFE ED's role on Vocal Point's board.

The 20th CA, identified by the tags "Promote Growth" and "Collaborating and Networking" corresponded to the category internally labeled as "SECDA." This membership organization of Center Directors from across the 8 states of the Southeast where EDs gathered for trainings and shared ideas about tackling commonly faced challenges. LIFE ED was elected Secretary/Treasurer at the November 2024 meeting.

The 21st CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Other Access" and "Technical Assistance," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "Work Plan Training." LIFE ED and Associate Director teamed up to facilitate a training through the IL T&TA Center for EDs across the US about how to successfully create and implement a Work Plan. The formula for LIFE's Work Plan facilitation was discussed more fully in Section 6.1.

The 22nd CA, identified by the tags "Increasing Access to Other Legal Rights & Legislative Process" and "Community Education & Public Information," corresponded to the category internally labeled as "ADA Open House." This category captured planning and facilitation efforts of an event that was attended by 41 people and was described in Section 4.6.

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 72-item work plan in almost its entirety, leaving only two incomplete. This represented a 97.2% completion rate. The objectives missed and the reasons behind said misses are described in detail below in "Item 6.1.2 Challenges" section. 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) was 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. The process that follows is that innovative and effective staff led work plan accountability procedure which garnered LIFE recognition and led to LIFE's collaboration with IL T&TA Center on the presentation "Learn and Share: Unlocking Effective Workplans: Pro Tips and Real-World Application Q&A," preparation for and implementation of noted in corresponding parts of Section 5.6 and Section 5.7. To ensure alignment, 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.)

-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.) Completed

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., VIII.)

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

-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.) Completed

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.)

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 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.)

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. (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.)

-WP: LIFE staff will post calls for home modification contractors in its bi-monthly newsletter and on at least one of its digital platforms. (G3, C., V., c.)

-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., VII., 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., VII., 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 6.1.2 - Challenges

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

The two Work Plan items which were not completed were both items under Goal 3: To offer individual and community-based services and programs to enhance independent living.

Incomplete Work Plan Item #1

-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.) In progress

The first missed Work Plan item involved the accessibility of the paperwork. This was a long-standing issue that arose out of extensive documentation requirements, the inaccessibility of hard copy paperwork for staff and consumers who are Blind or Low Vision, the need to integrate the information contained on the inaccessible hard copy paperwork into a secure digital database, and the security measures needed for it to remain HIPAA compliant. LIFE's Associate Director (AD) continued to explore ways to reduce the paperwork required and remain compliant, and LIFE Administrative Staff (AD, PD, ED) engaged in conversations with other CIL staffs about service specific consumer paperwork packets that would reduce this burden for potential consumers. These conversations continued into the next fiscal year.

Outside of the volume of the paperwork as a barrier, LIFE staff attempted to address the forms themselves. LIFE's Program Director (PD), who had previously explored fillable PDFs, convertible forms and digital signature software, identified a feature available through Q90 which offered self-intake forms, digital ILPs, and quick e-signatures that integrated into LIFE's HIPAA compliant database. This promised not only reduce administrative time for staff but also make the process faster, more accessible, and more convenient for consumers, ensuring they spent less time on paperwork and more time receiving services that supported independent living. The associated cost with this upgrade to LIFE's existing Q90 CIL Suite license was not unreasonable, and LIFE intended to activate it at the beginning of the next fiscal year. However, the loss of funding described later in this section forced significant cutbacks to expenditures, and, having arrived and planned for an implementable solution to begin 10/1, LIFE had to cancel these plans to absorb the \$150,000 loss of GVRA program revenue they learned of on 9/23/25. LIFE staff will continue to explore options, including grant funding that might

supplement existing administrative spending.

Incomplete Work Plan Item #2

-WP: LIFE Staff will apply for 3 grants to fund home modifications in our area. (G3, C., V., a.) Not Completed

The second work plan item which was not completed addressed funding for home modifications. The waiting list for LIFE's home modification program remained far too long, but barriers outside of funding proved the most daunting. The paperwork issues noted above posed a significant impediment for applicants. Home modifications involved even more forms to sign and documents to produce. The paperwork reflected the complexities of the program, and some of the money set aside for home modifications from the Part B, GVRA program income and Georgia State Legislative top-up funding remained unclaimed. Much of the unused funding was redesignated to the AT program, where LIFE delivered 70 AT devices and 4 vehicle modifications. In light of other barriers preempting funding as the primary concern, LIFE Administrative staff agreed to table the search for additional funding, prioritize implementation of the new programs mentioned below and noted throughout the report, and, with respect to the home mod program, focus on addressing the process barriers to accessing the existing funding, thus not completing this work plan item. However, with the funding challenges noted hereafter, this reappeared on the work plan which followed for FY 25-26, since most of the remaining available funding was not exclusively for LIFE's use and the associated paperwork/documentation had proven even more extensive than its predecessor funding sources.

An additional challenge faced during the year involved funding, and this challenge became more acute in the year to follow. Though the Public Health Workforce contract expired at the conclusion of last fiscal year, LIFE's existing contracts promised the funding needed to fulfill its intended objectives in FY24-25. However, with elimination/defunding of departments at the federal level and corresponding delays and threats of non-payment of existing federal contractual obligations, LIFE spent much of the year managing the uncertainty and trying to ensure it could continue to operate effectively.

LIFE's long-standing DSE, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA), delayed payments, ostensibly due to the federal reimbursement delays. Previously, GVRA had sought partnership opportunities with the CILs. These collaborations intended to improve PwD employment outcomes, inclusive of access to GVRA services, as detailed in the prior year's PPR. In furtherance of this goal, beginning 10/1/2023, GVRA provided additional \$150,000, derived from GVRA program income, in the Part B contract. GVRA was in no way required to provide this under its state match obligations nor to continue it. Additionally, the Georgia Legislature designated funding beginning in July to insure some level of CIL coverage for every county in Georgia, all 159 of them. It also sought to enhance coverage in underserved areas, inclusive of LIFE's 9 expansion counties, funding which flowed through GVRA as the DSE. As this funding became more central to Neurodiversity is Beautiful program support group delivery with the expiration of PHWF moneys, delays/threats to it required frequent meetings with group facilitators. The goal of this collaboration had always been to move to a self-sustaining program. In order to accomplish this, the group needed to be funded through insurance and grants obtained by group facilitators. Funding uncertainty accelerated this conversion.

During negotiations which first began early in June of 2025, GVRA sought to combine the existing Part B and program income contracts with the state legislatively designated top-up contract noted above and running 7/1/24-6/30/25. GVRA hoped, through a bridge contract of 7/1/25-9/30/25, to bring all contracts it administered as the DSE onto the same fiscal year, that of the federal 10/1/25-9/30/26 calendar. Due to miscommunications throughout the negotiating process and confusion over what money could be used for which purposes, LIFE did not sign the bridge funding agreement until August. This uncertainty led to a temporary suspension of the Neurodiversity Is Beautiful program during the Summer. Even with this, the group served 5 individuals who used insurance, 10 LIFE consumers, and 1 individual who paid privately across the year. When LIFE learned about the loss of the \$150,000 of the program income funding in the Part B contract for FY25-26, the group had sufficient participation and funding to continue to operate without LIFE's ongoing financial support. Unfortunately, the home modification budget largely dependent on this funding had to be slashed to accommodate the loss of funding in the fiscal year to follow, the impact of which was described above in Incomplete Work Plan Item #2. Still, the state legislative funding, coupled with increased funding available through P2P and

the established income stream of the Evidence Based Program (EBP) contract under which LIFE served older adults, promised the staff continuity needed to serve its consumers while it tapped into underutilized sources and discovered new ones to fund the home modification program in the year to come.

Staffing/Program Implementation Changes

After years of very limited changes to staff and incremental addition of new programs offered, this reporting year proved more challenging on both fronts. The combination of the two exacerbated the difficulties of each individually. In the Screven office, one of the two full time staff members rolled off in September of 2023, just before the beginning of this reporting period. In an attempt to bolster services offered out of that office, LIFE set out to hire two IL Coordinators and successfully did so on 11/4/24 to supplement the remaining full time IL Coordinator as well as the part time IL Coordinator out of that office. Unfortunately, one of these two new hires moved out-of-state, resigning 1/18/25. With funding uncertainty, LIFE hesitated to fill the open position, but eventually found a talented individual with an art background to add to the team on 5/12/25. In the interim, the part-time staff member had the opportunity to grow in her capacity. This coordinator became central to the IL Skills events put on at Garden Gate in Waycross. When the longest tenured member of the Screven office retired on 6/6, the part time IL Coordinator continued the facilitation of the IL Skills program offered at Garden Gate, as described in Section 4.3. With the Screven office re-staffed, dynamic leadership began to emerge. Capacity growth of existing members, plans to establish sub-offices with floating office hours in underserved counties like Candler in FY25-26 and closer connections with the Savannah through continued travel of the Associate Director and Executive Director to community/in-office meetings inclusive of floating sites in these other counties, LIFE will turn the expansion office staffing challenges of FY24-25 into a strength in the upcoming fiscal year.

In Savannah, the year began on a positive note. During the previous fiscal year, LIFE staffed the Support Coordinator position it had created that year to grow programming for youth and older individuals with disabilities on 9/11/23. Using the GVRA program income funds included in the Part B contract beginning 10/1/2023, LIFE also hired an Office Manager/Community Educator on 4/1/24 to engage in outreach in the community. Capacity was at an all-time high, as noted in last year's PPR, cross-training was taking place across the many programs, and LIFE was well-positioned to take on the new programming it anticipated arriving in this reporting year and the corresponding intensive training regimes that accompanied them.

To kick off this reporting year, LIFE hired a Support Coordinator with Youth Focus on 11/11/24 to strengthen the youth outreach efforts and better support the S4L Coordinator. This hiring, as well as the two which preceded it in the prior fiscal year, were inspired by more robust funding and mandates to grow in innovative ways, which created the perfect environment for LIFE to fill holes in services needed in the community.

When LIFE won the bid for EBP contract facilitation, as detailed in the prior year's PPR, it identified the Chronic Disease Self-Management class as a program closely aligned with its peer support model of service delivery and which effectively supported independent living in the community. The ED, Support Coordinator, and Office Manager/Community Educator all went through the intensive training and began implementation with the first class in January.

Additionally, LIFE had positioned itself to strengthen youth outreach and continue the growth of its Students for LIFE program, with a S4L Coordinator and three newly hired staff to assist. As such, when the opportunity to take on the P2P middle school transition program began to come into focus in January of 2025, LIFE was staffed to do so. At the time, three CILs in Georgia were participating in the first cohort, one of whom had shared their experience with the program at SECDA that Fall. Since LIFE was a candidate to participate in the second cohort, a process described below and in Section 5.6 and 5.7, these new hires were perfectly timed.

Unfortunately, staff turnover did not allow this to take place as planned. The long-tenured individual who facilitated the esteemed youth transition program called Students for LIFE (S4L) informed LIFE Administrative Staff in May of her decision to wind down her tenure to pursue other opportunities. In doing so, she provided plenty of notice and planned to train her replacement S4L Coordinator and also integrate the newest Support Coordinator with Youth Focus into the program. This threatened some of

the desired continuity, as the staff worked to align the S4L high school program with the newly established P2P middle school offering. The P2P program itself imagined this integration through a component of the program called Bridging the Gap, to be more fully discussed in next year's PPR. As such, though the turnover was not ideal, the systems and existing staff could still meet the challenges. Then additional staff turnover strained the existing staff even further. The tenure of the Support Coordinator hired the prior year ended in August, leaving LIFE with only two certified facilitators of the CDSM program on staff, one of whom was the ED. LIFE worked with the Coastal AAA to identify a contract facilitator to supplement the efforts of the two trained LIFE staff. As noted in this report, LIFE still managed to facilitate 5 cohorts and serve 46 individuals through the CDSM program, training two additional members of the LIFE staff in October-November of 2025 in order to ensure full coverage moving forward, but the two staff members and the contract facilitator, a Certified Trainer with years of experience facilitating the program out of the Coastal AAA, remained the only options for beginning mid-August through the end of the year.

Further complicating the situation, LIFE chose to drop office manager responsibilities and move the Office Manager/Community Educator into a role running the P2P program, with substantial support from the Support Coordinator with Youth Focus. As such, the only remaining staff members trained on CDSM facilitation who could consistently make the time due to his salaried status was LIFE's ED, since the Community Educator was frequently occupied with P2P rollout. As noted in this report, LIFE still managed to facilitate 5 cohorts and serve 46 individuals through the CDSM program. The two trained staff members, one of whom only had limited availability, and a contract facilitator, a Certified Trainer with years of experience facilitating the program out of the Coastal AAA, remained the only options for beginning mid-August through the end of the year. To avoid future issues, LIFE signed up two additional members of the LIFE staff for CDSM trainings in October-November of 2025 in order to ensure full coverage moving forward.

Additionally, the exiting S4L Coordinator had to take leave, which minimized the contact she could have with her successor who was hired 7/16/25. They continued to communicate throughout the transition, but not with the frequency imagined. The impact of this will likely appear in the S4L delivery numbers in the PPR to follow.

Though the P2P intensive trainings did not begin until the in-person kick off in August, identifying a local school involved providing leads born of S4L engagement and pitching the program along with the external P2P Project Coordinator and P2P Project Manager. The goal of securing the site in May before schools closed for the Summer proved impossible when the local option of the Savannah/Chatham Public Schools, after multiple meetings, requested instead to defer until year 2. During this time, when both the ED and Outreach Coordinator, the two LIFE staff trained on CDSM delivery, were also involved in the intermittent but intense P2P outreach campaigns, the Support Coordinator with Youth focus returned home to another state for a weekend and chose not to come back, submitting her resignation without notice on 7/11. In doing so, she was never involved with the incoming S4L Coordinator who joined the following week, another connection intended to smooth the transitioning of staff and implementation of programs that didn't happen.

Suddenly, neither the ongoing CDSM nor the upcoming P2P programs were fully staffed, and LIFE went to work to remedy this issue. The subsequent staffing campaign secured the services of a part-time Youth Peer Supporter on 7/29/25, an individual who delivered empowering remarks at the Power of YOU! Youth Transition Conference to much acclaim as described in Section 5.6 and 5.7. He first acclimated to CIL culture by coming into the office and partnering with the long-tenured Peer Supporter and other LIFE service delivery staff. LIFE also hired two other positions, a Support Coordinator with Youth Focus and a Support Coordinator with Older Adult Focus on 8/11/25. The new Support Coordinator with Youth Focus, hired the week after the P2P in-person Cohort 2 instructor training in Warm Springs 8/6-8/8, missed this training but attended the subsequent virtual offerings about lesson delivery. She also trained on and took over the programmatic data entry responsibilities of her predecessor as well. As such, by the close of this fiscal year, LIFE had identified Lewis Frazier Middle School as the site, fully staffed P2P with trained personnel (a P2P CIL Lead Instructor, a P2P Youth Coordinator, and a P2P Peer Supporter with positional responsibilities established by LIFE's ED in coordination with external P2P team and Cohort 1 EDs), created a connection between S4L and P2P

(in addition to S4L Coordinator involvement, the Outreach Coordinator now tasked with running P2P previously assisted in S4L lesson delivery) and offered its first class on 9/26.

The staffing changes impacted other offerings, too. The Support Coordinator who had rolled off in August not only helped facilitate CDSM but also assisted with home modifications and nursing home transitions. The newly hired Support Coordinator with Older Adult Focus stepped into this void, training on LWIC, signing up for CDSM instructor training which she completed in the following fiscal year, and assisting in streamlining the paperwork process as well supporting nursing home transition efforts. With the influx of new hires, the challenges of integrating new members into both existing and new teams, and the need for new hires to complete baseline CIL training obligations in addition to specialized trainings (described in Section 4.6), LIFE navigated significant head winds to implement two new programs and deliver the most services to the most consumers of LIFE ED's nine and a quarter year tenure. This was made possible through a well-coordinated effort of all staff members across both offices, efforts documented in this report and which the character limits here prevent detailing further. However, three examples of such efforts were: 1) The Office Manager/Outreach Coordinator demonstrated the ability to juggle responsibilities in both of the understaffed programs (CDSM and P2P) and allowed them both to continue successfully throughout the year. 2) The Associate Director diligently juggled multiple responsibilities, uploading information to LIFE's digital platforms including during the hurricane recovery, as described herein, and kept the LWIC effort going strong even with limited capacity to staff it. 3) The Program Director assisted with quality control, creating a regimented training schedule (described in Section 8.1) which armed the new additions with the knowledge needed to successfully support the individuals with whom they worked.

The breadth and diversity of accomplishments found in this report is particularly noteworthy, as it occurred in the midst of staff turnover and onboarding. As the new staff members continue to gain experience and integrate their unique talents into the team, LIFE is better prepared to tackle its FY25-26 Work Plan because of its work this reporting 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.

Year 3 of the Work Plan which furthered the 3-year Strategic Plan represented the culmination of the efforts of the prior years in preparation for the creation of a new set of destinations. As described in depth in Section 4.7, LIFE served a lot more people and provided these individuals with a lot more services. It did so while facing incredible amounts of uncertainty, including delayed payments, uneven communication, and rapidly shifting external priorities of funders. These are detailed in depth in Item 6.1.2 along with the staffing challenges.

The largest number of additions to the Work Plan for this reporting year revolved around preparations for NiCIP delivery, discussed throughout this report. New Work Plan items associated with Goal 1. A. Transportation focused on the information gathering activities needed to set the stage for the next implementation phase of the NiCIP program. The IHC chose to tackle access to transportation in Chatham County in the NiCIP program for a multitude of reasons, many of which are described in this report. Without the ability to leave one's neighborhood, the choices at the heart of independent living simply do not exist. Work Plan items which created surveys and engaged community partners including the primary paratransit provider, CAT, in discussions, moved these challenges into focus.

Coincidentally, CAT closed the year with both staffing changes, with the retirement of the Director of Paratransit Services just weeks after the close of this reporting year, and the uneven rollout of the new reservation system. Because of LIFE's long-standing partnership with CAT through its sharing of rider experiences and participation in paratransit meetings and its new problem-solving structure of NiCIP, LIFE assisted in the search for solutions and remained positioned to continue this role in the next fiscal year.

Another addition to the Work Plan from the prior year was the item under Goal 2. A. Educating IV.,

focusing on youth skill building outside of Students for LIFE, the youth-oriented training modules it chose to invest heavily in beginning nine years ago. This Work Plan focus area contributed to the hiring choices detailed in Item 6.1.2 and also reflected the need to add capacity to allow for implementation of Pathways to Partnerships. P2P, a 6th-8th grade transition program, came with its own structure, weekly meetings, and intense training requirements. It represented the natural growth of the S4L program into a younger demographic, and brought its own implementation structure to guide the growth.

Both NiCIP and P2P reflected a growing trend at LIFE. Using the experience it gained through years of innovative service delivery, LIFE proved to be a desirable partner for outside funders seeking to tackle long-standing problems in Southeast Georgia. Though LIFE's focus remained and will continue to be the implementation of its 5 core services for the benefit of its consumers, by identifying outside funding opportunities to address community problems, LIFE brought new ideas to its area, ramped up staffing to assist with implementation, and demonstrated fidelity to attract additional prospects moving forward. Both the new Work Plan items associated with mental health/substance abuse supports (Goal 1, B. Services, II) and those associated with expanding S4L into the expansion counties (Goal 3, C. Programs, VI) imagined a more fluid exchange of ideas across the Screven and Savannah offices. Section 7 discussed this very cross-office collaboration. By exporting LIFE's institutional knowledge about effective supports for youth with disabilities out of the Savannah office where it grew through local, regional and national collaborations, LIFE could bring this information to its more rural areas. This year, it presented P2P to the First District Transition Alliance (included Appling, Candler, Long and Wayne), prompting questions by attendees about how to be considered for the program, and engaged with Wayne County Public Schools about S4L delivery, which LIFE continued to pursue into the next fiscal year. The work plan also saw information flowing from the satellite office to the one in Savannah. Involvement in TRUST Partnership meetings that centered around opioid abuse prevention as well as a prominent for-profit and non-profit partnerships in Wayne County supporting mental health wellness provided expansion county staff with information they shared with their Savannah-based colleagues in weekly staff meetings.

The final additions to the Work Plan could be found in Goal 3, B. Community Based Services, II). With the added staff capacity discussed herein, LIFE intended to build an effective volunteer program to enhance consumer engagement. However, as noted in Item 6.1.2., staff turnover prevented this from being implemented, even while LIFE staff fulfilled the infrastructure building requirements. The Support Coordinator, whose tenure ended in August, worked extensively on these items. However, as she rolled off, CDSM/LWIC/P2P increasingly obligated remaining staff as well as her successor. Thus, though the Work Plan items were satisfied, the volunteer program remained a prospective program, ready to roll out but lacking the staff availability to do so.

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.

LIFE's Board, in conjunction with LIFE's staff, integrated feedback from its community stakeholders and lessons learned from service delivery efforts and created a new, more focused 3-year strategic plan for the years to follow beginning in FY 25-26. This process, including the SPIL's influence over it, is discussed in further detail in Item 6.2.2.

With LIFE's Board seeking a less expansive scope of the outcomes, a narrower strategic plan emerged

more closely aligned with observed community needs. The work plan that accompanies it followed suit. As such, the 72-item monstrosity of the prior year gave way to the 44 item Plan below. This Work Plan, like the Strategic Plan it supported, returned to the basics, focusing on service delivery, community partnership, and long-term organizational stability. It reads as follows:

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

1. Goal #1: LIFE will provide services to Persons with Disabilities (PwD) to support and empower them to live the independent lives of their choosing in the community.

A. Outreach Efforts (Community Events)

1. WP: LIFE will share information about LIFE services in meetings or on listservs associated with all 20 of our counties. (G1.A.i))

2. WP: LIFE will identify and participate in 15 events in the community to increase visibility of LIFE. (G1.A.i))

3. WP: LIFE will identify at least one new recreational opportunity and/or one new location it can meet consumers in. (G1.A.ii))

4. WP: LIFE Board and staff will develop a PSA about LIFE to air on radio, social media, and/or television (G1.A.iii))

5. WP: LIFE Board and staff will attend 30 community meetings and engage at least 10 partners in discussions around outreach strategies and co-marketing opportunities, at least 5 of which must be in the expansion county area. (G1.A.iv))

6. WP: LIFE Board and Staff will identify points of contacts at 10 schools and reach out to five of them to introduce P2P, S4L or LIFE's 5 core services (G1.A.v.))

B. More Services Delivered (Consumer Goals/Services)

LIFE will increase the number of PwDs who set goals and help them achieve these goals

7. WP: LIFE staff will conduct three staff trainings about services offered (G1.B.i)

8. WP: LIFE staff will conduct three staff trainings about goal categories (G1.B.i)

9. WP: LIFE staff will conduct one staff workshop to practice consumer goal setting/service delivery (G1.B.i)

10. WP: LIFE staff will deliver 5% more services in this FY than from the prior FY (G1.B.ii)

C. Supports for Expansion County Residents

11. WP: LIFE Board and staff will identify 10 places in the community with significant foot traffic and at least one in 5 of the expansion counties (G1.C.i))

12. WP: LIFE Board and staff will develop an advertising campaign to maximize exposure and deploy it in the identified locations (G1.C.ii)

D. Training and Peer Support Offerings

13. WP: LIFE staff will provide 20 combined IL Skills, Peer Support and Social Club groups. Outside of Social Club, these will primarily focus on connecting to community resources and planning how to overcome commonly experienced problems. (G1.D.)

E. Youth/Older Adult Connectivity

14. WP: LIFE staff will identify five major barriers experienced by potential consumers to signing up. (G1.E.i))

15. WP: LIFE staff will identify at least three ways to address identified barriers. (G1.E.i))

16. WP: LIFE staff will implement at least two and measure their effectiveness. (G1.E.i))

17. WP: LIFE staff will identify and implement at least five new forums/strategies to connect youth and older adults to LIFE services. (G1.E.ii))

18. WP: LIFE staff will identify and deploy tools to measure where underserved or unserved populations exist in LIFE's service area.

Goal #2: LIFE will identify, strengthen, and aid in the creation of community resources that support and empower PwD to live the independent lives of their choosing in the community

A. Housing

19. WP: LIFE staff will identify County Commissioners and ADA Coordinators in LIFE service counties. (G2.A.)

20. WP: LIFE staff will reach out to, at minimum, five of these individuals about meeting with them to discuss plans. (G2.A.)

21. WP: LIFE Board and Staff will attend/participate in at least five meetings/advocacy efforts around development of affordable, accessible housing. (G2.A.)

22. WP: LIFE Board will create a Board Subcommittee around Housing (G2.A.)

B. Transportation

23. WP: LIFE Board and Staff will develop and facilitate or co-facilitate an educational campaign about how to use transportation services in Chatham County. (G2.B.i))

24. WP: LIFE staff will review survey data to identify holes in transportation (G2.B.ii))

25. WP: LIFE staff will identify 1) other regional/national efforts to develop transportation passes and 2) whether these efforts are feasible where CAT Mobility does not serve. (G2.B.ii))

C. Employment

26. WP: LIFE staff will develop two surveys, one for employers and one for employees, about their struggles with employees generally and employing PwD specifically and one for employees about their experiences and barriers to finding and keeping employment (G2.C.i))

27. WP: LIFE staff will conduct ten surveys with employers and ten with job hunters/employees and identify at least five common barriers. (G2.C.i))

28. WP: LIFE Board and staff will identify three employment success stories and post them to LIFE-controlled digital media. (G2.C.ii))

D. Access to Public Spaces/Public Accommodations

29. WP: LIFE staff will conduct one peer support event featuring stories about barriers to public spaces and how people overcame them (G2.D.i)&ii))

30. WP: LIFE staff will conduct one peer support event featuring stories about barriers to public spaces and how people overcame them (G2.D.i)&ii))

31. WP: LIFE staff will identify at least one incentive available to employers for hiring PwD and advertise it through LIFE's online platforms (G2.D.iii))

32. WP: LIFE staff will secure one speaker for IL Skills event who will speak about procedures to enforce existing rights. (G2.D.iv))

33. WP: LIFE staff will identify apps that record accessibility of public spaces and capture the procedure to report issues. (G2.D.v))

E. Emergency Preparedness

34. WP: LIFE staff will identify available ways to be able to warn consumers of incoming storms. (G2.E.)

35. WP: LIFE staff will connect other local disability groups with expertise in disaster management (inclusive of groups like Deaf Hurricane Information Group) with LIFE's emergency management efforts. (G2.E.)

Goal #3: LIFE will secure its continued ability to fulfill its mission by strengthening the organization to allow it to withstand leadership, funding and macro-economic changes.

A. LIFE will diversify funding streams and derive the lesser of 10% of its income or \$100,000 from non-federal or state sources by FY27-28

36. WP: LIFE ED/staff will identify and apply three grants to fund home modifications (G3.A.)

B. LIFE's Board, in conjunction with its Executive Director, will develop an implementable fundraising structure with targets and procedures to attain its funding goals.

37. WP: LIFE ED will provide the Board a training on funding sources and restrictions (G3B.)

38. WP: LIFE Board will form and populate a Fundraising Board Sub-Committee (G3B.)

39. WP: LIFE ED will provide Board the amounts raised through private donations last year (G3B.)

40. WP: LIFE Board/ED will engage in one unique fundraising campaign/strategy for the year (G3B.)

C. LIFE will identify new fee for service opportunities, capturing 10% more funding than in FY 24-25 through these offerings by FY 27-28, and develop/deliver services accordingly.

41. WP LIFE Board and staff will participate in at least 10 meetings and/or trainings about fee for service opportunities (G3C.)

D. LIFE will identify:

- i) what features the organization needs in its office space,
- ii) where viable options exist
- iii) how to acquire such space
- iv) who to engage in search
- v) how to present to them

42. WP: LIFE Board and staff will identify 10 organizations, agencies or businesses who, due to mission, unique positioning, or recent experience, can offer insights and strategies into identifying an appropriate property for LIFE to rent/buy and begin reaching out to them. (Goal 3.D.i-iv))

43. WP: LIFE Board and staff will organize a presentation to meet with the Chatham County Commissioners about available space. (Goal 3.D.v))

E. LIFE will secure its long-term future through the development of succession planning policies and procedures and recruitment/training/retention of the Board members to expand it both numerically and in its capacity.

44. WP: LIFE Board, in conjunction with LIFE's ED, will engage in an internal review of current capacity, identifying strengths and weaknesses, reaffirming Board tenure tiers, and establishing a 3-5 year plan for Board leadership/new member recruitment (Goal 3.E.)

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.

LIFE's Board chose to start fresh when designing the next three-year Strategic Plan, creating an entirely new structure from the one used over the prior 9 years, in order to address the pronounced changes which had taken place. Though the threats to funding specifically and community supports for PwD generally both presented new challenges and exacerbated existing ones, they also offered new opportunities. The latest Work Plan and the Strategic Plan from which it was derived aimed to tackle the gaps in services while also positioning the organization to maintain its mission focused delivery in the years to come.

During the initial weekend drafting session, LIFE's ED brought ideas compiled from LIFE's staff as well as those discussed in prior Board meetings and over email between Board members. Additionally, LIFE's ED circulated the 2025-2028 Georgia SPIL, and Board members referenced it throughout the in-person drafting session. Unsurprisingly, the Work Plan LIFE's ED later created in conjunction with LIFE's Associate Director and LIFE's Program Director reflects many of the objectives found in that SPIL. These commonalities are detailed in the text that follows.

Work Plan Goal 1

Work Plan items in G.1.A. address outreach efforts. These community educational goals (WP 1.-6.) strive to educate the community about LIFE's services and thus about Independent Living. Like Work Plan objectives in 1.C., detailed below, much of the outreach and community education found in items 1. through 6. lacks a corresponding requirement under the SPIL. However, this section answers the priority treatment found in the funding deliverables of Goal 1 of the SPIL. These include Objective Info #1.2.1, "Continue conversations with the GILN and state entities providing education on CIL philosophy and value of IL services," which corresponds closely with WP. 1., and Objective #1.3 "The GILN and partners come together to increase resources to better meet the needs of IL consumers" which corresponds with WP. 2.

The objective of Goal 1, B. is to increase the number of services delivered, which parallels the requirements found in Goal 4 of the SPIL. Work Plan items in G.1.B., WP. 7.-10., demand an increase in services delivered and start with requirements around staff training (7.-9.) to ensure those working

for LIFE could describe the services available and maintain the consumer-directed model by which services are delivered and goals set. This aligns with SPIL Objective #4.1, "People with disabilities will be given the opportunity to achieve their identified goals of maximizing and increasing their independence in the community," as well as measurable indicators like Indicator #4.1.1, "Individuals with disabilities will receive the Five Core services on a consumer driven basis," and Indicator #4.1.2 "Conduct training activities as needed to ensure consumers are given the opportunity to set or waive goals, fully participate and control development, if not waived." The objective of WP 10., with its goal of increasing services by 5% over the previous year, aligns well with its SPIL counterpart focused on service delivery in furtherance of goals, Indicator #4.2.1, "The number of individuals receiving IL Services that achieve established goals will increase by 3% through the span of the SPIL."

Work Plan items in G.1.C. focus on expanding LIFE's visibility in the Expansion counties (WP #11. and 12.), most of which are rural, did not have a SPIL deliverable that corresponded to it. However, in Goal 1 of the SPIL focused on funding, it included an objective that shows how important this form of outreach. Funding decisions show what should be prioritized, and SPIL Goal 1 addressed priorities and strategies around funding the independent living network. Objective #1.1 states, "Funding formula and methodology will be reviewed & updated as necessary to address service expansion through capacity-building and outreach to unserved and underserved IL counties/consumers." [italics added]. As such, this Work Plan goal furthers an implicit goal of the SPIL

The Work Plan item for Goal 1. D., WP. 13., addresses IL Skills, Peer Support and Social Club group delivery and the common goal of these groups to connect PwD with community resources and planning resources. This is essentially identical to SPIL Objective 4.2, "Individuals with disabilities will gain the independent living skills and knowledge to become more independent."

Work Plan Goal 2

Work Plan items in G.2.A. seek to improve housing offerings in the area. Work Plan 19., 20., 21., and 22. pursue this outcome through development of partnerships and collaboration, both in the community and at the Board level. These align with Goal 3 of the SPIL generally, "Increase education and resources on housing options for individuals with disabilities in local communities statewide," and Objective #3.1, "The GILN will advocate with housing coalitions and partnerships to expand access for people with disabilities," and Objective #3.2, "The GILN will educate community partners regarding the value and necessity of affordable, accessible and inclusive housing," more specifically.

Work Plan items 23.-25., found under G.2.B., demand work identifying holes in transportation services, educating the public on how to use the existing services, and creating alternative funding structures. SPIL Goal #2, "Increase education and resources on transportation options for individuals with disabilities in local communities statewide," sets out the SPIL directive to grow transportation offerings, which LIFE Work Plan goals 23-25 answers. SPIL Indicator #2.1.2, "the GILN will advocate with transportation coalitions and partnerships to expand transportation options for people with disabilities" is addressed directly by WP. 23. and 25.

Work Plan items 29.-33. address public space and public accommodation access, which lacks a corresponding requirement in the SPIL. However, in sections of 8.2 Minimum Compliance about how the SPIL would be vetted for purposes in public hearings, the SPIL notes, "d. Public meeting locations, where public input is being taken, are accessible to all people with disabilities, including, but not limited to: i. proximity to public transportation, ii. physical accessibility, and iii. effective communication and accommodations that include auxiliary aids and services, necessary to make the meeting accessible to all people with disabilities." As such, the SPIL recognizes the need for physical accessibility to allow participation. These Work Plan items work to address that need.

Work Plan items 34. and 35. imagine ways to keep PwD informed in cases of an emergency. Goal 3 of the SPIL also addresses emergency planning, stating the goal is to, "Increase emergency preparedness options for people with disabilities in local communities statewide." LIFE's primary office location and the counties of residence for the majority of its consumers, lie on the coast of Georgia. As such, after years of hurricane evacuations and storm monitoring, the Center already has collaboration and partnership with national, state and local partners woven into its fabric, meeting the SPIL objectives here independent of its strategic plan and accompanying work plan. These efforts are detailed in other sections of this PPR capturing LIFE's emergency planning efforts, including the

Community Activities section. Work Plan item 34. promotes awareness through partnership and the activities falling under this will likely fulfill SPIL Indicator #5.2.1 "Six activities to increase awareness in the disability community."

Work Plan Goal 3

Work Plan Items 36-44 all focus on organizational sustainability, a component which was previously baked into prior strategic plans and work plans. The Board decided that, in light of the tumultuous funding cycle of this past fiscal year, sustainability needed its own explicit section in the strategic plan. This decision led to the creation of Strategic Plan Goal 3. The LIFE Board focused on building organizational strength, something it could substantially influence, having set out its plan to secure additional community supports for PwD in Goal 2. As such, work plan items in Goal 3 do not find direct counterparts in the SPIL. They do find analogues in the deliverables of SPIL Goal #1, "The Georgia Independent Living Network (GILN) is funded and supported to provide increased IL services to people with disabilities." The requirement of reviewing the funding sources with the Board, found in Work Plan Item 37., serves the same purpose for LIFE as Indicator #1.1.1 does for the GILN. It reads, "funding formula and methodology are reviewed at least once in the SPIL period. At a minimum, underserved and unserved areas will be reviewed." In both cases, the review of the funding as it exists, inclusive of what it can be used for, allows the decision-makers to ensure the funding is being used in furtherance of the respective organization/network priorities. If inconsistencies or inefficiencies are observed in either review, LIFE or the GILN would then need to pivot, either reallocating funding to other organizations or areas in the GILN's case or in pursuing new funding streams in LIFE's case. Already, with the loss of significant amounts of funding in the coming fiscal year which were previously used to fund home modifications, the long term diversification of funding streams demanded in Strategic Plan Goal 3 appeared in Work Plan 36., seeking home modification funding to fill this gap. As detailed in past PPRs, LIFE's Board previously prioritized quality of service delivery over fundraising, leading LIFE's ED to eliminate the Development Director position and create the internal management positions of Associate Director and Program Director. With a limited staff almost exclusively focused on service delivery efforts, LIFE moved away from standalone fundraising efforts to a fee for service approach that prioritized successful service delivery as a way to increase financial resources. This can once again be found in Work Plan 41. and with it focus on trainings on the subject. However, the Board added fundraising and other logistical planning requirements to the latest strategic plan as well. Since LIFE's existing staff lack additional capacity to assist, the majority of these new endeavors fall to the Board itself, supported by LIFE's ED. This includes the formation of a Board Fundraising Subcommittee (WP 38.), creation of a Fundraising Subcommittee (WP 38), and the creation of a unique fundraising campaign (WP 40). All of these objectives are LIFE's version of SPIL Objective #1.3, "The GILN and partners will come together to increase resources to better meet the needs of consumers."

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.

Uncertainty was the theme of this fiscal year. It kicked off with an ongoing response to a hurricane and soon transitioned into a man-made crisis arising out of a chaotic reshaping of federal and state support programs (described in Section 6.1.2 Challenges). Yet LIFE served more consumers and provided more services than ever before. This was emblematic of LIFE's approach to service delivery. For years, LIFE's ED struggled to succinctly describe what the organization did, an absolute must when pitching to potential funders and equally important when justifying LIFE's continued existence to established ones. "We provide tools, information, and guidance to PwD to empower them to live the independent lives of their choosing," hardly rolled off the tongue and minimized the organization's impact, and the mission statement captured the goal but not the method by which it was achieved. Yet stronger language threatened to remove agency from consumers and reduce them to passive recipients of services. Out of this tension emerged the oversimplified sound bite he began to trot out, "we are a planning organization." The more nuanced conversation which followed covered how this took place and addressed the importance of the peer support model to this process.

Throughout this year, LIFE found itself lacking information needed to make decisions, frequently without the external supports it needed and dependent on opaque processes which it neither fully understood nor controlled. Like the consumers with whom it had worked over the years who personally faced similar uncertainty, LIFE Board and Staff often felt overwhelmed and unsure about how to proceed. But the planning of the prior years along with the redoubling of ongoing efforts and a focus on the goals it had set in the Strategic Plan and Work Plan helped see it through the challenges. Despite the ink spilled in Item 6.1.2 and obstacles documented throughout this PPR, LIFE served the most consumers it ever had and provided the most services ever this fiscal year. The text which follows details how LIFE managed the uncertainty for the organization and helped their consumers and other PwD in the community navigate the barriers that the loss or threatened loss of support systems caused.

LIFE As an Organization

The last PPR described the successful bid for the Coastal AAA Evidence Based Programming contract, and this report described the implementation. Because of the extensive investment in the successful bid process in FY23-24, LIFE facilitated 5 cohorts of the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program this year, serving 46 people who would otherwise have remained unknown to LIFE, and signing many up as consumers (see Section 4.3 for sign up process and Section 4.6, 5.6 and 5.7 for additional details). The financial benefit to LIFE of facilitating CDSM was described in Section 1.2.

The last PPR also captured the promise of the Pathways to Partnerships program and detailed a conversation at FODAC on 8/23/24. This reporting year saw the P2P program become a reality as outreach, staff training and collaborative meetings built to the delivery of the first P2P lesson at Lewis Frasier Middle School. The 13 months between when this program emerged as a possibility in 2024 and the date in September of 2025 when LIFE delivered the first lesson demonstrated the need for proactive long-term planning. P2P contributed funding and prompted hiring, driving organizational growth during an otherwise tumultuous year. The P2P program remained a central component of LIFE's service delivery efforts in the year to follow.

Cross Office Collaboration

As mentioned before, the year began with a response to unique storm. At the end of September of 2024 and into October, Hurricane Helene caused significant disruptions for residents of many of LIFE's service counties, but most unexpectedly, for residents of the expansion counties. Defined by widespread, long-standing blackouts and downed trees blocking access points, these counties lacked the developed response teams of the coastal areas accustomed to hurricane damage. The collaboration between the Screven and Savannah offices assisted in supporting many of the individuals impacted and otherwise unsupported in the response. LIFE's longstanding reputation as a leader in emergency planning efforts for PwD arose primarily from its efforts out of the Savannah office, where residents experienced hurricane impacts most often. However, Hurricane Helene travelled further inland than prior hurricanes, impacting Bulloch as well as Appling, Ware and Wayne. Here, LIFE's cross office collaboration drove its assistance. Having established the Coastal Alliance of CILs Active in Disaster with Walton Options years before, it learned in early October of a Walton Options Board Member's intention to fly supplies into Baxley and connected him with response coordinators on the ground there. LIFE also helped Aaron Kubey of FEMA connect Deaf/HoH individuals in Wayne with resources during this period. Through a cross-office collaboration, LIFE surveyed consumers to identify needs and make them aware of ongoing efforts including ice distribution that could support them during power outages. Upon securing funding through a Centene partnership, LIFE assisted one resident in Pierce in replacing needed appliances lost during the storm. In February, as the response turned to recovery, LIFE's ED connected Ware County's VOAD planners with information about DME distribution through FODAC as well as connecting them with VOADs in other LIFE counties.

The cross office collaboration continued into the manmade crisis which followed. As vitriol and othering dominated the political discourse of the country, "disability," a long-stigmatized term but one which remained the gate keeper for access to LIFE's services, grew even more toxic. LIFE's AD and Support Coordinator in the Savannah office as well as the IL Coordinators in Screven all recognized this stigma and its barrier to engagement with resources, especially those supports available through LIFE. As such, they collectively began to explore ways to de-stigmatize the term, especially in its role as a prerequisite for signing up as a consumer. These efforts will be described in further depth in the next PPR.

The cross-office collaboration benefited the Savannah office as well with challenges facing the country's growing aging population. LIFE's ED and AD participated in dementia trainings through Heart of Georgia AAA and supported the expansion office's Memory Cafes. These trainings and support efforts, combined with LIFE Board President's work facilitating Alzheimer Caregiver Support groups, positioned LIFE to better serve consumers with dementia diagnoses. In another example, the inclusive art efforts in Savannah through partnership with the Jepson Center and that with the Wayne County Arts Council informed one another, strengthening the events in both locations.

Additional Emergency Planning and Recovery Efforts

In a year that opened with a hurricane recovery, LIFE's experience in emergency planning and response efforts again proved important for residents across its entire service area. LIFE's ED learned about an opportunity to support the community recovery through its long-standing Coastal Alliance partner Walton Options and assisted in the Love Statesboro cleanup effort on 11/7/24, dragging limbs and pulling down dead trees at registered residences in Bulloch County.

On 2/4, LIFE's ED emailed contacts hosting the Chatham County Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) Hurricane Conference and asked to present and CEMA granted this request. On 5/8, two LIFE staff presented "When the Lights Go Out and the Creek Does Rise," discussing planning for supports for PwD in non-evacuation disasters. The presentation addressed the hurricane registry, a system of which many PwD were naturally wary. Though it was a priority for planners seeking to understand potential community need during crisis, LIFE emphasized that it should be supplemented through relationship building during blue sky days. Through these interactions, PwD could talk directly with planners and to answer their questions about prior storm experiences, supports needed during them, and what interventions had and had not worked in the past. Most PwD did not need to be on a registry, and, in delivering this important message, LIFE's presenters hoped to change governmental agency approach to storm response. As federal priority shifts throughout the year shrunk the size of disaster

response teams and emphasized locally controlled efforts, involving PwD in the planning process and the setting of priorities proved extraordinarily important. The talk encouraged planners to involve PwD themselves in planning discussions as well as the organizations, especially peer run ones, that support them. This approach empowered PwD to take ownership of their own planning efforts like the federal policy decisions intended, thereby reducing the burden on emergency planners and allowing individualized solutions to emerge.

Other disaster planning efforts took place throughout the year. LIFE's ED participated in a CEDRC long term recovery group effort manning a reverse 9-1-1 line June 7th, where people who had previously applied for recovery funding confirmed their need still existed. During this process, he spoke with 2 individuals with disabilities and discussed other supports which were available, including LIFE's location and services. Two LIFE staff members also participated in the Bulloch County VOAD's two-day long-term recovery training on 6/23 and 6/24. In doing so, they became more aware of area support agencies/organizations and of LIFE's responsibilities when participating in the CEDRC long-term recovery group.

Savannah State Collaboration

As detailed throughout this PPR, LIFE made a concerted effort to connect with younger individuals both through its hiring and its programmatic offerings. One of LIFE's Board members connected LIFE with Jacqueline Awe, the Director of Student Development at Savannah State University. This partnership was incredibly fruitful. LIFE hosted a table at a student information fair on 4/23, two LIFE staff (one a SSU alumnus) introduced LIFE and the services it provided on the radio program Jacqueline hosted called "Stir It Up" on 8/26 and another two LIFE staff members appeared on the show on 9/22 to discuss emergency preparedness. On 9/19, two LIFE staff (both SSU alumni) represented LIFE at a mini-info fair where LIFE was the featured (and only) vendor. SSU hosted this in conjunction with a lunch dining experience that maximized student exposure and SSU student ambassadors helped to direct interested parties to LIFE's table. Finally, on 9/19, LIFE presented disability etiquette to SSU staff.

Empowerment Trainings

LIFE as an organization experienced numerous challenges throughout the year. LIFE Board and Staff had spent the prior years fastidiously building its reserves to weather the delays in payments and could fill some holes in services when other federal agencies stepped back. Many of LIFE's consumers and other PwD faced these uncertainty times while asset capped by the programs they depended on. Due to these caps, they lacked the reserves needed to bridge the daily crises. Thus, LIFE focused its efforts on empowering consumer consumers and helping them reinforce their informal support structures, efforts captured throughout this PPR including in Section 4.6. Specific examples included the events listed below.

On 2/12, LIFE hosted a workshop equipping individuals with disabilities, caregivers, and allies with the tools needed to impact policy development and advocate for legislative change. Participants learned how laws impact the disability community, developed communication skills with legislators, and engaged in interactive advocacy exercises.

On 4/23, LIFE facilitated a hybrid Fair Housing Workshop: Reasonable Accommodations & Modifications. The event educated tenants with disabilities about their rights to reasonable accommodations and modifications, providing practical guidance for navigating fair housing processes.

On 6/26, continuing its quest to empower PwD to prepare for emergency events, LIFE hosted a hybrid event, Pack, Prep, Protect: Emergency Readiness for Everyone. This workshop included guest speaker Steven Meyer from Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), a first aid demonstration, the assembly of an emergency kit/go bag, and a drawing, the winner of which received the afore mentioned emergency kit.

On 8/20, LIFE addressed challenges with access to transportation, through an IL Skills Transportation Conversation. During this open discussion on transportation barriers and options in Southeast Georgia for people with disabilities, LIFE provided eligibility guidance, walked potential riders through the application processes, and the group shared community experiences. This event not only supported PwD access to transportation, but it also provided anecdotal information that helped shape ongoing NiCIP work and conversations with Chatham Area Transit.

As was noted elsewhere in this PPR, the year closed with LIFE hosting a voter engagement exercise. On 9/10, LIFE facilitated the hybrid event, "Every Voice Counts, Every Vote Matters: Access Without Barriers." This interactive session on voter rights and participation, including a tribute to disability voting advocate Gaylon Tootle and the Are You Vote Ready? Initiative, tips for voter registration and accessible voting and resources around transportation to the polls, voter ID assistance, and enforcement of voter rights.

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 |
|--|--|
| Advocacy/Leadership Development Systems Advocacy | 1 |
| Applicable Laws Medicaid/Medicare/PAS/waivers/long-term care Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 | 3 8 |
| Assistive Technologies General Overview | 4 |
| Data Collecting and Reporting PPR/704 Reports | 10 |
| Financial: Grant Management Federal Regulations | 6 |
| Independent Living Philosophy General Overview | 2 |
| Networking Strategies Community Partners | 7 |
| Program Planning Peer Mentoring | 9 |
| Outreach to Unserved/Underserved Populations Rural | 5 |

Item 8.2 - Additional Information

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

In light of how central training was to LIFE's capacity growth, the below text provides additional support for the training narratives found throughout this document by laying out the topics and timing of the weekly staff meetings which covered a wide range of topics to ensure effective delivery and documentation of services and prevent staff burnout.

10/11/2024 Effective Rural Outreach: Using the Concerns Report Method as a Tool for Change

11/01/2024 Strategies to Engage Unhoused Consumers

11/22/2024 CIL Suite & Time Tracking

12/06/2024 EBP Chronic Disease Self-Management

12/11/2024 Conflict Resolution, De-escalation & Team Building

12/13/2024 EBP Chronic Disease Self-Management

01/03/2025 Mindfulness: Practices for Focus, Stress Reduction & Well-Being
01/10/2025 Pineland Mental Health Services
01/17/2025 LIFE Paperwork, Intake Process, Strategic Plan & Annual Work Plan
02/07/2025 Nursing Home Transition: MFP & NHT
02/14/2025 History of Disability Rights and the ADA
02/28/2025 Section 504 of the Rehab Act: Law, Regulations & Updates on Current Legal Challenges
03/07/2025 Suicide Prevention: Self-Harm & Self-Harm Ideation
03/14/2025 Job Accommodations for Persons with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities: ADA Rights for Employment
03/21/2025 Changes in Medicare & Medicaid Coverage & Alternative Sources of Support
03/28/2025 CIL Suite Documentation
04/04/2025 Pneuma Solutions Technology: Scribe for Meetings, Scribe for Documents & Remote Incident Manager
05/09/2025 Introduction to Using Microsoft Teams
05/16/2025 Georgia Radio Reading Program Services (later renamed Vocal Point)
05/30/2025 LIFE Paperwork & Documentation
06/06/2025 Personal Power Through Mindfulness, Meditation & Goal Setting
06/13/2025 Nursing Home Transition & The Affordable Housing Crisis
06/27/2025 Compassion Fatigue
07/11/2025 Healthy Boundaries
07/15/2025 The ADA
07/25/2025 Effective Communication
08/01/2025 CIL Suite
08/22/2025 CIL Suite & L.I.F.E. Paperwork
09/05/2025 Beyond Disability
09/26/2025 File Closures

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 | 10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025 |
| State | GA |

Item 1 - Total Number of Full-Time Equivalent(s) (FTEs)

| | |
|--|---|
| Total Number of Full-Time Equivalent(s) (FTEs) | 0 |
|--|---|

Item 2 - Type of Public Health Professional(s) Hired

| Type | # |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Case Investigator | 0 |
| Contact Tracer | 0 |
| Social Support Specialist | 0 |
| 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

SECTION 9 - SIGNATURES

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

Neil C. Ligon _____ PHONE NUMBER

NAME AND TITLE OF CENTER DIRECTOR

Neil C. Ligon - Signed Digitally _____ 12/30/2025

SIGNATURE OF CENTER DIRECTOR

DATE

NAME AND TITLE OF CENTER BOARD CHAIRPERSON PHONE NUMBER

SIGNATURE OF CENTER BOARD CHAIRPERSON DATE