



Southwest Center for Independence

2017 Annual Report

Live the Life You Want. 



Message from the Executive Director

2017 has been a year of growth and new challenges for Southwest Center for Independence. Changes in our state contracts, Board of Directors, staff, and organizational structure have presented us with opportunities we could never have anticipated! We've increased our capacity to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and through this process we've begun a cultural shift that will prepare us for the future.

I'm proud to be a part of Southwest Center for Independence and its mission to provide supports and training for our disability and aging communities so that people can live the lives they want. As a Center for Independent Living we continue to make progress in helping people with disabilities in Southwest Colorado make their lives better, and our communities are turning to us more and more for our expertise in disability issues.

We are grateful to have many partners in our community who support our mission and work with us to identify barriers and solutions. On behalf of our entire organization, thank you to all of our consumers, donors, funders, volunteers, partners, and staff who made 2017 a successful year for us.

Whether serving or leading, at Southwest Center for Independence we are dedicated to being a critical part of the process of eliminating barriers for people with disabilities and their communities. I'm excited for 2018, and I invite you to join us as we continue to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to live more independently and be included in their communities.

- Martha Mason





Highlights from 2017

- ♿ SWCI expanded our impact with new satellite offices in Cortez, Ignacio, Bayfield and Silverton.
- ♿ In February SWCI introduced Southwest Rides providing free transportation to the food bank, commodities, and medical appointments in La Plata County for people with disabilities, seniors, and Veterans.
- ♿ Through a collaboration with local partners SWCI was a sponsor of the region's first annual Youth Transition Conference held at Ft. Lewis in June.
- ♿ SWCI successfully advocated for access with CDOT and the City of Durango to install curb cuts on North Main Avenue in Durango, CO.
- ♿ SWCI sponsored Same Struggle Different Difference event in April to demonstrate how civil rights intersect with many marginalized peoples.
- ♿ Two of our Independent Living staff won statewide awards through the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition and The Arc of Colorado.
- ♿ SWCI fostered new support groups for people with physical disabilities, women with PTSD who survived domestic violence, and for stroke survivors.
- ♿ We expanded fee-for-service activities for the Employment and Nursing Home Transition Programs.
- ♿ Through advocacy efforts Adult Protective Services will now train staff on disability issues and reach out to the disability community during public comment periods throughout Colorado.
- ♿ SWCI realized a 42% increase in new grant funding.
- ♿ SWCI passed our three-year Center for Independent Living Certification, AAA Site Visit Certification and our first Federal Technical Assistance Audit through the State of Colorado.

Live the Life You Want.





Southwest Center for Independence

Our history

Southwest Center for Independence, Inc. (SWCI) was established as a Center for Independent Living (CIL) in 1990 by the Independent Living Coordinator for the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and a small group of La Plata County residents with disabilities who were interested in the independent living movement. Southwest Center for Independence is a Colorado Nonprofit agency (501(c)3), which means it is a tax-exempt organization for both Federal and State taxes. We serve people with disabilities residing in La Plata, Archuleta, Montezuma, Dolores and San Juan Counties in Southwest Colorado.

SWCI is part of a network of 9 Independent Living Centers in the state of Colorado. We are a member of the Association of Colorado Centers for Independent Living (ACCIL) and actively work with the Statewide Independent Living Council (the Colorado SILC), which sets and monitors the overall goals for independent living in Colorado.



Live the Life You Want.





Southwest Center for Independence

In Ed we trust...



MISSION

People with disabilities providing supports and training for the disability and elder communities to live well in southwest Colorado.

VISION

We envision a world where people with disabilities and elders are respected and included members of their communities, making their own decisions, directing the supports and services they need to live well in the community, and giving back to the community from their strengths

PHILOSOPHY

Independent Living is a philosophy and a way of life. It is a movement of people with disabilities who work for self-determination, equal opportunities and self-respect. The Independent Living philosophy says that every person, regardless of disability, has the potential and the right to exercise individual self-determination. We expect the same choices and control in our everyday lives that everyone else takes for granted. We want the same freedom to try, and fail, and learn from our failures.

Live the Life You Want.





Southwest Center for Independence

What we value

Cross disability: all disabilities and ages are included. While the daily details of our disabilities are different, we are all experiencing the same societal barriers and oppression.

Consumer control: the individual with a disability must be able to make his or her own choices, and to be in charge of his or her own life. Consumer control also means that the organizations best suited to assist us are not run by parents, social workers, or medical people, but by us, people who have disabilities.

Self-help and peer support: people learn and grow by discussing their needs, concerns and issues with people who have had similar experiences.

Equal access to society: as barriers are removed and legal rights are honored, society in its broadest sense appreciates and includes people with disabilities in education, employment, housing, recreation, transportation, and all other forms of public and private group activity.

Collaboration: with the community and other service providers to provide the best outcomes for our consumers. We advocate for our consumers and others with disabilities in a manner that builds understanding of disability issues and forges a collective impact to serve the interests of our entire community.

Live the Life You Want.





Southwest Center for Independence

Our Programs

Using the positive momentum from the prior year SWCI expanded services in 2017.

As an Independent Living Center, we provide five core services to all people with disabilities who desire our assistance. Those services are:

- Information and Referral (I&R), Options Counseling
- Peer Counseling (including cross-disability peer counseling)
- Independent Living skills training
- Individual and Systems advocacy
- Transition Services

SWCI also provides additional services that have been developed to best support and include consumers who live in our service area. These include:

- Low Vision
- Employment
- Housing
- Transportation

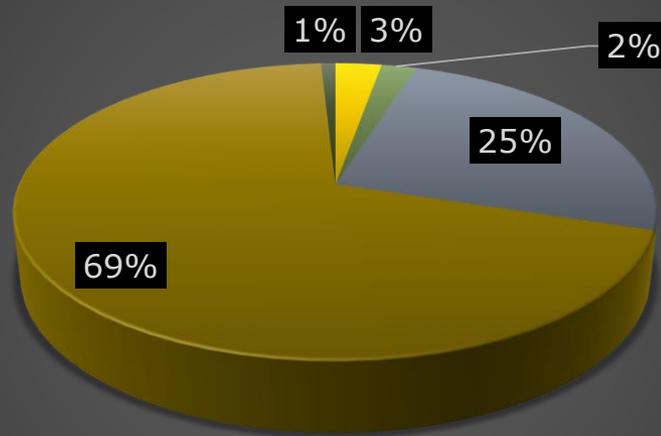


Southwest Center for Independence

Independent Living Program



IL Consumers by County



■ Archuleta ■ Dolores ■ Montezuma ■ La Plata ■ San Juan

Live the Life You Want.



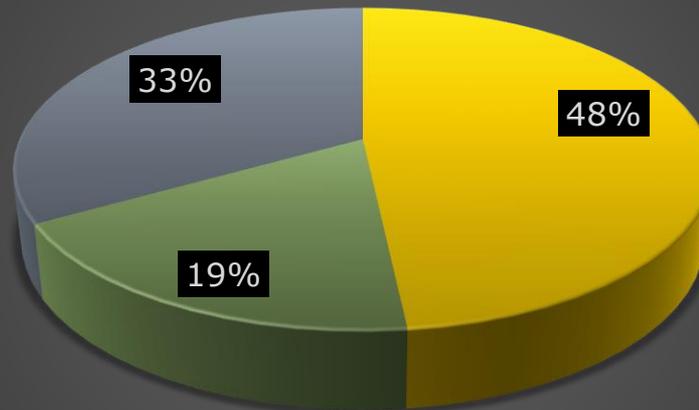


Southwest Center for Independence



Independent Living Program

IL Goals in 2017



■ Achieved ■ Dropped ■ In Progress

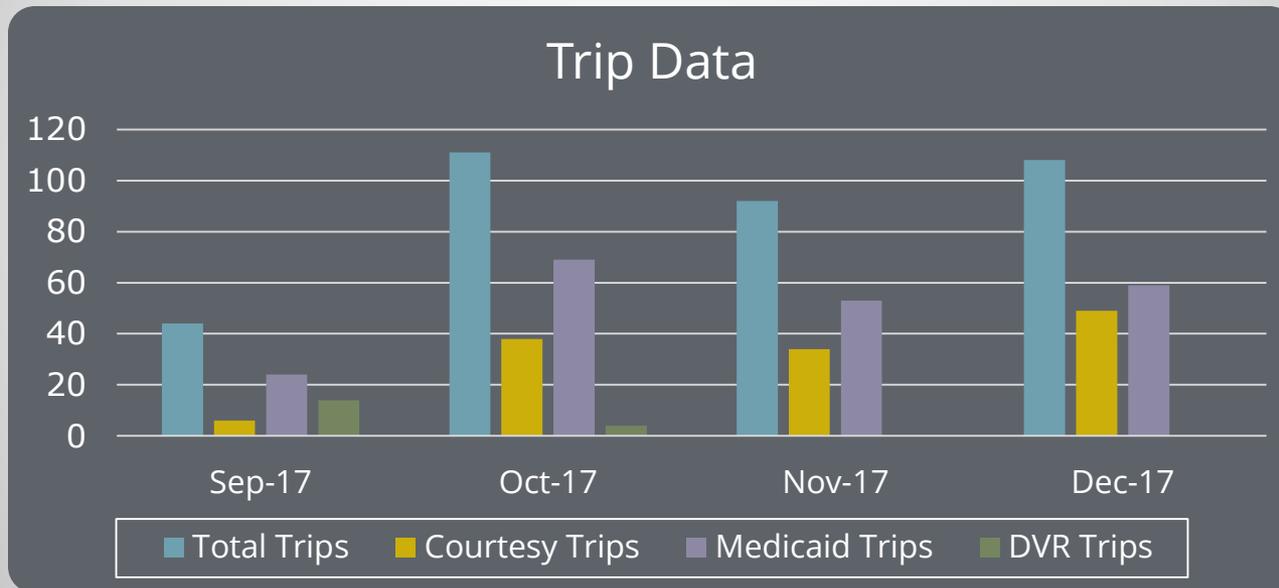
Live the Life You Want.





Southwest Center for Independence

ADA Accessible Transportation

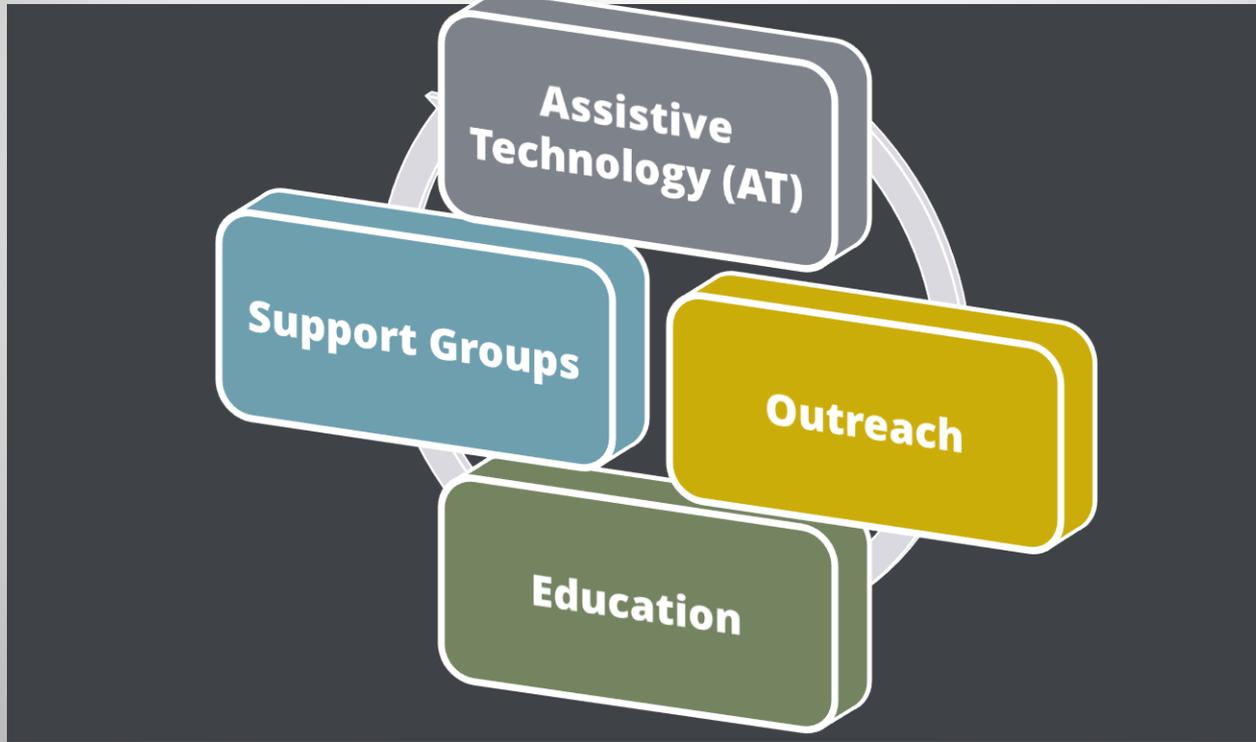




Southwest Center for Independence



Low Vision Program



Live the Life You Want.

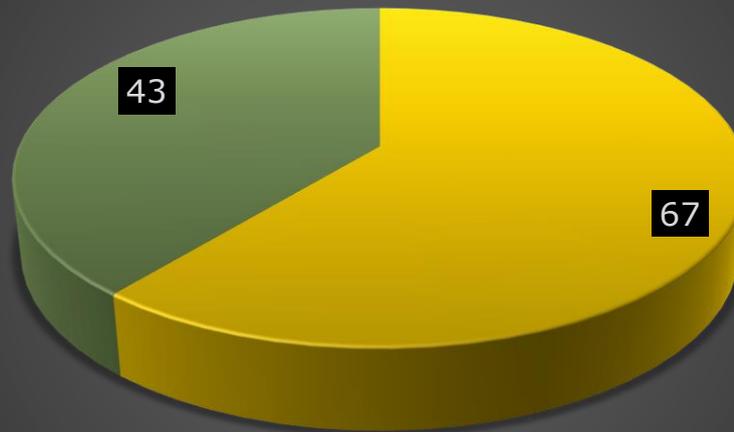


Southwest Center for Independence



Low Vision Program

Consumer Gender



Female Male

Live the Life You Want.



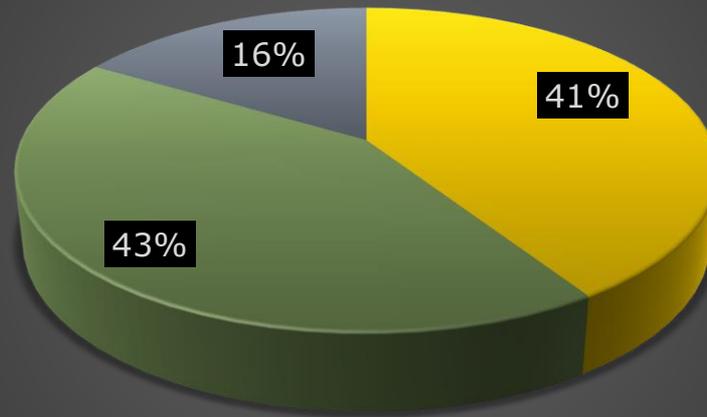


Southwest Center for Independence



Low Vision Program

Degree of Visual Impairment



■ Totally Blind ■ Partially Blind ■ Impairment

Live the Life You Want.



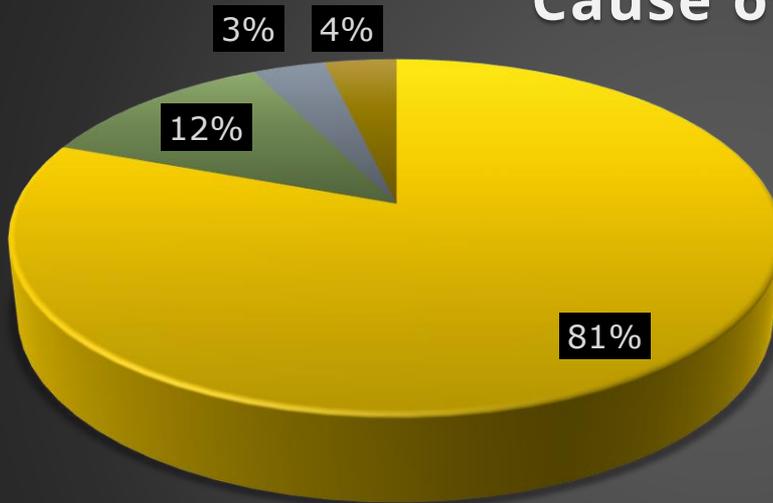


Southwest Center for Independence



Low Vision Program

Cause of Visual Impairment



■ Macular Degeneration ■ Diabetic Retinopathy ■ Glaucoma ■ Cataracts

Live the Life You Want.



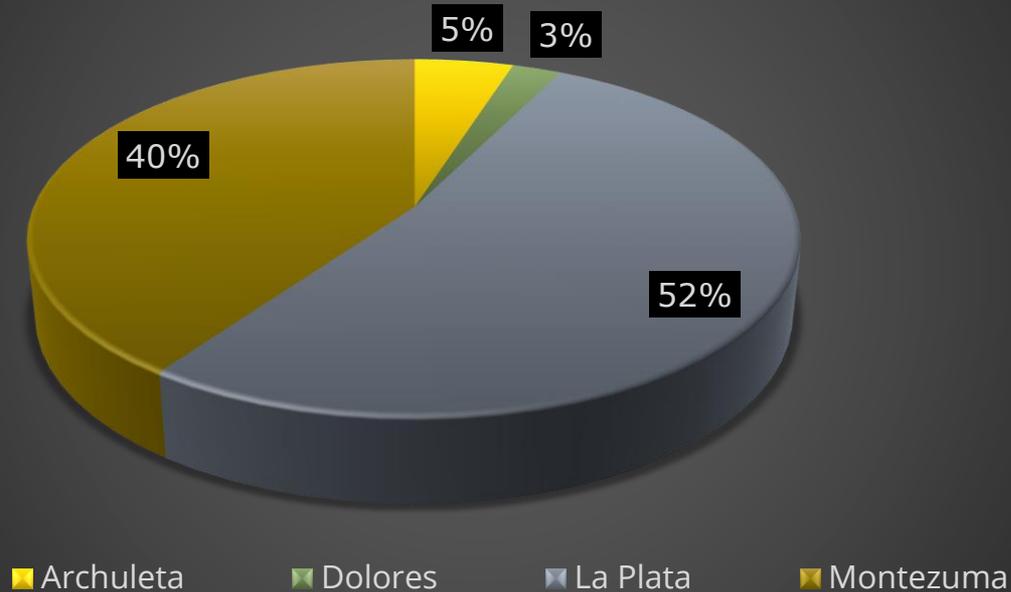


Southwest Center for Independence



Low Vision Program

Consumers By County



Live the Life You Want.



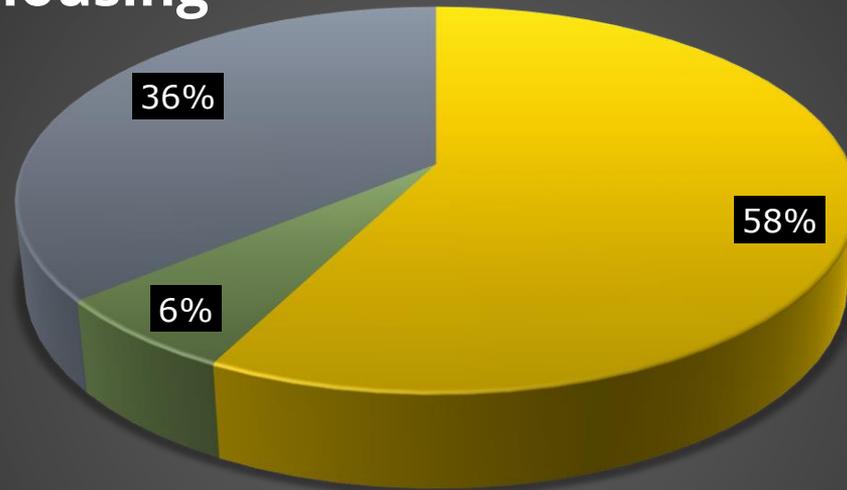


Southwest Center for Independence



Housing Program

Acquired Housing



■ Located ■ Seeking ■ Dropped

Live the Life You Want.



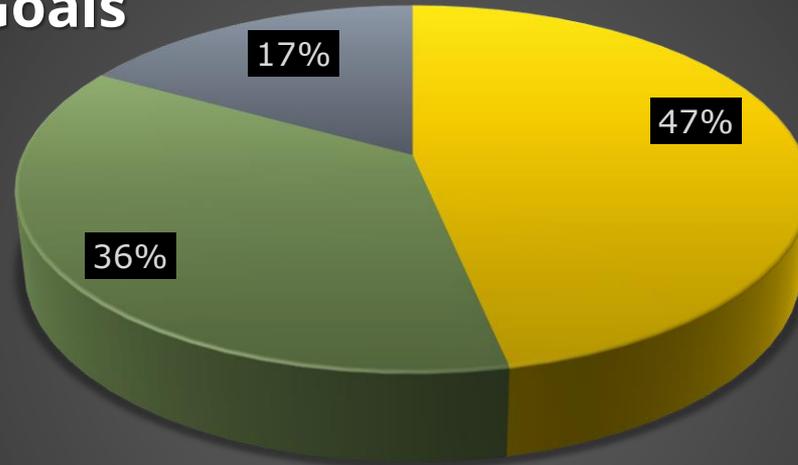


Southwest Center for Independence



Housing Program

Housing Goals



■ Set

■ Achieved

■ In progress

Live the Life You Want.



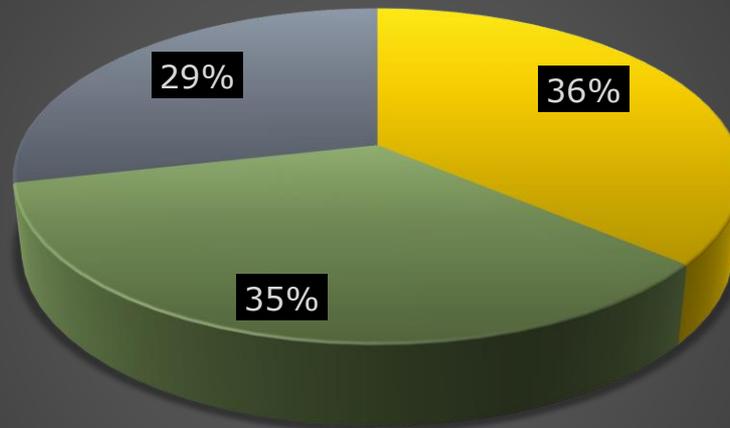


Southwest Center for Independence



Employment Services

Employment Goals



■ Achieved

■ In progress

■ Dropped

Live the Life You Want.





Southwest Center for Independence

Nursing Home Transitions

Olmstead Act



On June 22, 1999, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled in the case **Olmstead** v. L.C. and E.W. that the "integration mandate" of the Americans with Disabilities **Act** requires public agencies to provide services "in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities."

Live the Life You Want.



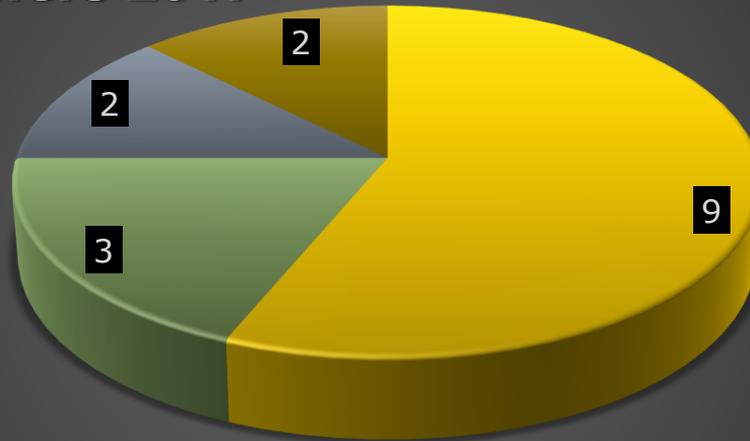


Southwest Center for Independence



Nursing Home Transitions

Total Consumers 2017



■ 1st Qtr ■ 2nd Qtr ■ 3rd Qtr ■ 4th Qtr

Live the Life You Want.



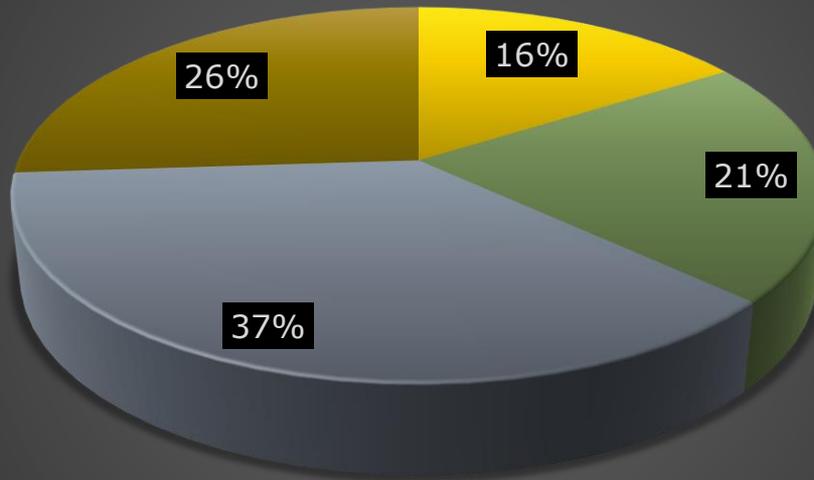


Southwest Center for Independence



Nursing Home Transitions

Referral Outcomes 2017



■ Feasible

■ Not feasible

■ Revocation

■ No housing - on hold

Live the Life You Want.

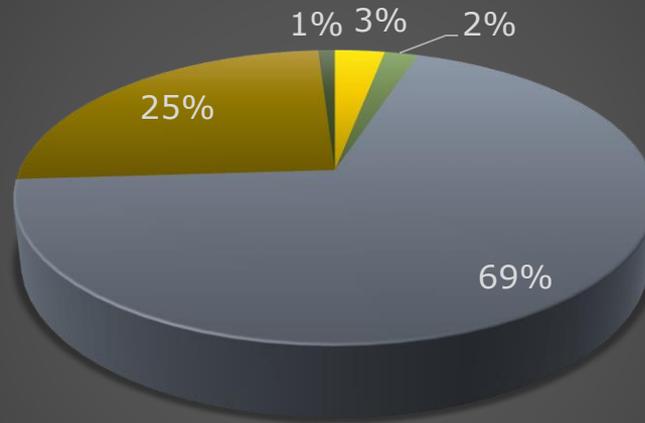




Southwest Center for Independence

2017 Consumer Data

Center Services By County



■ Archuleta ■ Dolores ■ La Plata ■ Montezuma ■ San Juan

Live the Life You Want.

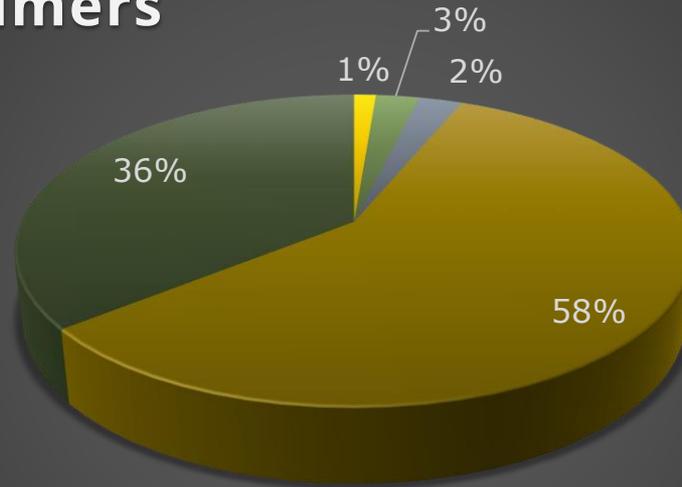




Southwest Center for Independence

2017 Consumer Data

Age of Consumers



■ Under 5 ■ 5 to 19 ■ 20 to 24 ■ 25-59 ■ 60 & Older

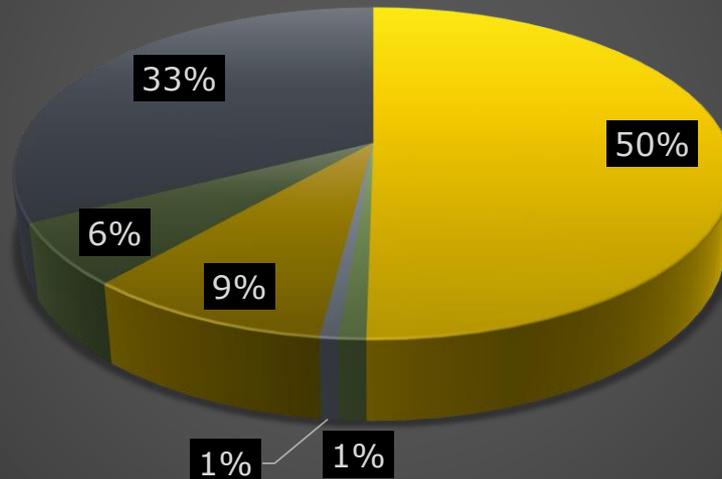


Southwest Center for Independence

2017 Consumer Data

Consumer Race/Ethnicity

■ White ■ African American ■ Asian ■ Hispanic or Latino ■ Native American ■ Other/Declined

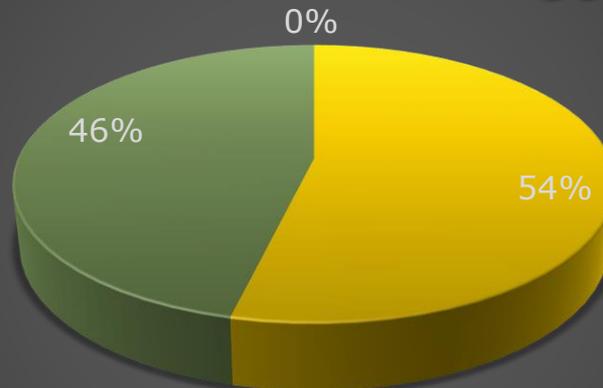




Southwest Center for Independence

2017 Consumer Data

Consumer Gender



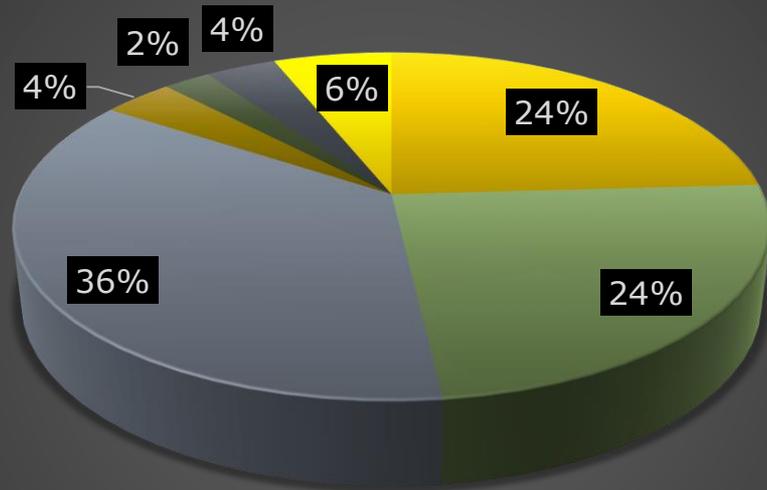
■ Female ■ Male ■ Transgender



Southwest Center for Independence

2017 Consumer Data

Disability Types



■ Cognitive ■ Mental/Emotional ■ Physical ■ Vision ■ Hearing ■ Multipule ■ Other

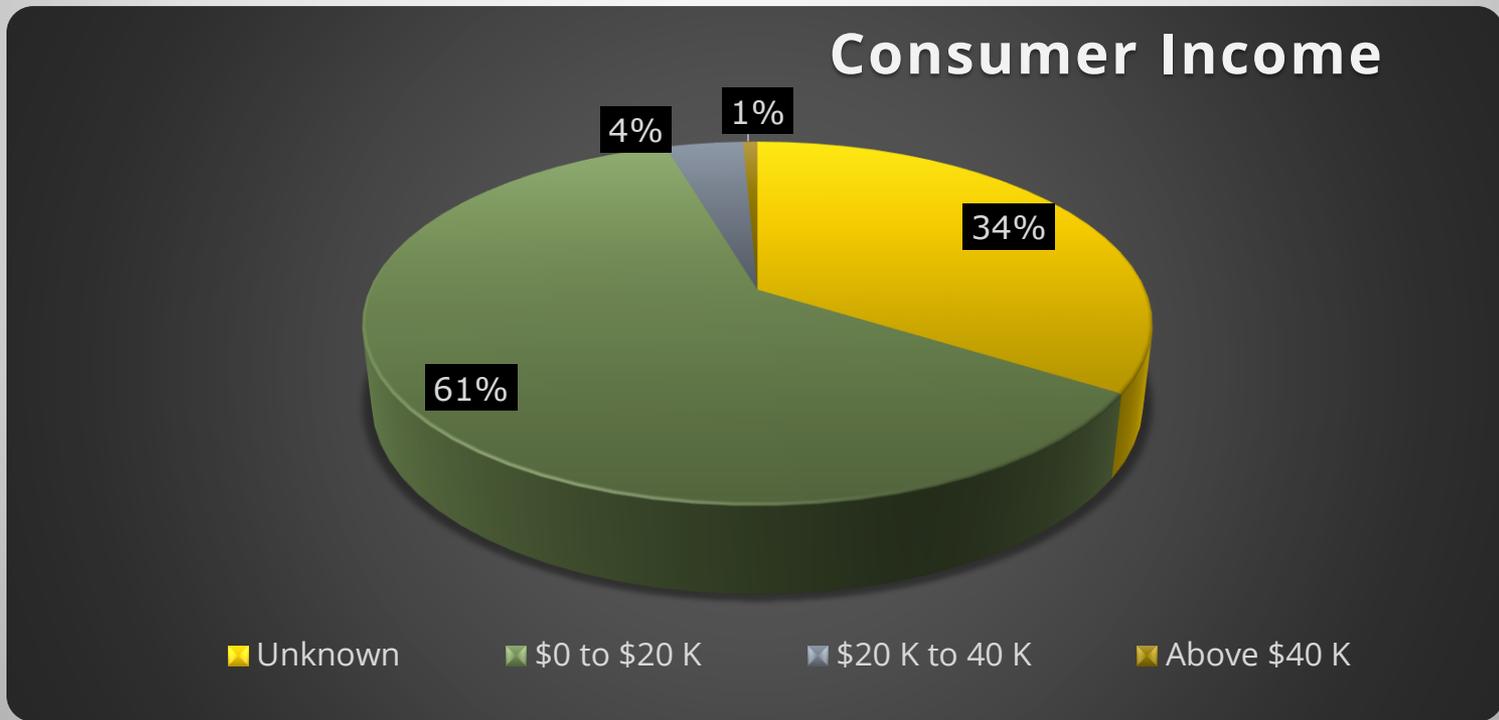
Live the Life You Want.





Southwest Center for Independence

2017 Consumer Data



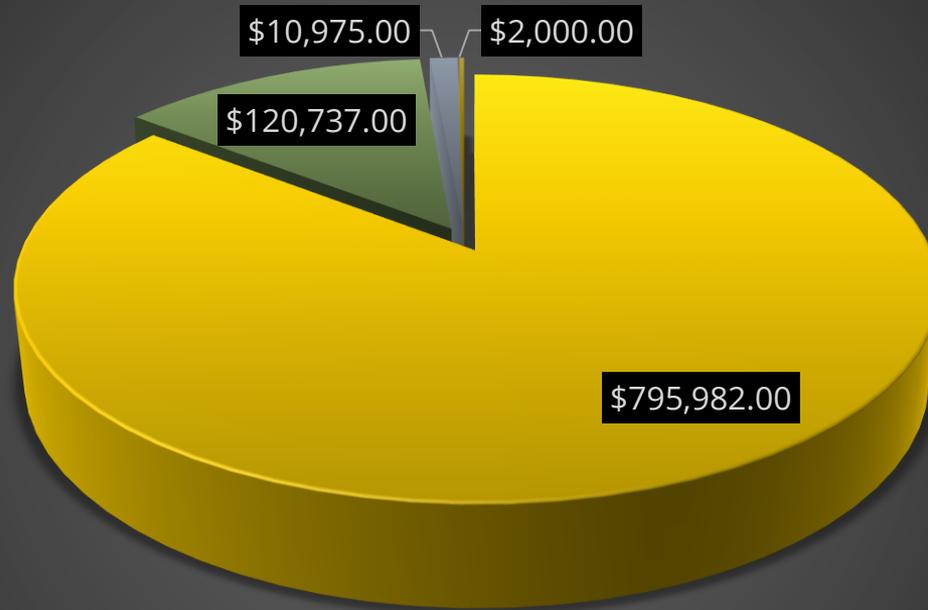
Live the Life You Want.





Southwest Center for Independence

2017 Revenue Sources



■ State Contracts

■ Grants

■ Fee-for-Service

■ Fundrasing

Live the Life You Want.

