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| **Applicant Name:** | Rural Center for Independent Living, Inc. |

**Project Narrative**

1. **Proposed Intervention:**

Currently, 272,000 to 327,000 people in the state of Nevada will be in danger of eviction from their homes. There is projected to be approximately 17,600 evictions in just the quad county areas of Carson, Douglas, Storey, and Lyon Counties alone. These evictions will affect the vulnerable low income in our area, primarily. Although the legislature has designated 60 million in funds to assist renters, Clark County has already burned through their designated funds, helping just 725 households of the possible 249,700 people at risk of eviction.These evictions will only add to the current homeless population.

We will build on the work of the Independent Living Advocate, funded through the State Independent Living Council, who has been concentrating on developing working relationships with landlords and property managers in our quad county area. These working relationships assist individuals with disabilities in finding and maintaining affordable housing. Because of the wave of evictions our state is facing, we forsee the need of a Housing Advocate dedicated to seeing individuals with disabilities and their families in danger of eviction, including those needing advocacy to access the state mediation process set up by the courts, as well as assisting improvished families in accessing resources. The Housing Advocate will be dedicated to serving as many as possible, of the approximately 3.500 individuals with disabilities and their families who will be in need of our services because of evictions related to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Housing Advocate will assist renters and homeowners with disabilities and their families, in applying for and securing funds through the Cares Housing Assistance Program or in utilizing any other resources that they qualify for and that will meet their economic needs.

Across the U.S., there are around 1.4 million people living in nursing homes. Of those:

• 7.8% are 95 years old or older.

• 33.8% are 85-94 years old.

• 26.4% are 75-84 years old.

• 16.5% are 65-74 years old.

• 15.5% are younger than 65.

The Housing Advocate will provide outreach to the quad county nursing homes and group homes, in order to identify individuals in need of transition to their own homes and communities. The Housing Advocate will assist these individuals in transitioning to their own homes and communities, by providing referrals and support services in order to initiate the transition.

Although all individuals with disabilities can benefit from peer support, we will be prioritizing support services for individuals with traumatic brain injuries in our area. The need for peer support in rural counties is critical in these times of stress and uncertainity. Peer support is the basis for Independent Living and provides a personal level of knowledge by sharing similar life experiences. These personal experiences can assist others in learning to become more independent in their communities. Individuals can share learned life strategies on how to be a self-advocate and how to mentor others in their communities. Our goal will be to establish peer mentoring programs in each of the quad counties we serve, training others to continue to run the peer support groups using ILRU's Peer Support Model and training materials.

In addition to peer support, we will be developing capacity in Lyon and Storey Counties, in order to advocate for an expansion of transportation options for individuals with disabilities. RCIL currently meets with RCIL's Citizen's Advisory Committee on Transportation monthly, a committee of individuals with disabilites organized to convey the concerns and suggestions for improved transportation, at the CAMPO meeting on the second Wednesday of each month in Carson City.

1. **Target Population and Service Area:**

We will be serving individuals with disabilities and their families in the Carson City, Douglas County, Lyon County and Storey County area.

Because of the limited funding for this project, RCIL has been forced to choose the goals we can realistically accomplish. We have choosen to focus on addressing accessible and affordable housing for people with disabilities in the State of Nevada. Addressing accessible and affordable transportation for people with disabilities in the State of Nevada.

Services for (traumatic and other) brain injury services focused on peer support. RCIL will continue the provision of rural services for independent living and transition services for individuals from institutional settings, where supportive services fall short of the individuals’ immediate needs.

Individuals with disabilities and their families who are in danger of being evicted or who have been evicted in Lyon County are estimated to be 840 Individuals. Of the 54,607 people living in Lyon County, 14.5% are disabled. Homelessness for almost 40% of Lyon County residents are only one missed paycheck away. 31.4% of homeowners and 39.2% of renters are overburdened, meaning they are paying more than 30% of their income for housing.

Douglas County’s disabled population accounts for 18.1% of the 48,351 people who live there. 42% of the individuals who rent are overburdened. Additionally, the Native American population must cope with a poverty rate of 36%. It is estimated that 800 individuals with disabilities and their families will be evicted due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Carson City, with a population of 55,916, has a disabled population of 18.1%, much like Douglas County. 39.2% of Carson City renters are overburdened, while 29% of homeowners are overburdened. It is estimated that as many as 1,200 individuals with disabilities and their families will face eviction due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Storey County has a population of 4,123. Almost fifteen percent of the population are individuals with disabilities, with a higher than average amount of people over 65. The Guinn Center estimates Storey County will have an estimated 80 individuals with disabilities and their families, who will face eviction due to Covid-19 Pandemic lay-offs and hour reductions.

We will be targeting individuals in group homes and nursing homes in the quad county area, who want to go back to their homes and communities. Right now the lack of housing has greatly slowed this process, but as housing becomes available, we will assist these individuals in getting out of these institutions and into their own homes.

We will be establishing peer support in each county we serve and training one volunteer to continue to hold peer support meetings through out the year. Peer support is important to all people with disabilities and provides invaluable emotional and social support to people with disabilities. During the peer support meetings, we will identify individuals with disabilities interested in advocating for improved transportation at the city, county and state levels and work with them to identify a path to these goals.

1. **Organizational Capacity and Partnerships:**

RCIL is thankful for the opportunity the SILC has provided to compete for $20,000 in funds to assist people with disabilities in the quad county area. RCIL will once again ask our dedicated team of volunteers to step up to fill in any gaps that paid personnel would normally fill. Our Volunteers have donated approximately 5,000 hours per year to make sure the people with disabilities we serve do not suffer the lack of independent living tools they need to stay independent.

Centers for Independent Living are tasked with providing the framework people with disabilities need to live independently in THEIR communities. It is THEIR freedom from nursing homes, THEIR freedom from group homes, and THEIR freedom from the abusive and restrictive institutions of the early days of the independent living movement that drives the team at RCIL to continue providing services. The money provided to our state for independent living services is not the CIL's money. It funds independent living services for people with disabilties. This money pays for the tools THEY need for free and independent lives. It is this goal that must unite us all in the fight for the freedom of people with disabilities.

RCIL is a 501(c )(3) Non-Profit, that has been serving individuals with disabilities in the Carson, Douglas, Lyon and Storey County areas of Nevada, since it’s organization by ILRU in 1998. RCIL provides the five core services, advocacy, information and referral, independent living skills, peer support and mentoring, transition (institutional and educational) and a housing first program for homeless individuals with disabilities, since it was identified as a priority by our members in 2001.

Because our center has been established since 1998, we are well know in the quad county communities and have established good working relationships with many organizations, including FISH, Senior Centers, the Dream Center, Veterans Centers and Organizations, Pacific DBTAC, service clubs such as Rotary and Elks Clubs, businesses such as A to Zen and RISE. Our community's support has provided the needed funding to stay in business, since 1998 and we are confident of their continuing support.

1. **Cost-Effectiveness and Sustainability:**

This unprecidented time in Nevada history calls for new and original ways to address the problems we face. A homeless person costs the taxpayers an average of $35,578 per year. Keeping someone in their home saves an average of 49.5% of this amount, according to End Homelessness.org. If you multiply the costs of homelessness for half of the potential evictions, the amount of savings in the quad county area would be $308,000,000! Compared to that, the investment of $20,000 in this project is very cost effective!

One of our goals for the peer mentorship program will be to work ourselves out of the job by years end, so our peer mentorship efforts continue long after the project is ended. RCIL is confident that utilizing ILRU's peer mentorship training materials will assist is in developing peer mentors that will demonstrate a belief in the value of the individual and a commitment to ongoing development, capacity building and the expectation of contributing to the lives of others.

The Office used by the Housing Advocate will be located in the etablished office of the Rural Center for Independent Living, unless it is safer for our employee to work from home, utilizing a personal telephone, computer, Zoom, Skype or Facetime to make contact with the individuals and businesses served in this grant.

RCIL has an established office, telephone number, utiliities, desks,and volunteers who have worked an average of 5,000 hours answering the phone, screening visitors and manning our office.The office is accessible and has a large meeting space, which will be able to accommodate social distancing for ILRU's peer mentorship training.

1. **Evaluation:**

Quantative Evaluation: For each individual who is assisted, Landlord's who are contacted, schools and medical facilities contacted, the Housing Advocate will create a Client Service Record, with contact information, services received and project outcomes documented in RCIL's client database. This is how we will track the number of Individuals who are assisted with housing, access CARE funds or other resources; the number of individuals whose transition from group homes or nursing homes,the number of individuals with disabilities participating in peer support groups in each county and the number trained in Peer Mentorship, using the ILRU Model of Peer Support.

The Housing Advocate will track the number nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, group homes and hospitals contacted about peer support.

Qualitative Evaluation will be through Client Experience Surveys done by the individuals served, after the provision of service. On going project improvement will be assessed using input from the individuals served as to what we could be doiing better and if our services have met their needs.

All data gathered for Quantative and Qualitative evaluation will be reported to the RCIL Board and the State Independent Living Council quarterly.

Financial expenditures and draw downs will be reported to the Treasurer monthly, in order to certify that the expenditures are allowable and to the RCIL Board of Directors Quarterly. All Requests for Reimbursement will be provided to the Treasuser and the SILC, monthly. Quickbooks will be used for bookkeeping purposes.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

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| **Objective** | **Activities** | **Outcomes** |
| The Housing Advocate will Outreach to individuals, Landlords, Churches and community organizations in Carson City, Douglas, Storey and Lyon Counties in order to locate and assist individuals with disabilities who are in danger of eviction. | The Housing Advocate will Contact a minimum of four landlords or property managers, churches and community organizations in each county each month, in order to obtain client referrals.. | The Housing Advocate will document contacts in each county and document and assist a minimum of 10 clients with disabilities facing eviction in the month of October and a minimum of 10 clients in the proceeding months. The results will be reported to the SILC and RCIL's Board |
| The Housing Advocate will assist Clients with disabilities and their families, who are facing eviction with referrals to resources they need to resolve their eviction. | The Housing Advocate will refer clients with disabilities and their families to community resources that may help resolve their financial difficulties, such as the CARES Program and county rental assistance programs and help them with any paperwork necessary. | The Housing Advocte will document Client contact information, the assistance provided, Client Experience Surveys and the outcomes will be reported to the SILC and RCIL's Board Quarterly. |
| The Housing Advocate will assist Clients who are facing eviction through the state mediation program. | The Housing Advocate will provide assistance throughout the mediation program and help with any paperwork necessary | The Housing Advocte will document the assistance provided on the CSR and the outcomes will be reported to the SILC and RCIL's Board Quarterly. |
| The Housing Advocate will reach out to hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and group homes in the Carson City, Douglas, Lyon and Storey County area, in order to identify individuals in need of transition services. | The Housing Advocate will Contact a minimum of four hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and group homes in the Carson City, Douglas, Lyon and Storey County area, in order to identify individuals in need of transition services. .. | The Housing Advocate will document the contacts made in RCIL's CSR and report the results to RCIL's Board of Directors and the SILC quarterly. |
| The Housing Advocate will work with individuals in need of transition to their own homes and communities to provide resources and housing. | The Housing Advocate will transition individuals to their own homes and communities. | The number of individuals who are transitioned will be documented in RCIL's CSR and reported to the RCIL Board of Directors and the SILC Quarterly. |
| The Housing Advocate will organize at least one peer support meeting in each of the four counties we serve, in person or by virtual means. | The Housing Advocate will hold one peer support meeting utilizing the ILRU Peer Support Model, in each of the four counties by April, 2022. | Attendance at the meetings, place held and Client Experience Surveys will be documented and reported to RCIL's Board of Directors and the SILC quarterly |
| The Housing Advocate will continue holding meetings each month in each of the four counties we serve, until September of 2022. | The Housing Advocate will utilize ILRU;s Peer Support Model for each meeting. | Attendance at the meetings, place held and Client Experience Surveys will be documented and reported to RCIL's Board of Directors and the SILC. |
| The Housing Advocate will identify a minimum of one individuals in each county for training as a Peer Support Mentor. | The Housing Advocate will utilize ILRU's Peer Support Model for training Peer Support Mentors. | Peer Support Mentors and training dates will be documented and reported to RCIL's Board of Directors and the SILC. |
| The Housing Advocate will continue to support and assist trained Peer Support Mentors, as they learn to outreach to their community peers and hold their own meetings independently. | The Housing Advocate will encourage Peer Mentors to independently hold their own community meetings by June of 2022. | The Housing Advocate will document the results and report the results to the RCIL Board of Directors and the SILC. |
| The Housing Advocate will identify a minimum of one individual in each county interested in advocating for improved transportation. | The Housing Advocate will assist and encourage each advocate identified to speak to the County Board of Supervisors or the CAMPO about the need for improved transportation in their county. | The Housing Advocate will document the results and dates of transportation advocacy and report the results to the RCIL Board of Directors and the SILC. |

**ORGANIZATIONAL STANDARDS and APPLICANT QUESTIONNAIRE**

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| **Provide a detailed answer to each of the following questions, or choose N/A, as applicable:** | | | |
| 1. **When was the agency incorporated?** | | 1998 | |
| 1. **Does the agency have bylaws?**   *(If so, ADSD may request a copy at a later date.)* | | **Yes**  **No  N/A** | |
| 1. **Is the agency a:** | | | |
| **Public agency - Identify governing body:** | | | |
| **Private, for-profit agency** **- Identify headquarters/legal ownership:** | | | |
| **Private, non-profit agency – select option below** | | | |
| **Check the box if you agree to this statement:** **The agency has a Board of Directors that is active, responsible and holds regular meetings. Members have no material conflicts of interest and serve without compensation.** | | | |
| **If the above box for non-profit Board of Directors is not checked, explain the reason and plan of action to remedy the situation:** | | | |
| 1. **Financial Accountability:** | | | |
| **Check the box if you agree to this statement:** **Agency has a system for generating profit/loss statement (if for-profit) or statement of activities (if non-profit/governmental) and a detailed transaction report. Agency has a separate accounting for each subaward, if more than one.** | | | |
| **If the above box for financial accountability is not checked, explain the reason and plan of action to remedy the situation:** | | | |
| 1. **What are the agency’s days and hours of operation?** 9AM to 5PM, Monday-Friday   **Proposed service hours, if different:**       **N/A – Same as agency** | | | |
| 1. **Is the agency closed on days other than state and/or federal holidays, when services would not be available to clients? If yes, list the tentative dates in FY21 and explain the reason for the closure.  N/A – No other office closures** | | | |
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| 1. **Does the agency agree to give service priority to eligible individuals referred by ADSD who are at risk of institutional placement or have been a victim of abuse?**   **Yes  No – Explanation Required:** | | | |
| 1. **If the agency is currently providing this service, please answer the following questions:  N/A – Agency is not currently providing this service. (Skip to #9)** | | | |
| **# of Clients Served\*:** 400;  **# of Units of Service\*:**  ***(\* Used  Calendar Year 2019 -or-  Fiscal Year 2020)*** | | | |
| **What funding sources were used?** SILC Part B | | | |
| **Does the program use a sliding-fee scale or a cost-sharing procedure?**  **Yes**  **No** | | | |
| **What is the suggested donation amount, by unit of service?** $      **Comments:**  **Not Established** | | | |
| **Is there currently a waiting list for this service?**  **Yes: # of people**       **Average Wait Time:**        **No** | | | |
| **Has a resource listing been posted to** [**www.Nevada211.org**](http://www.Nevada211.org)**, which contains accurate and up-to-date information for the agency and this service?**  **Yes  No – Explanation Required:**  **N/A: Not Currently ADSD-Funded** | | | |
| 1. **If the proposed program is not currently in operation, when will service provision begin and when will the program become fully functional?** | | | |
| **N/A – Program is fully functional and providing the service** | | | |
| 1. **What percentage of the total cost of providing this service would the ADSD requested amount represent?** 100**% Comments:** | | | |
| 1. **If the agency is not currently funded by ADSD, list three professional references below (name, address, phone number and business affiliation with your agency).**   **N/A: Current ADSD Subrecipient** | | | |
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