Comprehensive Needs Assessment Survey Results

Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council

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# Background

## Purpose

The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council (MNSILC) contracted with Wilder Research to create a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) to understand the independent living experience and needs of people living with disabilities in Minnesota. The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council (MNSILC) is a federally mandated council of community volunteers who are appointed by the Governor to develop, monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). MNSILC’s missionis to advance the philosophy of independent living and promote the integration and full inclusion of people with disability into Minnesota communities. The Council’s vision is to engage Minnesota communities to recognize and champion the critical needs of people with disabilities and promote statewide coverage by Centers for Independent Living.

MNSILC collaborates with the eight Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in the development of the SPIL as well as in the development of this survey. Minnesota’s Centers deliver a range of independent living services and supports to Minnesotans with disabilities. These survey results will inform the next State Plan for Independent Living, which will be in effect from 2017-2019. The plan is shared with Minnesotans including legislators, advocates, and others. The SPIL also helps MNSILC to advocate for those needs and for more funding for Centers for Independent Living in order to expand opportunities for Minnesotans with disabilities.

## Methods

Wilder Research worked with MNSILC’s Outreach committee to develop the survey during the summer of 2015. The survey asked respondents about their experiences with housing, transportation, employment, and community participation, as well as several demographic questions (see Appendix for the complete survey).

Data was collected from late September 2015 through February 2016. In order to take the survey, a person had to have a disability, mental illness, or chronic health condition; be age 18 or older; and live in Minnesota.

One goal of this assessment was to reach both individuals who are connected to independent living supports and those who are not around the State. To start, MNSILC developed a list of direct and indirect service providers throughout Minnesota that serve individuals with disabilities. The list included 64 individuals from various organizations, including:

* Community partners (of both MNSILC and Wilder Research)
* MNSILC members
* The Centers for Independent Living

Providers on this list received the CNA survey by email. Providers were encouraged to forward the survey to the individuals they serve and anyone else they knew who could speak to the topic. Participants were asked to complete the survey and send the link to other people with disabilities that would be interested in providing feedback about their experience. Instructions for caregivers assisting individuals to complete the survey were also available.

The survey link was available by email and on the MNSILC website. Also, a version of the survey was available to complete at the ADA Celebration and other events held during the data collection period, as well as at the offices of Centers for Independent Living. Cards with a link to the survey were also handed out at the events. A low-vision accessible paper copy of the survey was also distributed for participants that preferred that option.

In total, 180 individuals participated in the survey. Because the survey was anonymous and people were asked to forward the survey to others, the response rate is unknown. Also, since every respondent did not answer every question, the sample size is different for each question. In order to compare the experience of people with disabilities across the state of Minnesota, answers to all questions were compared between urban, suburban, and rural participants. If there were notable differences between these groups, they are described in the text.

## Limitations

The participants responding to the survey were not fully representative of Minnesotans with disabilities. While the findings are still useful, it is important to remember these differences when drawing conclusions. For example, survey participants are less likely to be 60 or older compared to all people with disabilities in Minnesota. Because of this, the data may not describe well the needs of people with disabilities who are 60 or older. This age difference may also affect other results. For example, the age difference may explain why survey participants are more likely to be employed than all people with disabilities across the state of Minnesota. The participants tend to be younger, and young people are more likely to be in the work force. Survey participants are also more likely to identify as female compared to people with disabilities in Minnesota. So, the results may better describe women’s experiences than the experiences of men and people of other genders.

## Strengths

The survey data also has several strengths. Survey participants have a similar racial and ethnic make-up to people with disabilities in Minnesota. Further, the survey was completed by people in urban, suburban, and rural areas, allowing us to compare their experiences. Also, while the number of people who responded to the survey may seem small when compared to the number of people living with disabilities in Minnesota, MNSILC members found these response numbers to be comparable to or better than many other similar assessments done by other Statewide Independent Living Councils throughout the country. Finally, participants are a mix of people who have and have not received independent living services.

# Survey participants

This section describes characteristics of the survey participants and compares them to people with disabilities in the state of Minnesota. Unless noted, all state data is from the most recent data available from the U.S. Census Bureau [American Fact Finder](http://factfinder.census.gov/).

* 58% of survey participants identify as female, 35% identify as male, and 4% identify as gender queer, transgender, or another gender. 2% did not answer the question. In the state of Minnesota, 51% of people with disabilities identify as male and 49% identify as female. Compared to the state data, participants are more likely to be female.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* In Minnesota and in this survey, 3% of survey participants are Hispanic/Latino. Compared to the state data, participants are just as likely to be Hispanic/Latino.
* 74% of survey participants identify as White, 7% as two or more races, 3% as Asian, 3% as Black or African American, 1% as American Indian or Alaska Native and 5% as “other.” 5% did not answer the question. In the state of Minnesota, 85% of people with disabilities identify as White, 7% as two or more races, 3% as Asian, 3% as Black of African American, 1% as American Indian or Alaska Native, and 1% as “other.” Overall, survey participants have a similar racial make-up to people with disabilities in the state of Minnesota.
* 36% of participants live in an urban area, 38% live in a suburban area, and 20% live in a rural area. An additional 6% did not know or did not want to answer the question. In the entire state of Minnesota, 20% of people with disabilities live in an urban area, 50% live in a suburban area, and 30% live in a rural area. Compared to the state data, survey participants are more likely to live in an urban area.
* 5% of survey participants are age 18 to 20 years of age, 5% are age 21 to 24, 75% are age 25 to 59, and 14% are 60 or older. In the entire state of Minnesota, 3% are age 18 to 20, 3% are age 21 to 24, 40% are age 25 to 59, and 54% are age 60 or older. Compared to the state data, survey participants are more likely to be age 25 to 59 and less likely to be 60 or older.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Survey participants were asked about their highest level of education. 1% of participants have completed eighth grade or less, 2% have completed some high school, 31% have completed high school or obtained their GED, 26% have completed some kind of technical school or Associate’s degree (2-year college), 24% have a Bachelor’s degree (4-year college), and 15% have completed graduate school.
* In the state of Minnesota, 7% of people with disabilities have completed eighth grade or less, 10% have completed some high school, 36% have completed high school or obtained their GED, 24% have completed some college, but got no degree, 7% have completed some kind of technical school or Associate's degree, 11% have a Bachelor's degree, and 5% have completed graduate school.
* Answer options for questions about education are different between the survey and data from the U.S. Census Bureau. For this reason it is hard to make an exact comparison. Even with this difference, it appears survey participants tend to be more educated than people with disabilities in the state of Minnesota.
* 61% of participants have used services from a Center for Independent Living.
* Participants had a wide range of disabilities. At least one person said they had each of the 13 types of disabilities listed in the survey. The most common types of disabilities included: physical disability (48%), mental illness (45%), and a chronic medical condition (31%). (See the Appendix for the full list of disabilities.)
* 68% of participants have more than one disability.

## Survey access

* 18% of participants had someone help them complete the survey.
* Participants most commonly found out about the survey through a service provider or other professional (24%), an email from MNSILC (22%), or an email from someone else (19%).

# Findings

This section describes the main findings from the survey.

## Transportation

The survey asked participants about how they get to where they are going, their ability to access transportation when they want it, and ways their transportation options could be improved.

### Current transportation usage and access

#### Getting to places

* Participants most often drive themselves, use a bike, wheel-chair, or motor-scooter, or walk to get where they want to go (58%). This was higher for urban participants (67%) and about the same for both suburban and rural participants (54% and 52%).
* Participants also commonly go places with the help of a family member or friend (43%), or by using public transit (25%).
* Urban participants are most likely to use buses or the light rail (44%), while rural participants were the least likely (7%). Suburban participants were in the middle (20%).
* 30% of urban participants and 23% of suburban participants use Metro Mobility and services like it, compared to 3% of rural participants.
* 8% of respondents say they do not need transportation for the things they need or want to do.

#### Access to physical spaces

* 81% of participants say that if they had transportation, they could access all or most of the places they want to go in their community.

### Transportation needs

* 32% of all participants say they could not go somewhere in the past month because they did not have transportation. While this percentage is similar for both urban and suburban participants (33% and 30%), rural participants experienced it more often (41%).
* When asked how transportation choices could be better, urban and suburban participants most commonly say their rides need to be more reliable and on time (49% and 43%). They also say more transportation options are needed (34% each), and the options need to cost less (32% and 26%) and be more physically accessible (32% and 28%).
* Rural participants most commonly request more transportation options in their area (38%). They also need rides offered at different times or on different days, transportation options to cover a wider area, and to be eligible for more transportation services (24% each).
* Participants most often need transportation in the morning and afternoon (74% each) and on weekdays (84%). Rural respondents were less likely to know what days and times they need transportation services (29% to 33% reported “don’t know” as opposed to 2 to 10% for urban and suburban participants).

## Employment

The survey asked questions about employment status, searching for jobs, work supports, and factors related to employment. The survey also asked questions about problems participants experienced while searching for employment or on the job. Specifically, the survey focused on barriers or inequities people with disabilities may experience.

### Employment status

* 55% of participants are employed full-time, part-time, or self-employed. This is higher than the state average of 44% and the national average of 35%. 14% of participants are unemployed and looking for work. This is similar to the state average of 13% and slightly higher than the national average of 11% (Erickson, Lee, & von Schrader, 2014).
* Participants are most likely to work in the non-profit sector (37%). (See the Appendix for the full list of sectors.)

### Searching for a job

* 63% of participants have looked for or applied for a job in the past year.
* Of those that had looked for a job, 31% do not report any of the problems listed.
* 69% of participants report problems when looking for a job. Of those, the most common problems were concern about losing government assistance or benefits (28%), lack of transportation (19%), and not enough education or training (17%).
* Of those participants who said they had looked for a job, 10 to 12% said they experienced a lack of health insurance or other work-related benefits, a lack of support services, or were offered less pay than others in a similar job. In addition, 6% said they lacked special equipment, tools, or accommodations on the job to which they applied. Another 6% said that family members, friends, or professionals had discouraged them from working.

### On the job

* 51% of working participants work 32 hours or more per week. In addition, 24% work 20 to 32 hours per week, 17% work 10 to 20 hours and 8% work less than 10 hours per week.
* Participants working fewer hours tend to be more interested in increasing their hours. Of those working 32 hours or more, 11% want to work more. Of those working 10 to 32 hours, 56% want to work more. Of those working less than 10 hours, almost all (6 of 7) want to work more.
* 81% of working participants say they have chances to interact with non-disabled coworkers during the day. 11% say they do not have this chance or are not sure, and 8% indicate this does not apply to them.
* 65% of working participants report experiencing at least one of the problems listed while on the job.
* Participants report a range of problems in the workplace. Of those that had problems, the most commonly reported include: concern about losing government assistance or benefits (40%), less pay than others in a similar job (35%), negative attitudes about disabilities (33%), and fewer promotion opportunities than others in a similar job (27%).
* Urban participants are more likely to say they have experienced a problem in the workplace (80%), compared to suburban participants (57%) and rural participants (50%).
* Of those participants that experience problems in the workplace, 71% have experienced more than one problem.
* Urban participants are most likely to have employers that provide “all” or “some” of the accommodations and supports they need to do their job (80%), while rural participants are least likely to have these supports (66%). Suburban participants are in the middle (73%).
* Rural participants are most likely to report they do not need accommodations or supports in their job (27%), while urban participants are least likely (15%). Suburban participants (20%) are in the middle.

### Financial help

* 80% of participants have received some type of financial help over the past year.
* Of those that received financial help in the past year, the most common types are: Medical Assistance (60%), Social Security Disability Insurance (44%), Food Support (32%), Supplemental Security Income (26%), and Social Security (22%).
* The least common forms of financial help participants received over the past year are General Assistance (7%), Unemployment benefits (3%), MFIP (3%), Emergency assistance (2%), and child care subsidy or Free and Reduced Lunch (2% each).

### High speed internet

* 90% of respondents have access to a computer with high speed internet.
* Of those with internet access, 89% are able to access the internet at home.

## Housing

The survey asked questions about housing status, decisions about housing, and housing supports needed.

### Current housing situation

* 53% of participants live in a single-family home. Rural participants were most likely to live in a single-family home (76%), and urban participants least likely (35%). Suburban participants were in the middle (57%).
* 25% of participants live in a multi-family home (such as a duplex or apartment complex). Urban participants were most likely to live in a multi-family home (35%), and rural participants least likely (14%). 25% of suburban participants live in a multi-family home.
* 11% of participants live in a group home, adult foster care, or assisted living facility. This was most common for urban participants (18%) and least common for rural participants (3%), while suburban participants were in the middle (11%).
* 44% of participants own their own home. 33% rent their home and have their name on the rental agreement. 11% do not own their own home or have a rental agreement in their name. 11% have other living arrangements. 2% did not want to answer the question.
* 31% of participants live alone, 29% of respondents live with their spouse or partner, 15% live with their parents, 13% live with a roommate or roommates, and 17% have other living arrangements.

### Making housing decisions

* 56% of participants expect to be in the same place five years from now. This was highest for rural participants (68%) and lowest for urban participants (50%). Suburban participants were in the middle (59%).
* 40% of participants had more than one option they liked when deciding about where to live. This was highest for urban participants (50%) and lower for both suburban and rural participants (34% and 35%).
* 69% of participants feel they can choose who they live with.

### Housing support needs

#### Current housing

* 75% of participants need some type of support to stay in their current housing.
* Of those that report needing support, the largest percentage need financial support (44%), home-making or cleaning services (40%), or yard work and maintenance (34%) to stay in their current housing.
* Participants also need cooking support or meal services and personal care services (30% each), home modifications (29%), better access to their home (19%), and nursing services (10%) to stay in their current housing.
* 25% of participants do not need support to stay in their current housing.

#### Other housing options

* About half of all participants (49%) would live somewhere else if they could. This was highest for suburban (55%) and lowest for rural participants (41%). 47% of urban participants would live somewhere else if they could.
* 69% of participants would like to stay in their current housing for as long as possible. Rural participants (76%) were most likely to want to stay in their current housing, while urban participants (59%) were least likely. Suburban participants were in the middle (66%).
* 60% of participants feel they can receive the support they need to stay in or maintain the place where they want to live. This was highest for urban participants (70%) and lowest for suburban participants (53%). Rural participants were in the middle (66%).
* Participants say they most need affordable housing (64%), assistance finding a place (50%), and help with packing or moving (47%) to live somewhere else.
* Although less common, participants also said they need home-making/cleaning services (26%), yard work or maintenance (26%), cooking support or meal services (25%), better home access (20%), home modifications (19%), personal care services (15%), and nursing services (7%) to live somewhere else.
* 7% of participants say they would not need support to live somewhere else.

### Safety

* Most participants feel safe in their homes regardless of where they live (92 to 96%).
* In total, 86% of participants feel safe in their neighborhood. This was highest for rural participants (97%) and lowest for urban participants (83%). Suburban participants were in the middle (91%).
* 59% of participants have a plan for emergencies or disasters.

## Support and community participation

The survey asked questions about participants’ ability to choose their providers, raise their children, and participate in the community in a way that was meaningful to them.

### Choosing providers

* 62% of participants feel they can choose their own providers for help and feel they get enough information to make informed decisions about the support they need.
* 54% of participants feel they had a choice of more than one provider when they were deciding about support.

### Children

* 40% of participants have children.
* Of those that have children, 44% have children that live with them at least some of the time. 56% have children that do not live with them.
* Rural participants (83%) and suburban participants (78%) are more likely to feel they have or had the support they need to raise their children than urban participants (53%).

### Community participation

* 61% of participants feel they get the support they need to be a part of their community.
* 89% of participants feel they can choose with whom they spend their time.
* 84% feel they can decide how to spend their time.
* 83% can volunteer in the community if they choose to do so.
* 79% say they are able to participate in their community in a meaningful way.
* 77% of participants are able to do things that are important to them.

# Recommendations

The following are recommendations for further action based on the survey data. Keep in mind that these issues are complex and interdependent. All these issues affect one another and will not be solved by one approach.

* **Prioritize housing supports and financial assistance.** Affordable housing and financial assistance are the most common housing needs, regardless of where the participant lived. It should be noted that participants in this survey generally tend to be younger, so these most commonly identified housing needs may not fully represent the needs of older people with disabilities (such as home accessibility modifications). Statewide in Minnesota, the average 1-Bedroom apartment requires 87 percent of an individual’s monthly SSI payment (Cooper et al., 2015). Additionally, the Twin Cities region added 759 affordable housing units, which was 7% of all new housing in 2014 (Metropolitan Council, 2015). Many participants report being limited in their choice of housing options. Most participants feel safe in their existing neighborhoods and homes.
* **Increase transportation options, especially in rural areas.** Participants’ experience with transportation tends to vary based on where they live. The most common suggestion for improvement are similar among urban and suburban participants, including more transportation options in the area and rides that are more physically accessible and reliable. An even greater percentage of rural participants requested more transportation options in the area. The most commonly requested times for transportation are morning and afternoon, and most commonly on weekdays. More research to determine days and times needed by rural participants may also be helpful.
* **Consider policies that support people with disabilities to obtain an equitable and living wage, without losing financial assistance while it is still needed.** Most participants are receiving at least some of the accommodations and supports they need on the job, but continue to have employment problems. Concern about losing government benefits and receiving less pay than others in a similar job are two of the most common problems faced by participants who are employed. Also, the majority of participants receive some sort of financial assistance. Notably, poverty rates in Minnesota are higher for individuals with disabilities. In Minnesota, 21% of people with disabilities live below the federal poverty line, compared to 10% of those without disabilities (Helmstetter, 2015). At the national level, poverty rate estimates for working-age people with disabilities range from 28% to 63% (Brucker et al., 2015).
* **Consider continuing or expanding upon this research.** This could be accomplished by disseminating the survey in other ways (e.g., at the State Fair) or using more qualitative methods to get more details.
* **MNSILC recommends additional funding for the Centers for Independent Living.** This assessments supports the fact that the needs of people with disabilities in Minnesota are great. They range across many basic areas of life and community living. If we, as a state are to get to a point where people with disabilities have a choice about where they want to live, work, and how they want to participate in their communities, then services and supports need to be available to them so they can make choice a reality. Centers for Independent Living are the sole providers of independent living services (as defined in Federal Law) and therefore critical in efforts to assist people in living lives of choice.

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# Appendix

**Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council  
Comprehensive Needs Assessment Survey**

**Introduction:**

We need your input! The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council (MNSILC) is writing their next State Plan for Independent living in collaboration with Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS), State Services for the Blind (SSB), and Minnesota’s eight Centers for Independent Living. This plan guides the development of policies and practices designed to support individuals to be able to make their own choices in all areas of their life to the fullest extent possible. To help shape the plan, MNSILC is conducting this state-wide needs assessment. We want to hear from you to understand your experience as a Minnesotan with a disability.

* Your individual answers will remain confidential and will only be seen by the researchers. The report will only contain a summary of everyone’s responses.
* You will be able to see the report on the MNSILC Website: mn.gov/deed/silc/
* Your responses will not affect your relationship with MNSILC
* You are welcome to have someone help you complete the survey by reading the questions to you and/or typing the answers for you. If you need a different accommodation, please contact Pam Taylor, MNSILC Coordinator, 612-518-1497.
* The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete.
* You can skip any questions you do not want to answer
* THANK YOU for completing this survey!

**Please send completed surveys to the following location:**

**State Services for the Blind**

**Attn: Linda Lingen**

**2200 University Avenue W., #240**

**Saint Paul, MN 55104**

**Getting started:**

This survey is for current Minnesota residents who are 18 or older and have a disability or chronic medical condition, or a chronic mental illness.

Before we begin, are you currently living in Minnesota?

□ Yes

□ No **🡪** We are sorry, but you must be a current resident of Minnesota to participate in this survey. Thank you for your time!

Are you 18 or older?

□ Yes

□ No **🡪** We are sorry, but you must be 18 years of age or older to participate in this survey. Thank you for your time!

Do you have a disability, chronic medical condition or a chronic mental illness?

□ Yes

□ No **🡪** We are sorry, but you must have a disability, chronic medical condition, or a chronic mental illness to participate in this survey. Thank you for your time!

**Transportation:** The following questions are about transportation.

1. How do you get to the places you need to go or want to go?   
(Please select all that apply.)

□ I walk, wheelchair, motor-scooter, bike, or drive myself.

□ A family member or friend drives me.

□ I take a public bus or the light rail.

□ I take a taxi or ride-sharing service such as Uber or Lyft.

□ I use Metro Mobility or other special transportation service.

□ A volunteer drives me (other than a family member or friend).

□ My service provider drives me.

□ Other (please describe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

□ Does not apply/I do not need transportation for the things I need or want to do.

2. In the past month (thirty days), was there a time when you could not get to the places you needed or wanted to go because you did not have transportation?

□ Yes

□ No

□ I have not needed or wanted to go anywhere in the past month

□ I don’t know.

3a. How could your transportation choices be better? (Please select all that apply.)

□ Rides need to be cheaper.

□ Rides need to be safer.

□ Rides need to be more physically accessible (e.g., more sidewalks, more curb cuts or ramps, more wheelchair accessible vehicles).

□ Rides need to be offered at different times or on different days.

□ Rides need to be more reliable and on time.

□ It needs to be easier to sign up for a ride.

□ I should be eligible for more transportation services.

□ Transportation providers need to speak my language.

□ I need more information about transportation options.

□ There needs to be more transportation options in my area.

□ Special transportation services need to get me where I am going faster.

□ The transportation area needs to be wider, such as crossing county lines

□ Other (please describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

□ The transportation options are good the way they are.

□ I don’t know.

3b. What times do you need transportation? (Please select all that apply.)

□ Morning (5 am to noon)

□ Afternoon (noon to 5 pm)

□ Evening (5 pm to 10 pm)

□ Night (10 pm to 5 am)

□ Don’t know

3c. What days do you need transportation? (Please select all that apply.)

□ Weekends (Saturdays or Sundays)

□ Weekdays (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday)

□ Don’t know

4. If transportation were available, could you access the places you want to go in your community? By access, we mean you are able to enter the place and make use of or participate fully in the products or services.

I have access to:

□ All of the places I want to go.

□ Most of the places I want to go.

□ Some of the places I want to go.

□ A few of the places I want to go.

□ None of the places I want to go.

**Employment**: The next questions are about employment.

5. In the last year, when looking for a job or applying for a job, have you had any of the following problems? (Please select all that apply.)

□ I have not looked for or applied for a job in the past year

□ Not enough education or training

□ Lack of support services (e.g., job coaching, help with resume writing, etc.)

□ Lack of transportation

□ Concern about losing government assistance or benefits (such as MFIP, SSDI, SSI, etc.)

□ Offered less pay than others in a similar job as you

□ Lack of health insurance or other work-related benefits

□ Lack of special equipment, tools, or accommodations on the job

□ Family members, friends, or professionals discouraged you from working

□ Another problem (Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

□ I have not had any of these problems listed.

6. What is your current employment status? (Please select all that apply.)

□ Employed full- or part-time

□ Self-employed

□ Unemployed and looking for work

□ Not employed and not looking for work

□ Student

□ Other (Please describe:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

**If you are not employed, skip TO Q13. If you are, please answer Q7-Q12.**

7. At your current job, have you ever faced any of the following problems?   
(Please select all that apply.)

□ Not enough education or training

□ Lack of support services (e.g., job coaching or mentoring)

□ Lack of transportation

□ Concern about losing government assistance or benefits

□ Less pay than others in a similar job as you

□ Fewer promotion opportunities than others in a similar job as you

□ Lack of health insurance or other work-related benefits

□ Lack of special equipment, tools, or accommodations on the job

□ Negative attitudes about disabilities

□ Family members, friends, or professionals discouraged you from working

□ Another problem (Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

□ I have not had any of the problems listed.

8. To what extent does your employer provide accommodation and supports you need to continue working and being successful at your current job?

□ Provides all accommodations and supports needed

□ Provides some of the accommodations and supports needed

□ Does not provide any of the accommodations and supports needed

□ I don’t need accommodations and supports for my job.

9. Do you have chances to talk with or ask questions of non-disabled co-workers during your workday?

□ Yes, I do.

□ No, I do not.

□ Not sure

□ This does not apply to me.

10. How many hours a week do you typically work?

□ 32 hours or more

□ 20 – 32 hours

□ 10 – 20 hours

□ Less than 10 hours

11. If you could, would you be interested in working more hours?

□ Yes

□ No

□ Not sure

12. Which of the following best describes your current field?

□ [Construction](https://www.census.gov/econ/progoverview.html#construction) (Buildings, alterations and public works)

□ [Governments](https://www.census.gov/econ/progoverview.html#governments) (Local, state and Federal agencies)

□ Agriculture (Farm-worker, farm-owner)

□ [Manufacturing](https://www.census.gov/econ/progoverview.html#manufacturing)(Companies, operations and shipments, products,   
meat packing)

□ [Mining](https://www.census.gov/econ/progoverview.html#mining) (Minerals, gases and initial processing)

□ [Retail](https://www.census.gov/econ/progoverview.html#retail) (Merchandise for personal or home use)

□ [Services](https://www.census.gov/econ/progoverview.html#services) (Personal, business and transport services)

□ [Wholesale](https://www.census.gov/econ/progoverview.html#wholesale) (Merchandise for business use)

□ Non-profit (religious, art, social assistance)

□ Health-care

□ Education

□ Other (Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

13. From which of the following did you receive money or financial assistance over the last year?

□ MFIP, the Minnesota Family Investment Program, or a family welfare program in another state

□ General Assistance

□ Food support (previously known as Food Stamps)

□ Medical assistance

□ Emergency assistance

□ Social Security – the regular old age or retirement program

□ SSDI, or Social Security Disability Insurance

□ SSI, or Supplemental Security Income

□ Unemployment benefits

□ Child care subsidy of Free or Reduced Lunch for your child

□ Other (Please describe:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

**Housing**: The next questions are about housing.

14a What type of housing do you currently live in?

□ Single-family home

□ Multi-family home (duplex, apartment complex)

□ Group home/adult foster care **(Skip to Q15)**

□ Assisted living facility **(Skip to Q15)**

□ Nursing home **(Skip to Q15)**

□ Other (Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) **(Skip to Q15)**

14b. Do you own or rent your home?

□ I own my own home

□ I rent my home and my name is on the rental agreement

□ I do not own my home or have a rental agreement in my name.

□ Other (Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

□ Prefer not to answer

15. Who do you currently live with most of the time? (Please select all that apply.)

□ My parent(s)

□ My spouse/partner

□ Roommate(s)

□ I live alone

□ Other (Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

16. Do you have children?

□ Yes, and they live with me at least some of the time.

□ Yes, but they don’t live with me.

□ No **(Skip to Q18)**

17. Do you feel you have or had the support you need to raise your children?

□ Yes

□ No

18. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a. I would like to stay in my current housing for as long as possible.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

b. When I was deciding about where to live, I had more than one option I liked.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

c. I can choose who I live with.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

d. I can receive the support I need to stay in or maintain the place where I want to live.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

e. I expect to be in the same place 5 years from now.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

f. I get enough information to make informed decisions about the support I need.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

g. I get the support I need to be a part of my community.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

h. I can choose my own providers for my help.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

1. When I was deciding about support, I had a choice of more than one provider.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

j. I have a plan for emergencies or disasters.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

19. What support, if any, do you need to stay in your current housing?

□ Modification to your home, such as adding grab bars, lever door handles, wider doorways

□ Better access to your home, such as ramps, closer parking, wider sidewalks

□ Home-making/cleaning services

□ Personal care services

□ Yard work/home or outdoor maintenance

□ Cooking support/meal services

□ Nursing services

□ Financial support

□ Other (Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

□ I do not need support to stay in my current housing situation.

20. Ideally, would you live somewhere else if you had the option?

□ Yes

□ No **(Skip to Q22)**

□ Not sure

21. What support, if any, would you need to live somewhere else?

□ Modifications to your home, such as adding grab bars, lever door handles, wider doorways

□ Better access to your home, such as ramps, closer parking, wider sidewalks

□ Home-making/cleaning services

□ Personal care services

□ Yard work/home or outdoor maintenance

□ Cooking support/meal services

□ Nursing services

□ Affordable housing

□ Assistance finding a place

□ Assistance packing and/or moving

□ Other (Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

□ I would not need support to live somewhere else.

**Social/recreation/community participation:** When answering the next questions, think about the choices you have and the help you get.

22. Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

a. I can volunteer in the community, if I choose to.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

b. I feel safe in the neighborhood where I live.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

c. I feel safe in my home.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

d. I am able to participate in my community in a meaningful way.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

e. I am able to do things that are important to me.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

f. I can decide how I spend my time.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

g. I can choose who I spend my time with.

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

□ Disagree

□ Strongly disagree

□ Not applicable

**Demographics:** Next, we will ask several questions about you. We hope that you answer all of the questions, but you can skip any question you don’t want to answer. All of your answers are private.

23. Which county do you live in or what reservation do you live on?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

24. Would you say you live in a…

□ Urban area?

□ Suburban area?

□ Rural area?

□ Unsure/don’t know

□ Prefer not to answer

25. How old are you?

□ Ages18- 20

□ Ages 20-24

□ Ages 25-59

□ Age 60 and Older

□ Unsure/don’t know

□ Prefer not to answer

26. Do you identify as…

□ Male

□ Female

□ Transgender M to F

□ Transgender F to M

□ Genderqueer

□ Another (Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

□ Unsure/don’t know

□ Prefer not to answer

27. What is your race? (Select all that apply)

□ American Indian or Alaska Native

□ Asian

□ Black or African American

□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

□ White

□ Another (What race(s)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

□ Unsure/don’t know

□ Prefer not to answer

28. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origins?

□ Yes, I am of Hispanic or Latino origins

□ No, I am NOT of Hispanic or Latino origins

□ Unsure/don’t know

□ Prefer not to answer

29. Are you using or have you used services from any of the following?   
 (Please check all that apply.)

□ Access North Center for Independent Living (CILNM)

□ Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living (FREEDOM)

□ Independent Lifestyles Inc. Center for Independent Living (ILICIL)

□ Metropolitan Center for Independent Living (MCIL)

□ Options Interstate Resource Center for Independent Living (OPTIONS)

□ Southern Minnesota Independent Living Enterprises and Services (SMILES)

□ Southeast Center for Independent Living (SEMCIL)

□ Southwestern Center for Independent Living (SWCIL)

□ A Disability Linkage Line

□ I have not used services from a Center for Independent Living.

□ Unsure/don’t know

□ Prefer not to answer

30. What disability (or disabilities) do you have? (Please select all that apply.)

□ Hearing impairment

□ Vision impairment

□ Physical disability

□ Learning disability

□ Cognitive or intellectual disability

□ Memory loss

□ Traumatic brain injury

□ Neurological disorder

□ Mental health

□ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

□ Communication disorder

□ AIDS/HIV

□ Chronic medical condition

□ Other (What disability (or disabilities)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

□ Unsure/don’t know

□ Prefer not to answer

31. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

□ Eighth grade or lower

□ Some high school

□ High school graduate or GED

□ Technical school or Associate’s Degree (2-year college)

□ Bachelor’s degree (4-year college)

□ Graduate school

□ Unsure/don’t know

□ Prefer not to answer

32. Does someone serve as your **guardian**? A guardian is appointed by the court to make **personal** decisions for you. Your guardian would have authority to make decisions on your behalf about such things as where to live, medical decisions, training and education, for example.

□ Yes

□ No

□ Unsure/don’t know

□ Prefer not to answer

33. Does someone serve as your **conservator**? A conservator is appointed by a court to make **financial** decisions for you. Your conservator would have the authority to make decisions on your behalf about such things as paying your bills or investing your assets, for example.

□ Yes

□ No

□ Unsure/don’t know

□ Prefer not to answer

34. What is the primary language you speak?

□ Amharic

□ American Sign Language (ASL)

□ Arabic

□ English

□ Hmong

□ Khmer/Cambodian

□ Lao

□ Oromo

□ Somali

□ Spanish

□ Vietnamese

□ Other (What language(s)?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

□ Prefer not to answer

35. Do you have access to a computer with high speed internet?

□ Yes, in my home

□ Yes, but not in my home

□ No

36a. Did someone help you complete this survey?

□ Yes

□ No **(Skip to Q37)**

36b. If yes, how did that person help you? (Please select all that apply.)

□ Read the questions to me

□ Wrote/typed the answers I gave

□ Decided on the answers to the questions for me

□ Translated the questions into my language

□ Helped in some other way (please describe:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

37. How did you find out about this survey? (Please check all that apply)

□ Web-site

□ A service provider or another professional

□ A family member or friend

□ From a flyer

□ An email from MN-SILC

□ An email from someone else

□ At work

□ Other (please describe:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

End: Thank you so much for lending your voice to this important survey! As a reminder, your individual answers will remain confidential and will only be seen by the researchers. A summary of these findings will be available at [The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council](http://www.mn.gov/deed/silc/) once they have been compiled.

1. The American Community Survey does not yet measure other genders besides male and female. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Minnesota Compass](http://www.mncompass.org/) provided customized age analysis for people with disabilities in the state of Minnesota. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)