

State Plan For Independent Living (SPIL)

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended, Chapter 1,
Title VII

Part B - INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

Part C - Centers for Independent Living

State: Rhode Island

FISCAL YEARS: 2025-2027

Effective Date: 10/01/2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

People with disabilities in the State of Rhode Island continue to confront enduring barriers that limit their full inclusion and participation in our communities. Building upon the achievements of the previous State Plan for Independent Living, this comprehensive three-year strategy not only maintains established goals but also introduces new objectives to address persistent challenges. Central to our approach is an intensified focus on outreach to unserved and under-served groups, redefining these groups to encompass a diverse spectrum of individuals who have historically faced disparities. This outreach extends beyond mere public education; it aims to enhance the diversity and accessibility of OSCIL's Independent Living (IL) services and activities. Moreover, we are committed to expanding the membership of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), ensuring it reflects the demographics and needs of these marginalized communities.

Our outreach targets include young adults aged 17-24 and adults aged 25-59 navigating disabilities, as well as American Indian, Asian, Black, African American, and Hispanic individuals with disabilities. We embrace multicultural groups without bias towards race, religion, sexual orientation, language, or other differences. Additionally, we prioritize individuals with under-represented disability types, particularly those with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Underpinning these efforts are the strategic goals of the 2024-2027 SPIL:

Goal 1: Promote understanding and knowledge of the Independent Living philosophy and services among consumers, legislators, and advocates statewide. Goal 2: Ensure equal access and inclusion for Rhode Islanders with disabilities in public and private services, fostering accessible communities. Goal 3: Enhance community living options and equal access to public goods and services for individuals with disabilities. Goal 4: Expand the Independent Living network in Rhode Island, with a particular emphasis on multicultural inclusivity. Goal 5: Ensure efficient and effective operations of the SILC to support advocacy and community engagement.

With these goals and targeted outreach strategies, our aim is to fortify the IL movement in Rhode

Island, advancing towards a more inclusive and equitable future where individuals with disabilities can thrive.

Section 1: Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Activities

1.1 - MISSION

Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL

Rhode Island will be a state where all its citizens have an understanding and knowledge of the Independent Living philosophy and practice and can access IL services in addition to full inclusion in society to the best of their ability. People with disabilities will have choices to live in the least restrictive environment and have full access to all services and advocacy needed to achieve their equal inclusion in the communities in which they live.

1.2 - GOALS

Goals of the SPIL

Goal #1: Promote Understanding and Knowledge of Independent Living

Goal #2: Ensure Equal Access and Inclusion for People with Disabilities

Goal #3: Foster Accessible Community Living Options

Goal #4: Expand CIL's Youth Transition Program

Goal #5: Support the Growth of the Independent Living Network

Goal #6: Ensure Efficient and Effective RISILC Operations

1.3 - OBJECTIVES

Objectives for the three-year period of the plan - including geographic scope, desired outcomes, target dates, and indicators. Including compatibility with the purpose of Title VII, Chapter 1.

Goal #1: Promote Understanding and Knowledge of Independent Living

Objective #1.1: Educate Rhode Islanders on the Independent Living philosophy and services:

Individuals with disabilities gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to live more independently in their homes, communities, and workplaces. Enhanced Quality of Life: Access to resources, information, and peer support enables individuals to improve their overall quality of life by making informed choices and accessing necessary supports. Empowerment and Self-Advocacy: Individuals become empowered to advocate for their rights, access needed services, and participate fully in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Improved Social Inclusion: Awareness and understanding of independent living principles lead to reduced stigma and increased acceptance of people with disabilities in various social, educational, and professional settings. Community Integration: By promoting accessibility and inclusivity, CILs contribute to creating communities where people of all abilities can actively participate and contribute. Policy and Systemic Changes: Advocacy efforts and collaborations with stakeholders can lead to policy changes that enhance accessibility, improve service delivery, and promote equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Educational and Vocational Opportunities: Access to educational and vocational training programs tailored to support independent living can lead to increased employment outcomes and economic self-sufficiency. Health and Well-being: Improved access to healthcare services and wellness programs can contribute to better physical and mental health outcomes among individuals with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.1.1: Attendance and Participation Rates: Increase the number of individuals attending workshops, seminars, and training sessions on independent living topics. Increase the level of

participation in peer support groups and community events organized by the CIL. Knowledge and Skills Acquisition: Pre- and post-training assessments to measure knowledge gained about independent living principles and practices. Demonstrated proficiency in essential skills for independent living, such as budgeting, household management, and navigating community resources. Consumer Satisfaction and Feedback: Feedback surveys from consumers regarding the usefulness and relevance of CIL services and programs. Consumer testimonials or success stories illustrating how CIL support has positively impacted their independence and quality of life. Advocacy and Policy Impact: Number of advocacy campaigns launched or supported by the CIL to promote disability rights and independent living principles. Evidence of policy changes or improvements in local or regional regulations affecting accessibility, housing, transportation, and employment for individuals with disabilities. Community Engagement and Partnerships: Number of partnerships established with community organizations, government agencies, businesses, and educational institutions to promote independent living initiatives. Participation in community events, forums, or committees focused on disability rights and inclusion

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #2: Ensure Equal Access and Inclusion for People with Disabilities

Objective #2.1: Expand advocacy efforts to ensure equal access for all people with disabilities. -Hire additional advocacy staff for statewide outreach. (CIL) -Advocate for increased Medicaid coverage of DME products. (CIL) -Engage with transportation entities to address funding cuts and expand access. (SILC) -Educate legislators on the benefits of virtual participation in public meetings. (SILC/CIL)

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.1.1: Number of new hire Expanded Medicaid coverage benefiting individuals with disabilities. Improved transportation options for individuals with disabilities. Increased virtual participation options for persons with disabilities.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #3: Foster Accessible Community Living Options

Objective #3.1: Enhance access to community living options for individuals with disabilities- Focus on diversion strategies for alternative housing. (CIL)- Advocate for drafting the Olmstead Plan for Rhode Islanders with disabilities. (CIL)- Strengthen partnerships with housing agencies for stability. (CIL)- Provide input on the Olmstead Task Force and legislation. (SILC)

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.1.1: Increased availability of alternative housing options for individuals with disabilities. Development and implementation of the Olmstead Plan. Improved housing stability and support services for individuals with disabilities. Effective policy development and implementation benefiting individuals with disabilities.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #4: Expand CIL's Youth Transition Program

Objective #4.1: Enhance OSCIL's Youth Transition Program for young individuals with disabilities. Offer recreational and social activities. (CIL) Provide incentives and support for program completion.

(CIL) Deliver personalized workshops for high school youth. (CIL) Establish monthly Youth Transition Support groups. (CIL) Build partnerships with vocational rehab and community organizations. (CIL/SILC)

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.1.1: Increased community engagement and socialization opportunities for youth with disabilities. Increased program completion rates among youth participants. Enhanced skill development and transition readiness for high school youth with disabilities. Enhanced peer support and mentoring for youth with disabilities. Strengthened support network and employment opportunities for transitioning youth with disabilities.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #5: Support the Growth of the Independent Living Network

Objective #5.1: Support CIL network expansion and evolution. Collaborate to identify and develop programs based on community needs. (SILC/CIL) Promote social media campaigns targeting underserved groups and outreach efforts. (SILC) Explore options for securing a larger space to accommodate increased activities. (CIL) Identify diverse topics for staff development and training. (SILC/CIL)

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.1.1: Expanded and responsive service offerings to meet the needs of Rhode Islanders with disabilities. Increased awareness and engagement among underserved groups in Rhode Island. Expanded capacity to deliver IL workshops and services effectively. Enhanced staff capacity to address complex needs such as Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), mental health, homelessness, and acquired disabilities.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #6: Ensure Efficient and Effective RISILC Operations

Objective #6.1: Collaborate for diverse representation within SILC. Continuously recruit members reflecting statewide demographic and geographical diversity. Draft updated recruitment information. (SILC) Leverage community partnerships and CIL contacts for member recruitment. (SILC) Provide comprehensive training using ACL, ILRU, and state resources on IL network, philosophy, and responsibilities. (SILC)

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #6.1.1: Representative and inclusive council membership reflecting Rhode Island's diversity. Expanded recruitment outreach and engagement with diverse community groups. Well-equipped council members with the knowledge and skills to advocate effectively for Rhode Islanders with disabilities.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

1.4 - EVALUATION

Goal 1: Promote Understanding and Knowledge of Independent Living

Objective 1.1: Educate Rhode Islanders on the Independent Living philosophy and services

- Increase IL workshops and presentations statewide to raise awareness. (CIL)
- Measurement Method: Track the number of workshops and presentations conducted annually.
- Data Source: CIL suite database records, workshop and events report, and participant feedback.
- Target Performance Levels: Conduct a minimum of 12 workshops annually with at least 15 participants per session.
- Target Dates: Begin workshops from October 1, 2024; quarterly evaluations thereafter.
- Increase accessibility of OSCIL information and services to consumers. (CIL)
- Measurement Method: Monitor website accessibility improvements and service utilization rates.
- Data Source: Website analytics reports from our social media platform and CIL suite database.
- Target Performance Levels: Achieve an increase in website accessibility score annually.
- Target Dates: Implement improvements continuously throughout the SPIL duration.
- Ensure 90% of OSCIL's Information and Referral service consumers receive IL information, including RISILC information. (CIL/SILC)
- Measurement Method: Review monthly service reports for IL information dissemination.
- Data Source: Service reports in the CIL suite database, IL information inclusion metrics.
- Target Performance Levels: Maintain 90% coverage from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2027.
- Target Dates: Monitor and report quarterly on coverage rates.
- Collaborate on public educational opportunities annually (e.g., lunch and learn, forums) (CIL, SILC, DSE)
- Measurement Method: Track collaborative events held and participant feedback.
- Data Source: Event attendance records, participant surveys, media coverage.
- Target Performance Levels: Conduct at least one event monthly, increasing participation by 10% each year.
- Target Dates: Monthly lunch and learn, evaluate immediately post-event.

Goal 2: Ensure Equal Access and Inclusion for People with Disabilities

Objective 2.1: Expand advocacy efforts to ensure equal access for all people with disabilities

- Hire additional advocacy staff for statewide outreach. (CIL)
- Measurement Method: Monitor staff recruitment progress and outreach activities.
- Data Source: HR records, outreach reports from CIL suite database.
- Target Performance Levels: Hire staff and increase outreach activities by 15% annually.
- Target Dates: Implement improvements continuously throughout the SPIL duration.
- Advocate for increased Medicaid coverage of DME products. (CIL)
- Measurement Method: Document advocacy actions, Medicaid policy updates.
- Data Source: Advocacy logs, legislative tracking reports, Medicaid coverage data.
- Target Performance Levels: Influence policy decisions by September 30, 2026, with quarterly progress reports.
- Target Dates: Monitor legislative sessions and policy updates.
- Engage with transportation entities to address funding cuts and expand access. (SILC)
- Measurement Method: Track engagement with transportation entities, policy briefings, and legislative responses.
- Data Source: Engagement logs, transportation service reports, policy impact assessments.
- Target Performance Levels: Advocate for improvements continuously throughout the SPIL duration.
- Target Dates: Review and update advocacy strategies annually.
- Educate legislators on the benefits of virtual participation in public meetings. (SILC/CIL)
- Measurement Method: Monitor legislative meetings attended, virtual participation statistics.
- Data Source: Meeting records, virtual platform analytics, legislative response.
- Target Performance Levels: Increase virtual participation options by December 31, 2025, with semi-annual updates.

- Target Dates: Track legislative sessions and engagement outcomes.

Goal 3: Foster Accessible Community Living Options

Objective 3.1: Enhance access to community living options for individuals with disabilities

- Focus on diversion strategies for alternative housing. (CIL)
- Measurement Method: Assess alternative housing strategies implemented and partnerships formed.
- Data Source: Partnership agreements, housing strategy documents, feedback from beneficiaries.
- Target Performance Levels: Develop strategies and partnerships by June 30, 2025.
- Target Dates: Implement improvements continuously throughout the SPIL duration.
- Advocate for drafting the Olmstead Plan for Rhode Islanders with disabilities. (CIL)
- Measurement Method: Track advocacy efforts, Olmstead Task Force engagement, legislative progress.
- Data Source: Advocacy logs, task force meeting minutes, legislative updates.
- Target Performance Levels: Influence plan development and approval by December 31, 2025.
- Target Dates: Monitor task force activities and legislative sessions.
- Strengthen partnerships with housing agencies for stability. (CIL)
- Measurement Method: Monitor partnership expansion, housing stability metrics.
- Data Source: Partnership agreements, housing stability reports, beneficiary surveys.
- Target Performance Levels: Expand partnerships and services by September 30, 2026.
- Target Dates: Implement improvements continuously throughout the SPIL duration.
- Provide input on the Olmstead Task Force and legislation. (SILC)
- Measurement Method: Track input provided, task force decisions influenced, legislative impact.
- Data Source: Task force meeting records, legislative outcomes, policy briefs submitted.
- Target Performance Levels: Influence legislative outcomes throughout the SPIL duration.
- Target Dates: Provide regular updates on task force engagement.

Goal 4: Expand OSCIL's Youth Transition Program

Objective 4.1: Enhance OSCIL's Youth Transition Program for young individuals with disabilities

- Offer recreational and social activities. (CIL)
- Measurement Method: Track activities offered, participant engagement, and feedback.
- Data Source: CIL suite program reports and surveys.
- Target Performance Levels: Increase participation rates by 10% annually.
- Target Dates: Continuous program evaluation and adjustments.
- Deliver personalized workshops for high school youth. (CIL)
- Measurement Method: Track workshop delivery, participant feedback on skill development.
- Data Source: Workshop schedules, participant surveys, skill assessment results.
- Target Performance Levels: Conduct workshops regularly with positive participant feedback.
- Target Dates: Annual reviews of workshop effectiveness.
- Establish monthly Youth Transition Support groups. (CIL)
- Measurement Method: Monitor support group sessions, participant attendance, and outcomes.
- Data Source: Attendance records, participant feedback surveys, group effectiveness assessments.
- Target Performance Levels: Start support groups by January 31, 2025, and maintain regular sessions.
- Target Dates: Monthly evaluation of group dynamics and participant engagement.
- Build partnerships with vocational rehab and community organizations. (CIL/SILC)
- Measurement Method: Assess partnership development, employment opportunities created.
- Data Source: Partnership agreements, employment placement reports, beneficiary success stories.
- Target Performance Levels: Establish partnerships and programs by June 30, 2025, with annual progress reports.
- Target Dates: Annual updates on partnership outcomes.

Goal 5: Support the Growth of the Independent Living Network - RISILC

Objective 5.1: Support CIL network expansion and evolution

- Collaborate to identify and develop programs based on community needs. (SILC/CIL)
- Measurement Method: Assess program development, community feedback on program effectiveness.
- Data Source: Consumer Satisfaction surveys.
- Target Performance Levels: Modify programs based on community feedback annually.
- Target Dates: Evaluate program impact quarterly.
- Promote social media campaigns targeting underserved groups and outreach efforts. (SILC)
- Measurement Method: Track campaign reach, engagement metrics, and community response.
- Data Source: Social media analytics, campaign effectiveness surveys, outreach event attendance.
- Target Performance Levels: Launch and maintain campaigns with increasing engagement rates.
- Target Dates: Monitor campaign progress monthly.
- Explore options for securing a larger space to accommodate increased activities. (CIL)
- Measurement Method: Document space exploration efforts, partnership negotiations.
- Data Source: Facility assessments, partnership agreements, budget allocations.
- Target Performance Levels: Secure additional space or partnerships by December 31, 2025.
- Target Dates: Quarterly updates on space exploration progress.
- Identify diverse topics for staff development and training. (SILC/CIL)
- Measurement Method: Evaluate training topics relevance, staff competency improvement.
- Data Source: Training needs assessments, session evaluations, staff feedback.
- Target Performance Levels: Offer training on identified topics regularly with improved staff skills.
- Target Dates: Conduct training sessions quarterly.

Goal 6: Ensure Efficient and Effective RISILC Operations

Objective 6.1: Collaborate for diverse representation within SILC

- Continuously recruit members reflecting statewide demographic and geographical diversity. (SILC)
- Measurement Method: Track recruitment strategies, council member diversity profiles.
- Data Source: Recruitment plans, council member demographics, diversity reports.
- Target Performance Levels: Review and update recruitment strategies annually.
- Target Dates: Monitor recruitment progress quarterly.
- Leverage community partnerships and CIL contacts for member recruitment. (SILC)
- Measurement Method: Assess partnership effectiveness in recruitment and outreach activities.
- Data Source: Partnership agreements, recruitment event attendance, member referrals.
- Target Performance Levels: Strengthen partnerships and conduct recruitment activities regularly.
- Target Dates: Evaluate partnership impact bi-annually.
- Provide comprehensive training using ACL, ILRU, and state resources on IL network, philosophy, and responsibilities. (SILC)
- Measurement Method: Track training sessions conducted, member competency improvement.
- Data Source: Training schedules, member competency assessments, training feedback.
- Target Performance Levels: Conduct comprehensive training annually with positive member feedback.
- Target Dates: Offer training sessions starting October 1, 2024, and evaluate effectiveness annually.

1.5 - PART I: FINANCIAL PLAN

Sources, uses of, and efforts to coordinate funding to be used to accomplish the SPIIL Goals and Objectives. Process for grants/contracts, selection of grantees, and distribution of funds to facilitate

effective operations and provision of services.

Fiscal Year(s): 2025

October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025

Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses					
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Admin. Costs	TOTAL
Title VII Funds						
Chapter 1, Part B	\$30000	\$350000	\$0	\$0	\$19250	\$399250
Chapter 1, Part C	\$0	\$0	\$1094997	\$0		\$1094997
						\$1494247
Other Federal Funds						
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Social Security Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other	\$0	\$403254	\$0	\$0		\$403254
						\$403254
Non-Federal Funds						
Part B State Match	\$0	\$35000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35000
Other State Match for Funds in SPIL	\$0	\$10000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10000
State Funds	\$0	\$890000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$890000
Other	\$0	\$70500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70500
						\$1005500
TOTAL	\$30000	\$1758754	\$1094997	\$0	\$19250	\$2903001

Fiscal Year(s): 2026

October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026

Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses					
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Admin. Costs	TOTAL
Title VII Funds						
Chapter 1, Part B	\$30000	\$350000	\$0	\$0	\$19250	\$399250
Chapter 1, Part C	\$0	\$0	\$1094997	\$0		\$1094997
						\$1494247
Other Federal Funds						
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Social Security Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other	\$0	\$403254	\$0	\$0		\$403254
						\$403254
Non-Federal Funds						
Part B State Match	\$0	\$35000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35000

Other State Match for Funds in SPIL	\$0	\$10000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10000
State Funds	\$0	\$890000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$890000
Other	\$0	\$70500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70500
						\$1005500
TOTAL	\$30000	\$1758754	\$1094997	\$0	\$19250	\$2903001

Fiscal Year(s): 2027

October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027

Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses					
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Admin. Costs	TOTAL
Title VII Funds						
Chapter 1, Part B	\$30000	\$350000	\$0	\$0	\$19250	\$399250
Chapter 1, Part C	\$0	\$0	\$1094997	\$0		\$1094997
						\$1494247
Other Federal Funds						
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Social Security Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other	\$0	\$403254	\$0	\$0		\$403254
						\$403254
Non-Federal Funds						
Part B State Match	\$0	\$35000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35000
Other State Match for Funds in SPIL	\$0	\$10000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10000
State Funds	\$0	\$890000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$890000
Other	\$0	\$70500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70500
						\$1005500
TOTAL	\$30000	\$1758754	\$1094997	\$0	\$19250	\$2903001

1.5.2 - PART II: FINANCIAL PLANNING NARRATIVE

Sources, uses of, and efforts to coordinate funding to be used to accomplish the SPIL Goals and Objectives. Process for grants/contracts, selection of grantees, and distribution of funds to facilitate effective operations and provision of services.

The formula for match is: $\text{State allotment} = \text{Match amount} \times 0.9$. \$35,000 is provided as the state match for Part B IL services. The RI Governor's Commission on Disabilities receives 5% of the total funding for administrative costs.* Part B ILS State Match: \$35,000 OSCIL, as the only CIL in RI receives the entirety of the State's Part C allocation. Rhode Island provides a 10% match of State funds to the funding of the Plan including funding of SILC resource plan, , and provision of IL services by the CIL. 2.1 Services Services to be provided to persons with significant disabilities that promote full access to community life including geographic scope, determination of eligibility and state wide ness.

Section 2: Scope, Extent and Arrangements of Services

2.1 - SERVICES

Services to be provided to persons with significant disabilities that promote full access to community life including geographic scope, determination of eligibility, and statewide reach.

Core Independent Living Services: Information and referral

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	No
Provided By	CIL

Core Independent Living Services: IL skills training

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	No
Provided By	CIL

Core Independent Living Services: Peer counseling

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	No
Provided By	CIL

Core Independent Living Services: Individual and systems advocacy

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	No
Provided By	CIL

Transition Services: Transition from nursing homes & other institutions

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	No
Provided By	CIL

Transition Services: Diversion from institutions

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	No
Provided By	CIL

Transition Services: Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	No
Provided By	CIL

Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with disabilities)

Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

Rehabilitation technology

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	No
Provided By	CIL

Mobility training

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	No
Provided By	CIL

Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL

Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation and other support services

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE Other

Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and independent living services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	No
Provided By	CIL

Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	No
Provided By	CIL Other

Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	No
Provided By	CIL

Individual and group social and recreational services

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL Other

Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with significant disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL

Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance, of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities

Is this service being provided?	Yes
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Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

Such other necessary services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL

2.1 - OPTIONAL MAP ATTACHMENT

Uploaded Document Name:

2.2 - OUTREACH TO UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

In Rhode Island, the Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL) is committed to fostering equity and accessibility through a comprehensive statewide outreach plan. Central to this initiative is the diligent identification and support of underserved populations within our community. OSCIL defines "unserved" and "underserved" populations based on a thorough analysis of consumer data within our CIL suite data system. This analytical approach allows us to pinpoint groups whose engagement with OSCIL's services falls significantly below their representation in the broader demographic landscape of Rhode Island.

Our outreach efforts are particularly focused on minority communities, including but not limited to American Indian, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic, and LGBTQ+ populations. These communities face unique challenges that must be addressed with targeted and culturally sensitive outreach strategies.

We recognize the importance of addressing both urban and rural disparities. OSCIL's outreach plan spans the entire geographic spectrum of Rhode Island, ensuring that individuals residing in urban centers and remote rural areas alike have equitable access to independent living resources and support.

Key targeted populations include young adults aged 17-24 and adults aged 25-59, as well as those facing intersecting barriers due to their minority status or LGBTQ+ identity. By prioritizing these groups, OSCIL aims to address critical gaps in service provision and enhance inclusivity across all facets of independent living.

Collaboration is fundamental to our approach. OSCIL works closely with the Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council (RI SILC) to develop and implement effective outreach strategies. Together, we design public education campaigns that leverage social media platforms such as

Facebook and Instagram, alongside traditional media channels, to reach a diverse audience effectively.

Specialized outreach initiatives are tailored to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals, who historically have faced marginalization within the realm of independent living services. OSCIL strives to create safe and affirming spaces where LGBTQ+ individuals feel supported and valued. Geographical isolation should never impede access to essential services. OSCIL extends its outreach efforts to geographically underserved areas, ensuring that every Rhode Islander, regardless of location, has the opportunity to benefit from our comprehensive array of programs and resources. In conclusion, OSCIL's statewide outreach plan is a testament to our commitment to equity, inclusivity, and empowerment within Rhode Island's independent living community. Through strategic partnerships, targeted initiatives, and a steadfast dedication to addressing disparities, OSCIL endeavors to create a more accessible and supportive environment where all individuals can thrive independently and inclusively.

2.3 - COORDINATION

Plans for coordination of services and cooperation between programs and organizations that support community life for persons with disabilities.

OSCIL and the SILC review the plans of other agencies statewide providing services to individuals with disabilities and seek to provide IL services not otherwise provided as well as individual and system advocacy.

OIB services in RI are coordinated and provided directly through the Office of Rehabilitation Services- Rhode Island Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The OIB staff has developed a robust collaborative relationship and interagency referral process with the CIL. Both agencies exercise due diligence concerning cross referral and utilization of funds, exchange of best practice models, and sharing of consumer satisfaction survey outcomes.

OSCIL also contracts with the State of Rhode Island - through the Office of Rehabilitation Services to assist consumers in need funds to obtain Personal Care Assistants, and Home Modifications including Smart Home Technology and other assistive technology.

OSCIL receives a grant from the RI Foundation "Programs for the Blind" to continue the special outreach/education program, entitled "Visual Impairment: Innovative Solutions to Inspire Independence".

OSCIL's RI Foundation endowment continued to generate funds for the Catherine T. Murray Memorial Scholarship and the Murray Family Foundation continued to add additional funding which provided five scholarships to students with disabilities.

Funding also continued this year through the Assistive Technology Access Partnership.

In addition to the CORE I&R services, OSCIL serves as a satellite for the State's Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), OSCIL provides ongoing Information and Referral services as part of its everyday program activity. OSCIL employs a full-time I and R Specialist who responds to calls via phone, email, and walk-ins, including referrals from the Point 211. State's Individuals and organizations who request I&R services are given appropriate information and referred to other entities for services in addition to being referred in-house at OSCIL for CIL services and activities. OSCIL collaborates with the URI Speech and Hearing Center to provide low-cost hearing evaluations and the purchase of hearing aids for those individuals who meet program eligibility. OSCIL also partners with Neighborhood Health (the State dual eligible medical provider) to conduct assessments of DME and Home Modification needs and arranges for the provision of those DME and Home Modifications.

The RI Department of Human Services administers Title XVIII Medicaid, including Medicaid waivers which are fully utilized in assisting individuals with significant disabilities to become more independent through access to personal care assistance, assistive technology, and some other services.

The Department of Human Services also administers Title XX and OSCIL assists in accessing the services, such as transportation, provided through the agencies funded by Title XX.

OSCIL collaborates with the New England Low Vision Center to provide opportunities for people who have low vision to try AT.

OSCIL is an active participating partner on RIPTA's advisory board planning RIRI's' s accessible transportation options and monitoring service and quality issues.

Section 3: Network of Centers

3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

Current Centers for Independent Living including: legal name, geographic area and counties served, and source(s) of funding. Oversight process, by source of funds, and oversight entity.

3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

Ocean State Center for Independent Living

Counties Served: Bristol, Kent, Newport, Providence, Washington

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: SILC, activities, and reports necessary for measuring contract compliance adherence to SPIL. CIL submits CIL PPR to ACL/OILP.

Oversight Entity: DSE

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Bristol (Full Services)

Kent (Full Services)

Newport (Full Services)

Providence (Full Services)

Washington (Full Services)

3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

CIL Network

Explain the criteria for defining the CIL network, bearing in mind that those CILs included in the network should be those eligible to sign the SPIL.

Rhode Island has one Center for Independent Living, Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL), the SPIL signatory, which serves the entirety of the state. OSCIL meets the federal standards for being a Center for Independent Living, including having a cross-disability, consumer majority board of directors and qualified staff, which consists of a majority of individuals that have disabilities.

OSCIL's main office is in Warwick, which is in Kent County and OSCIL's satellite, OSCIL North, is located in Pawtucket, in Providence County. According to the US Census, these counties have the 2 highest populations in the state. Rhode Island is a small state, comprised of five counties, OSCIL serving all.

3.2 - EXPANSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF NETWORK

Plan and priorities for use of funds, by funding source, including Part B funds, Part C funds, State funds, and other funds, whether current, increased, or one-time funding, and methodology for distribution of funds. Use of funds to build capacity of existing Centers, establish new Centers, and/or increase the statewide reach of the Network. (Follow the instructions in Title VII, Part C of

the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.)
Definition of served, unserved, and underserved.

Due to the state's small size and geography OSCIL and OSCIL North are able to offer services on a state-wide basis and provide direct services in consumer's homes. OSCIL provides the following mandated core services: information and referral, advocacy, direct skills training, and peer support, in addition to Nursing Home Transition and Youth transition.

OSCIL works continuously on efforts of outreach and collaboration in order to maximize effectiveness and impact across the state reaching a diverse array individuals with disabilities. This includes community organizations and agencies to further the reach of the IL network partners- including RI Department of Human Services, RI Department of Health, The United Way, RI Office of Rehabilitation Services, RI Services for the Blind, local community action agencies, RI Office of Healthy Aging and other community based senior organizations and disability focused organizations. In addition, OSCIL maintains a robust advocacy role in promoting the implementation of an Olmstead Plan. OSCIL has and continues to make progress toward expanding and adjusting programs and services consistent the needs of the RI IL community.

In order to allow this continued growth, OSCIL has a focus during this plan cycle to explore options for center space that can accommodate future growth as needed.

Any additional funding would be attributed to these goals.

Further with regard to direct service implementation of Transition/Diversion/ensuring resources to consumers for maximizing Independent Community Living- additional funds when available are allocated to the benefit of assuring consumers expanded access to the scope of the allowable services. (i.e serve as many consumers as possible)

Minimum funding level for a Center and formula/plan for distribution of funds to ensure that each Center receives at least the minimum.

With the exception of the allowed percentage of DSE fund use for grant administration- the majority if not all Part B funds are allocated to the CIL.

The SILC receives its funding allocated by the DSE from State match dollars thus assuring maximum allocation to the CIL.

Priorities for establishment of new CIL(s).

RI does not intend to establish a new CIL

Action/process for distribution of funds relinquished or removed from a Center and/or if a Center closes.

Plan to build capacity of existing CILs and/or expand statewide reach by establishing branch offices and/or satellites of existing CILs.

OSCIL's main office is in Warwick, which is in Kent County and OSCIL's satellite, OSCIL North, is located in Pawtucket, in Providence County. According to the US Census, these counties have the 2 highest populations in the state. Rhode Island is a small state, comprised of five counties, OSCIL serving all.

Due to the state's small size and geography OSCIL and OSCIL North are able to offer services on a state-wide basis and provide direct services in consumer's homes. OSCIL provides the following mandated core services: information and referral, advocacy, direct skills training, and peer support, in addition to Nursing Home Transition and Youth transition.

CIL Suite data indicates all cities and towns are being served. Populations that are underserved or un-served by the center include those individuals living in outskirts areas. To address this need OSCIL has partnered with United Way's 211 RV Van to bring IL services to these underserved areas. OSCIL intends to explore options for additional space to accommodate its continued growth- any factors respective to location, ease of consumer access, areas underserved will be important.

Plan/formula for distribution of new funds (Part B, Part C, one-time funds, etc.)

Allocate to the existing CIL using the current formula.

Plan/formula for adjusting distribution of funds when cut/reduced.

no changes

Plan for changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels to accommodate expansion and/or adjustment of the Network. State the needed change(s) as concretely and succinctly as possible.

no changes needed- CIL serves statewide

Temporary Changes (if applicable) Other (if applicable)

n/a

Section 4: Designated State Entity

4.0 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

Rhode Island Governor's Commission of Disabilities will serve as the entity in Rhode Island designated to receive, administer, and account for funds made available to the state under Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Act on behalf of the State.

4.1 - DSE RESPONSIBILITIES

- receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under this chapter based on the plan;
- provide administrative support services for a program under Part B, and a program under Part C in a case in which the program is administered by the State under section 723;
- keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;
- submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and
- retain not more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for the performance of the services outlined in paragraphs (1) through (4).

4.2 - ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING: DSE ASSURANCES

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE.

The DSE has budgeted in it's state budget 5% of the Part B appropriation. Our fiscal manger keeps track of spending and reports to the agency director the amount that remains.

There are no DSE employees who serve as staff to the SILC. A decision was made several years ago not to share staff to avoid any conflict of interest. The SILC does anticipate hiring administrative staff during this grant year, but the SILC will have sole ability to hire, fire and supervise that staff person.

4.3 - STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS

State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL including:

- State law, regulation, rule, or policy relating to the DSE's administration, funding, or operation of IL programs and/or establishment, funding, and operations of the SILC
- Rule or policy implementing any Federal law, regulation, or guideline that is beyond what would be required to comply with 45 CFR 1329
- That limits, expands, or alters requirements for the SPIL

State law, regulation, rule, or policy relating to the DSE's administration, funding, or operation of IL programs and/or establishment, funding, and operations of the SILC include:

- R.I. Gen. Laws § 35-1.1-5 requires that the State Controller's Office oversees the administration of federal grants by designated state agencies.
- 220-RICR-20-00-2.1-2.7: Establishes the state Grant Management System for federal grants and sets the requirements and procedures state agencies must follow in the administration of the grants.
- Payment to the IL Center is done through the eCivis platform as required by the The Grants Management System. The platform is used for budgeting, reimbursement and documentation of contracts and performance measures.

Payment of the SILC is done by purchase order, which reserves the budgeted amount for the SILC from the state match. The SILC files for reimbursement from the DSE for expenses such as administrative costs or conference attendance costs. The DSE sends the SILC payment for reimbursement from the funds reserved in the purchase order.

4.4 - GRANT PROCESS & DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Grant processes, policies, and procedures to be followed by the DSE in the awarding of grants of Part B funds.

Instructions: Describe the processes, policies, and procedures to be followed by the DSE in the awarding of grants of Part B funds including: (all of the following are required)

Process for soliciting proposals

The Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL) is the only Center for Independent Living (CIL) located within the State of Rhode Island. As such, they are the sole CIL recipient of Part B IL funds. OSCIL is still required to create a proposal which is uploaded to the eCivis platform. If changes are needed to meet the requirements of the grant, this is discussed and resolved with the DSE. The proposal includes activities, performance measures and a budget.

Development of format for proposals

The proposal format is the eCivis platform. It includes a list of activities to be performed, performance measures and a budget.

Process for reviewing proposals and who reviewers will be

The proposal is reviewed by the DSE's agency head and Senior Administrative Aide (who administers the finances for the grant). As there is one IL Center, the process involves a dialogue to make necessary changes if needed.

The proposal must also meet the requirements of the Grant Management Office to meet the state requirements for administration of the grant.

Process for evaluating performance and compliance of grantees

The IL Center sends the DSE quarterly performance measures reports. The DSE will provide feedback if needed.

4.5 - OVERSIGHT PROCESS FOR PART B FUNDS

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

Reimbursement is the required method of payment to the subrecipient for subawards except for home remodeling projects which are outlined below.

Subrecipient requests for reimbursement must correspond to the submitted project plan and the line items in the approved subaward budget (i.e. personnel costs, consultant and sub-contract services, travel, space, supplies, equipment, and other costs).

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities authorized representative, or his or her designee, named in the subaward agreement, shall review each request for reimbursement and the supporting documentation against the approved subaward budget, subaward expenditures to date, and the latest subaward progress report before approving payment. Evidence of such approval shall be documented.

Subaward payments shall not be made on subawards with past due progress unless the Governor's Commission on Disabilities has given the subrecipient a written extension to submit such reports.

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities will review and process reimbursement request in accordance with the State's prompt payment policy which requires payments be made within 30 days of submission of proper documentation.

Subaward payments shall not be for expenses incurred prior to, or after, the period of the subaward agreement.

The subrecipient shall be required under the terms of the subaward agreement to maintain documentation of all expenditures related to the subaward for a period of at least three years after the date of submission of the final expenditure report.

4.6 - 722 VS. 723 STATE

722 State

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 - ESTABLISHMENT OF SILC

How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.

The RISILC is independent of all state agencies including the DSE (Governor's Commission on Disabilities, see RIGL 42-51-12(d))

RISILC is a volunteer council, that develops and administers its own budget and has entered into a memorandum of agreement with the CIL for allocation of support staff and meeting space, meeting tools and materials. RISILC Chair/Vice Chair oversees the SILC assistant under this methodology.

RISILC continually assesses its coordination and support needs to best facilitate its effectiveness within the IL network.

5.2 - SILC RESOURCE PLAN

Resources (including necessary and sufficient funding, staff/administrative support, and in-kind), by funding source and amount, for SILC to fulfill all duties and authorities.

Funding sources may include "Innovation and Expansion (I&E) funds authorized by 29 U.S.C. 721(a)(18); Independent Living Part B funds; State matching funds; [state allotments of Vocational Rehabilitation funding;] other public funds (such as Social Security reimbursement funds); and

private sources.”

The RI SILC currently has an MOA with the CIL utilizing SILC resource funds for the provision of meeting space, supplies and limited administrative support to coordinate meetings, take minutes and assist with general facilitation activities. SILC resource funds are allocated for this purpose and the staff work independent of the CIL at the direction of the RISILC.

\$30,000 of State funds are made available to RISILC for this purpose each year of this plan cycle.

SILC three-year budget:

Personnel:

Salary allocated to the project - \$15,934

Fringe benefits allocated to the project - \$1,610

Operating expenses:

- Interpreters: \$6,000.
- Travel: \$251 reimbursement on miles travelled and bus tickets)
- Space: \$1,258 includes rent and utilities)
- Supplies: \$306 Office supplies, Ink cartridge/ copy paper
- Other costs:
 - Phone & Internet services, Microsoft license - \$600
 - Percentage costs associated with Insurance-Payroll-Audit-Postage, Website maintenance, refreshments for meetings, zoom license etc. - \$16,800
 - Conference -\$47,241- NCIL conference, local conferences.

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

RISILC develops it's budget estimating a part time equivalent staff person and any minor costs associated with use of office or meeting space, website and materials at the CIL office in Warwick, RI. In addition, funds for allowable member compensation, NCIL conference attendance/educational opportunities are estimated annually.

Presently no part B dollars are allocated to the RISILC Resource plan as the DSE provides State only funds for this purpose.

Process for disbursement of funds to facilitate effective operations of SILC.

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities (DSE) receives, allocates the funds. The DSE reviews approved invoices submitted by the RISILC chair for RISILC operational needs. DSE processes payment for RISILC support staff and needs as per the MOU with the CIL and in accordance with the State's prompt payment policy which requires payments be made within 30 days of submission of proper documentation.

The DSE will communicate promptly with the RISILC Chair- the instance of any delay in payments and the reason for such and to the extent reasonable the remedy for resolving any delays.

Justification if more than 30% of the Part B appropriation is to be used for the SILC Resource Plan.

n/a

5.3 - MAINTENANCE OF SILC

How State will maintain the SILC over the course of the SPIL.

Instructions: Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b). Indicate who appoints members to the SILC, how the State ensures that the SILC composition and qualification requirements are met, how the chair is selected, how term limits are maintained, and how SILC vacancies are filled. Describe how the specific SILC-staffing requirements listed in the SPIL Instrument will be addressed. Concisely describe or cite relevant written policies, procedures, by-laws, technical assistance, and monitoring

activities, or other practices.

Describe how the State will ensure that: (all of the following are required)

The SILC is established and operating

All appointments to the SILC are made by the Governor of Rhode Island upon receipt of the SILC's recommendations as vacancies occur. Applications, appointment documents, and other pertinent materials are filed with the SILC and forwarded to the Office of the Governor for review and appointment. Periodic reviews are conducted by SILC to assess and monitor the term limits, upcoming vacancies, and the diversity of the members.

The Governor's staff require the following of all RISILC appointees:

1. Current resume or professional bio. 2. Application for Gubernatorial appointment. 3. State Background Check from the RI Attorney General's Office.

In addition, they maintain a member roster - reconciled with RISILC - which reflects member requirements, terms and term limits, member constellation, vacancies and area of representation. The SILC officers Chair and Vice Chair are appointed on an annual basis and /or as needed as dictated by membership terms and expirations.

Appointments are made in a timely manner to keep the SILC in compliance with the Act

All appointments to the SILC are made by the Governor of Rhode Island upon receipt of the SILC's recommendations as vacancies occur. Applications, appointment documents, and other pertinent materials are filed with the SILC and forwarded to the Office of the Governor for review and appointment. Periodic reviews are conducted by SILC to assess and monitor the term limits, upcoming vacancies, and the diversity of the members.

The SILC is organized in a way to ensure it is not part of any state agency

The SILC is independent of all state agencies including the DSE (Governor's Commission on Disabilities, see RIGL 42-51-12(d)

The SILC has the autonomy necessary to fulfill its duties and authorities, including "[working] with CILs to coordinate services with public and private entities, . . . conducting resource development, and performing such other functions . . . as the [SILC] determines to be appropriate

RISILC has the autonomy necessary to fulfill its duties.

In accordance with the Act and State Law, the SILC is responsible to supervise and direct the work of any personnel working for the Council in this capacity, and any such persons employed in this capacity serve at the will of the Council performing those tasks deemed necessary within the scope of the SILC's duties.

Necessary and sufficient resources are provided for the SILC Resource Plan to ensure the SILC has the capacity to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities

The DSE provides no support services to the SILC to fulfill its duties but through payment/ transfer of SILC resource funds as per the MOA with the CIL - as directed by the SILC. This arrangement at present meets the needs of the RISILC in order to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities, however ongoing assessment of capacity and needs is a fluid process.

Section 6: Legal Basis & Certifications

6.1 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

The state entity/agency designated to receive and distribute funding, as directed by the SPIL, under Title VII, Part B of the Act is Rhode Island Governor's Commission of Disabilities.

Authorized representative of the DSE Elisabeth Hubbard. Title: Executive Secretary, Governor's

6.2 - STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) that meets the requirements of section 705 of the Act and is authorized to perform the functions outlined in section 705(c) of the Act in the State is Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council.

6.3 - CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CILS)

The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) eligible to sign the SPIL, a minimum of 51% whom must sign prior to submission, are:

Ocean State Center for Independent Living

6.4.A

The SILC is authorized to submit the SPIL to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living.

Yes

6.4.B

The SILC and CILs may legally carryout each provision of the SPIL.

Yes

6.4.C

State/DSE operation and administration of the program is authorized by the SPIL.

Yes

Section 7: DSE Assurances

DSE ASSURANCES

Elisabeth Hubbard acting on behalf of the DSE Rhode Island Governor's Commission of Disabilities located at:

Street: 2 Cherry Dale Court

City: Cranston

State: Rhode Island

Zip Code: 2920

7.1

The DSE acknowledges its role on behalf of the State, as the fiscal intermediary to receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State to support Independent Living Services in the State based on the plan;

7.2

The DSE will assure that the agency keeps appropriate records, in accordance with federal and state law, and provides access to records by the federal funding agency upon request;

7.3

The DSE will not retain more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for administrative expenses;

7.4

The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in 45 CFR 1329.14;

7.5

The DSE will not interfere with the business or operations of the SILC that include but are not limited to:

1. Expenditure of federal funds
2. Meeting schedules and agendas
3. SILC board business
4. Voting actions of the SILC board
5. Personnel actions
6. Allowable travel
7. Trainings

7.6

The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff:

1. If the SILC informs the DSE that the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff, the DSE assures that management of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC is the sole responsibility of the SILC in accordance with Sec. 705(e)(3) of the Act (Sec. 705(e)(3), 29 U.S.C.796d(e)(3)).

7.7

The DSE will fully cooperate with the SILC in the nomination and appointment process for the SILC in the State;

7.8

The DSE shall make timely and prompt payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs:

1. When the reimbursement method is used, the DSE must make a payment within 30 calendar days after receipt of the billing, unless the agency or pass-through entity reasonably believes the request to be improper;
2. When necessary, the DSE will advance payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs to cover its estimated disbursement needs for an initial period generally geared to the mutually agreed upon disbursing cycle; and
3. The DSE will accept requests for advance payments and reimbursements at least monthly when electronic fund transfers are not used, and as often as necessary when electronic fund transfers are used, in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693-1693r).

DSE SIGNATURE SECTION

Elisabeth Hubbard

Name of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Executive Secretary

Title of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Elisabeth K. Hubbard

Electronic Signature

06/29/2024

Date

I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

Section 8: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance

8.1 - SILC ASSURANCES

Christina Battista acting on behalf of the SILC Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council located at:

Street: 1944 Warwick Avenue

City: Warwick

State: RI

Zip Code: 2889

45 CFR 1329.14 assures that:

1. The SILC regularly (not less than annually) provides the appointing authority recommendations for eligible appointments;
2. The SILC is composed of the requisite members set forth in the Act;
3. The SILC terms of appointment adhere to the Act;
4. The SILC is not established as an entity within a State agency in accordance with 45 CFR Sec. 1329.14(b);
5. The SILC will make the determination of whether it wants to utilize DSE staff to carry out the functions of the SILC;
 - The SILC must inform the DSE if it chooses to utilize DSE staff;
 - The SILC assumes management and responsibility of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC in accordance with the Act.
6. The SILC shall ensure all program activities are accessible to people with disabilities;
7. The State Plan shall provide assurances that the designated State entity, any other agency, office, or entity of the State will not interfere with operations of the SILC, except as provided by law and regulation and;
8. The SILC actively consults with unserved and underserved populations in urban and rural areas that include, indigenous populations as appropriate for State Plan development as described in Sec. 713(b)(7) the Act regarding Authorized Uses of Funds.

8.2 - INDICATORS OF MINIMUM COMPLIANCE

Indicators of minimum compliance for Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILC) as required by the Rehabilitation Act (Section 706(b), 29 U.S.C. Sec 796d-1(b)), as amended and supported by 45 CFR 1329.14-1329.16; and Assurances for Designated State Entities (DSE) as permitted by Section 704(c)(4) of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. Sec. 796c(c)(4)), as amended.

(a) STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL INDICATORS -

1. SILC written policies and procedures must include:
 - a. A method for recruiting members, reviewing applications, and regularly providing recommendations for eligible appointments to the appointing authority;
 - b. A method for identifying and resolving actual or potential disputes and conflicts of interest that are in compliance with State and federal law;
 - c. A process to hold public meetings and meet regularly as prescribed in 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
 - d. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
 - e. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);

- i. "Executive Session" meetings should be rare and only take place to discuss confidential SILC issues such as but not limited to staffing.
 - ii. Agendas for "Executive Session" meetings must be made available to the public, although personal identifiable information regarding SILC staff shall not be included;
 - f. A process and timelines for the public to request reasonable accommodations to participate during a public Council meeting;
 - g. A method for developing, seeking and incorporating public input into, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating implementation of the State Plan as required in 45 CFR 1329.17; and
 - h. A process to verify centers for independent living are eligible to sign the State Plan in compliance with 45 CFR 1329.17(d)(2)(iii).
2. The SILC maintains regular communication with the appointing authority to ensure efficiency and timeliness of the appointment process.
3. The SILC maintains individual training plans for members that adhere to the SILC Training and Technical Assistance Center's SILC training curriculum.
4. The SILC receives public input into the development of the State Plan for Independent Living in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.17(f) ensuring:
 - a. Adequate documentation of the State Plan development process, including but not limited to, a written process setting forth how input will be gathered from the state's centers for independent living and individuals with disabilities throughout the state, and the process for how the information collected is considered.
 - b. All meetings regarding State Plan development and review are open to the public and provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i)-(ii);
 - c. Meetings seeking public input regarding the State Plan provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws, and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i);
 - 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.
 - e. Materials available electronically must be 508 compliant and, upon request, available in alternative and accessible format including other commonly spoken languages.
5. The SILC monitors, reviews and evaluates the State Plan in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(2) ensuring:
 - a. Timely identification of revisions needed due to any material change in State law, state organization, policy or agency operations that affect the administration of the State Plan approved by the Administration for Community Living.
6. The SILC State Plan resource plan includes:
 - a. Sufficient funds received from:
 - i. Title VII, Part B funds;
 - ii. If the resource plan includes Title VII, Part B funds, the State Plan provides justification of the percentage of Part B funds to be used if the percentage exceeds 30 percent of Title VII, Part B funds received by the State;
 - iii. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18), as applicable;
 - iv. Other public and private sources.
 - b. The funds needed to support:
 - i. Staff/personnel;
 - ii. Operating expenses;
 - iii. Council compensation and expenses;

- iv. Meeting expenses including meeting space, alternate formats, interpreters, and other accommodations;
- v. Resources to attend and/or secure training and conferences for staff and council members and;
- vi. Other costs as appropriate.

SILC SIGNATURE SECTION

The signature below indicates the SILC's agreement to comply with the aforementioned assurances and indicators:

Christina Battista
 Name of SILC Chair
 Christina Battista
 Electronic Signature
 07/01/2024
 Date

I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

Section 9: Signatures

SIGNATURES

The signatures below are of the SILC chairperson and at least 51 percent of the directors of the centers for independent living listed in section 6.3. These signatures indicate that the Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council and the centers for independent living in the state agree with and intend to fully implement this SPIL's content. These signatures also indicate that this SPIL is complete and ready for submission to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The effective date of this SPIL is 10/01/2024

SILC SIGNATURE SECTION

Christina Battista Name of SILC Chair Christina Battista Electronic Signature 07/01/2024 Date I understand that this constitutes a legal signature
--

CIL SIGNATURE SECTION

Ocean State Center for Independent Living Name of Center for Independent Living Mireille Sayaf Name of CIL Director Mireille Sayaf Electronic Signature 07/03/2024 Date
--