

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: Delaware

FISCAL YEARS: 2025-2027

Effective Date: 10/01/2024

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number (ON 0985-0044). Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 240 hours per response, including time for gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to receive financial assistance (Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission, goals, and objectives of the Delaware 3-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for 2025-2027 are defined in Section 1 of the State Plan. The mission of the Delaware Independent Living (IL) System during this SPIL period is to ignite a future where ALL Delawareans with disabilities can thrive. We offer tools to help empower individuals to be architects of their own lives - through consumer control, peer support, and unwavering advocacy for equal access. Together, we break down barriers and champion solutions that foster independent living, dignity, and full inclusion. This plan was developed with extensive input from Delaware's disability community. We listened through online surveys, in-person meetings, emails, and phone calls. We also incorporated the insights of the two Centers for Independent Living (CILs) serving the entire state, the Delaware Network of Centers for Independent Living, and the Delaware agencies involved (DE SILC and DSE). The plan focuses on achievable goals: empowering people with disabilities to live independently, in their chosen communities and settings, and with control over their own lives. We've outlined specific objectives and activities to help achieve these goals.

The IL Network currently includes the following partners: 2 Centers for Independent Living (CILs) as outlined in Section 3 - Existing Network, Delaware State Independent Living Council (SILC) as outlined in Section 5 - and Delaware Department of Labor - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as outlined in Section 4 - Designated State Entity (DSE).

The SPIL contains the following five goals to achieve progress toward the mission:

- IL Network - Support and enhance a well-coordinated Delaware Independent Living Network, for those with disabilities, and their families, in the state, through the provision of the 5 core services with a focus on collaboration and advocacy.
- Community Integration - Foster inclusive communities by expanding and enhancing existing infrastructure that promotes accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
- Healthcare - Enhance the capacity of individuals with disabilities to participate in their health and well-being actively.
- Emergency Management - Enhance the preparedness and response for individuals with disabilities during emergencies and disasters.
- Housing - Advocate for people with disabilities to have access to safe, affordable, accessible housing that meets their individual needs and preferences, and fosters independence and integration within their communities.

Each goal has specific objectives with clear ways to measure progress and impact. This means we can track how well we're achieving our goals. We'll use a consistent set of measurements to assess the impact of each objective on the overall areas we aim to improve. When the evaluation mentions PPRs, it refers to the data tables in the annual Program Performance Reports, specifically those related to Individual Services and Community Activities. The financial aspects of the SPIL are explained in Section 1.5, define amounts by source, and are listed in the economic table for the SPIL period.

The SILC plan development process included 5 public forum meetings, surveys, and solicitation of written comments. The participants were asked to provide input identifying priority issues, action items to overcome independent living barriers, and any additional thoughts that the SILC should consider in the plan. The SILC's evaluation plan was identified in Section 1.4 to assess the progress toward the goals within the SPIL. The section describes using a SILC SPIL GPS Committee - Evaluation Work Group. In addition to the GPS Committee's work group the SILC annually reviews the Program Performance Reports, consumer satisfaction survey results, and state needs assessment data.

The scope of services the IL Network provides through this SPIL is identified in Section 2. The appropriate services are checked in the updated table 2.1A Independent Living Services, indicating the funding type "Provided using Part B" or "Provided using other funds" and who the services are "provided by."

Outreach related to underserved and unserved populations or groups, including minority groups in both rural and urban populations, is identified in Section 2.2. Definitions of unserved/underserved are provided.

IL Network partner coordination and collaboration plans are described in Section 2.3. Through collaborations, Delaware's IL Network can maximize working relationships and further accomplish the goals and objectives of the SPIL.

The network of Delaware Centers for Independent Living is identified in Section 3. The existing network, Section 3.1, identifies them by name, geographic area/counties served, and funding sources. Expansion and adjustment to the network are explained in Section 3.2. for Part B, Part C, and State general funds.

Table 3.2A - The funding Distribution Table contained in Section 3.2 identifies target adequate funding levels, percent of total funds for the area served, and the overall population of people with disabilities within the service area. This section outlines a strategy for adjusting the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) network based on future funding availability. It considers expansion possibilities with increased funding and network modifications in case of funding reductions. Section 4 represents the Designated State Entity's (DSE's) response to their administrative responsibilities related to the SPIL, names the DSE, and details its responsibilities, contract processes, and processes for oversight of independent living funds.

Section five describes the SILC. These details include the establishment and standing of the Council, its sources of funding, staffing levels, the process for appointment of Council members, the process for filling unexpected vacancies, term limits, the process for appointment of officers, and how the SILC will continue to be maintained throughout the SPIL 3-year cycle.

Section 6 provides legal certifications for the identified entities involved with authorities and responsibilities for the SPIL.

Section 7 identifies the DSE assurances and articulates the administrative role and responsibilities of the DSE.

Section 8 provides the SILC Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance, detailing the functions, authorities, and requirements for operating as a SILC.

Section 9 contains the signatures of the SILC Chairperson and at least 51% of the Centers for Independent Living directors listed in Section 6.3. These signatures indicate that the Delaware Statewide Independent Living Council and the Centers for Independent Living agree with and intend to implement the SPIL's content fully. The SPIL is complete and ready for submission to the Administration for Community Living.

Section 1: Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Activities

1.1 - MISSION

Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL

The Delaware Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) ignites a future where ALL Delawareans with disabilities can thrive. We offer tools to help empower individuals to be architects of their own lives - through consumer control, peer support, and unwavering advocacy for equal access. Together, we break down barriers and champion solutions that foster independent living, dignity, and full inclusion.

1.2 - GOALS

Goals of the SPIL

Goal #1: IL Network - Support and enhance a well-coordinated Delaware Independent Living Network, for those with disabilities, and their families, in the state, through the provision of the 5 core services with a focus on collaboration and advocacy.

Goal #2: Community Integration - Foster inclusive communities through the expansion and enhancement of existing infrastructure that promotes accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Goal #3: Healthcare - Enhance the capacity of individuals with disabilities to actively participate in their health and well-being.

Goal #4: Emergency Management - Enhance the preparedness and response for individuals with disabilities during emergencies and disasters.

Goal #5: Housing - Advocate for people with disabilities to have access to safe, affordable, accessible housing that meets their individual needs and preferences, and fosters independence and integration within their communities.

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: IL Network - Support and enhance a well-coordinated Delaware Independent Living Network, for those with disabilities, and their families, in the state, through the provision of the 5 core services with a focus on collaboration and advocacy.

Objective #1.1: Strengthen the Delaware Independent Living (IL) Network as a centralized hub, fostering collaboration and efficiency among existing resources to empower individuals with disabilities and their families.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.1.1: Increased utilization and satisfaction with the IL Network as a centralized hub for resources.

Indicator #1.1.2: PPR data will show at least 100 hours spent over the SPIL period reflecting collaboration and increased efficiency of existing resources.

Indicator #1.1.3: Identified political champion(s).

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #1.2: Increase the number of active partner organizations that serve individuals with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.2.1: Number of new organizations registered.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #1.3: Identify key stakeholders.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.3.1: The number of stakeholders identified.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #1.4: Explore potential new funding opportunities and resources.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.4.1: The number of new funding opportunities identified.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #2: Community Integration - Foster inclusive communities through the expansion and enhancement of existing infrastructure that promotes accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
Objective #2.1: Promote community inclusion.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.1.1: Presence of diverse voices in community decision-making processes.

Indicator #2.1.2: Number of new memberships in community organizations.

Indicator #2.1.3: Number of community spaces offering inclusive features.

Indicator #2.1.4: Documentation of participation in advocacy activities completed around policies and legislation that promote equal access and participation for individuals with disabilities in all aspects of community life.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #2.2: Research and advocate for the improvement of existing transportation options and explore and advocate for alternative transportation options for individuals with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.2.1: Identify best practices from other states.

Indicator #2.2.2: Documentation of participation in advocacy activities completed around advisory committees and/or councils.

Indicator #2.2.3: Documentation of participation in advocacy activities completed around a reduction in wait times for existing transportation methods.

Indicator #2.2.4: Documentation of participation in advocacy activities completed around increased availability of real-time information on accessibility features.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #2.3: Expand existing accessibility programs.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.3.1: PPR data will show at least 100 hours spent over the SPIL period on community activities to address expansion advocacy.

Indicator #2.3.2: Geographic expansion of programs.

Indicator #2.3.3: Increased awareness and utilization of existing programs.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #2.4: Foster collaboration and communication in the IL Network.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.4.1: Support community advisory committees with representatives from disability rights organizations, service providers, and individuals with disabilities.

Indicator #2.4.2: Facilitate regular communication and collaboration between stakeholders to identify and address ongoing accessibility challenges.

Indicator #2.4.3: PPR data will show at least 50 hours spent over the SPIL period on collaboration and communication relating to IL Network collaboration efforts.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #3: Healthcare - Enhance the capacity of individuals with disabilities to actively participate in their health and well-being.

Objective #3.1: Advocate for increased leadership and ownership for those with disabilities as it relates to their healthcare.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.1.1: Increased awareness and utilization of resources.

Indicator #3.1.2: Increase in reach of program awareness for those with disabilities and their families as it relates to healthcare.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #3.2: Increase accessibility by advocating and educating about physical, attitudinal, and systemic barriers that hinder access to quality healthcare.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.2.1: Documentation of participation in advocacy activities completed around advisory committees and/or councils.

Indicator #3.2.2: Increased availability and utilization of home and community-based services (HCBS) leading to fewer unnecessary placements in acute care or long-term care facilities.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #3.3: Partner with community organizations to increase the availability of home and community-based services.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.3.1: Increased availability and utilization of home and community-based services (HCBS) leading to fewer unnecessary placements in acute care or long-term care facilities.

Indicator #3.3.2: Successful development or sharing of existing decision-making tools and support systems.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #3.4: Advocating for individuals with disabilities to live independently in their chosen communities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.4.1: Documentation of participation in advocacy activities relating to increased availability of HCBS for individuals who want to remain in their homes or community settings.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #4: Emergency Management - Enhance the preparedness and response for individuals with disabilities during emergencies and disasters.

Objective #4.1: Advocate for equitable preparedness.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.1.1: Documentation of participation in advocacy activities relating to increased representation.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #4.2: Provide emergency responders with training on best practices for assisting individuals with disabilities during emergencies.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.2.1: Identify best practices from other states.

Indicator #4.2.2: Established training materials.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #4.3: Advocate for, and promote existing, accessible communication plans utilizing various formats (e.g., sign language interpretation, Braille, audio recordings) to ensure everyone receives critical information during emergencies.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.3.1: Documentation of participation in advocacy activities relating to improved communication and resource allocation.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #4.4: Advocate for improved and inclusive evacuation planning.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.4.1: Increased awareness around the importance of organizations with accessible communication plans in place.

Indicator #4.4.2: Collaborate with established emergency response shelters/agencies to ensure accessibility.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #4.5: Work to develop accessible shelters and modify existing shelters to accommodate those with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.5.1: Documentation of participation in advocacy activities related to compliance with accessibility guidelines.

Indicator #4.5.2: Increase in number of staff trained on disability awareness and inclusion.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #5: Housing - Advocate for people with disabilities to have access to safe, affordable, accessible housing that meets their individual needs and preferences, and fosters independence and integration within their communities.

Objective #5.1: Increase awareness and understanding of accessibility in built environments.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.1.1: Documentation of advocacy activities related to compliance with accessibility guidelines.

Indicator #5.1.2: Documentation of advocacy activities completed around advisory committees and/or councils.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #5.2: Explore potential new funding opportunities and resources.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.2.1: Number of new funding opportunities identified.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #5.3: Advocate for improved, accessible, and inclusive housing options.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.3.1: Documentation of advocacy activities completed around advisory committees and/or councils.

Indicator #5.3.2: Identified political champion(s).

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

1.4 - EVALUATION

Methods and processes the SILC will use to evaluate the effectiveness of the SPIL including timelines and evaluation of satisfaction of individuals with disabilities.

As referenced in Section 1.3 above, the SPIL GPS Committee workgroup has developed evaluation measures for each objective included within the SPIL, to evaluate progress towards the goals. Annually, the SILC reviews the PPR reports from the 2 CILs in Delaware and other data identified for the evaluation measures to analyze trends, funding, services, and other demographics within the state.

In addition to the individual objective evaluation measures, barriers to implementation are also evaluated annually - specifically, resources needed to accomplish the goals and objectives outlined in the plan, such as:

- Management and planning
- Funding
- Staffing/personnel issues unrelated to funding
- Partner or consumer participation

1.4 - EVALUATION

Goal #1: IL Network - Support and enhance a well-coordinated Delaware Independent Living Network, for those with disabilities, and their families, in the state, through the provision of the 5 core services with a focus on collaboration and advocacy.

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
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10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Strengthen the Delaware Independent Living (IL) Network as a centralized hub, fostering collaboration and efficiency among existing resources to empower individuals with disabilities and their families.	<p>1. Network & Resource Inventory:</p> <p>Organizations: Name, contact information, website, service areas (e.g., independent living skills training, transportation assistance, peer support groups), target population (e.g., specific disabilities served, age range)</p>	<p>Quantitative Methods:</p> <p>Online Surveys: Develop surveys for both IL organizations and individuals with disabilities/families to gather information on resources, needs, and preferences.</p> <p>Database Development: Create a central database to house all collected i</p>	SILC
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Increase the number of active partner organizations that serve individuals with disabilities.	<p>1. Network & Resource Inventory:</p> <p>Organizations: Name, contact information, website, service areas (e.g., independent living skills training, transportation assistance, peer support groups), target population (e.g., specific disabilities served, age range)</p>	<p>Quantitative Methods:</p> <p>Online Surveys: Develop surveys for both IL organizations and individuals with disabilities/families to gather information on resources, needs, and preferences.</p> <p>Database Development: Create a central database to house all collected i</p>	SILC
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Identify key stakeholders.	<p>1. Network & Resource Inventory:</p> <p>Organizations: Name, contact information, website, service areas (e.g., independent living skills training, transportation assistance, peer support groups), target population (e.g., specific disabilities served, age range)</p>	<p>Quantitative Methods:</p> <p>Online Surveys: Develop surveys for both IL organizations and individuals with disabilities/families to gather information on resources, needs, and preferences.</p> <p>Database Development: Create a central database to house all collected i</p>	CIL, DSE, SILC

10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Explore potential new funding opportunities and resources.	<p>1. Existing Funding Landscape:</p> <p>Current Funding Sources: Identify all current funding sources for the Delaware Independent Living Network (e.g., federal grants, state allocations, private donations, fundraising events).</p> <p>Funding Amounts: Track the amount of</p>	<p>Data Collection Methods:</p> <p>Internal Review: Review existing financial records and strategic plans of the Delaware Independent Living Network.</p> <p>Grant Research: Utilize online databases like Grants.gov or GrantStation to explore relevant federal grant programs.</p>	CIL, DSE, SILC
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Goal #2: Community Integration - Foster inclusive communities through the expansion and enhancement of existing infrastructure that promotes accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Promote community inclusion.	<p>1. Existing Inclusion Efforts:</p> <p>Current Programs & Initiatives: Identify existing programs and initiatives within the community that aim to promote inclusion for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Target Populations: Who do these programs serve (e.g., specific disa</p>	<p>Community Surveys: Conduct surveys of community members, including people with disabilities, to gather information on perceptions of inclusion, barriers encountered, and preferred solutions.</p> <p>Focus Groups: Organize focus groups with people with disabilities</p>	CIL, DSE, SILC
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Research and advocate for the improvement of existing transportation options and explore and advocate for alternative transportation options for individuals with disabilities.	<p>1. Existing Transportation Options:</p> <p>Public Transit: Analyze the accessibility of existing public transportation options (buses, trains) for people with disabilities. Consider factors like availability of lifts, designated seating, real-time arrival inform</p>	<p>Surveys: Conduct surveys of people with disabilities to understand their travel needs, challenges with existing options, and interest in alternative transportation solutions.</p> <p>Focus Groups: Organize focus groups with people with disabilities and representat</p>	CIL, SILC

10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Expand existing accessibility programs.	<p>1. Existing Inclusion Efforts:</p> <p>Current Programs & Initiatives: Identify existing programs and initiatives within the community that aim to promote inclusion for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Target Populations: Who do these programs serve (e.g., specific disa</p>	<p>Community Surveys: Conduct surveys of community members, including people with disabilities, to gather information on perceptions of inclusion, barriers encountered, and preferred solutions.</p> <p>Focus Groups: Organize focus groups with people with disabilities</p>	CIL, DSE, SILC
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Foster collaboration and communication in the IL Network.	<p>1. Existing Inclusion Efforts:</p> <p>Current Programs & Initiatives: Identify existing programs and initiatives within the community that aim to promote inclusion for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Target Populations: Who do these programs serve (e.g., specific disa</p>	<p>Community Surveys: Conduct surveys of community members, including people with disabilities, to gather information on perceptions of inclusion, barriers encountered, and preferred solutions.</p> <p>Focus Groups: Organize focus groups with people with disabilities</p>	CIL, DSE, SILC

Goal #3: Healthcare - Enhance the capacity of individuals with disabilities to actively participate in their health and well-being.

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Advocate for increased leadership and ownership for those with disabilities as it relates to their healthcare.	<p>- Increased awareness and utilization of resources: More individuals with disabilities and the aging population are aware of their options and actively participate in decision-making during transitions of care.</p> <p>- Shift in service delivery: Increased availa</p>	<p>- Increased awareness: Healthcare providers gain a deeper understanding of the specific needs and concerns of individuals with disabilities and the aging population during emergencies.</p> <p>- Improved planning and response: Long-term, post-acute, behavioral hea</p>	CIL, SILC

10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Increase accessibility by advocating and educating about physical, attitudinal, and systemic barriers that hinder access to quality healthcare.	- Increased awareness and utilization of resources: More individuals with disabilities and the aging population are aware of their options and actively participate in decision-making during transitions of care. - Shift in service delivery: Increased availability	- Increased awareness: Healthcare providers gain a deeper understanding of the specific needs and concerns of individuals with disabilities and the aging population during emergencies. - Improved planning and response: Long-term, post-acute, behavioral health	CIL, SILC
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Partner with community organizations to increase the availability of home and community-based services.	- Increased awareness and utilization of resources: More individuals with disabilities and the aging population are aware of their options and actively participate in decision-making during transitions of care. - Shift in service delivery: Increased availability	- Increased awareness: Healthcare providers gain a deeper understanding of the specific needs and concerns of individuals with disabilities and the aging population during emergencies. - Improved planning and response: Long-term, post-acute, behavioral health	CIL, DSE, SILC
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Advocating for individuals with disabilities to live independently in their chosen communities.	- Increased awareness and utilization of resources: More individuals with disabilities and the aging population are aware of their options and actively participate in decision-making during transitions of care. - Shift in service delivery: Increased availability	- Increased awareness: Healthcare providers gain a deeper understanding of the specific needs and concerns of individuals with disabilities and the aging population during emergencies. - Improved planning and response: Long-term, post-acute, behavioral health	CIL, DSE, SILC

Goal #4: Emergency Management - Enhance the preparedness and response for individuals with disabilities during emergencies and disasters.

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
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10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Advocate for equitable preparedness.	<p>- Increased representation: Individuals with disabilities and the aging population have their specific needs and vulnerabilities incorporated into Delaware's emergency and disaster preparedness plans.</p> <p>- COVID-19/infectious disease planning: Enhanced prepar</p>	<p>* Number of people who can identify accessible communication plan formats (e.g., sign language, Braille): Tracks public awareness of the different formats available.</p> <p>* Pre- and post-advocacy surveys on knowledge of accessible communication plans: Measures</p>	CIL, DSE, SILC
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Provide emergency responders with training on best practices for assisting individuals with disabilities during emergencies.			CIL, SILC
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Advocate for, and promote existing, accessible communication plans utilizing various formats (e.g., sign language interpretation, Braille, audio recordings) to ensure everyone receives critical information during emergencies.	<p>- Increased representation: Individuals with disabilities and the aging population have their specific needs and vulnerabilities incorporated into Delaware's emergency and disaster preparedness plans.</p> <p>- COVID-19/infectious disease planning: Enhanced prepar</p>	<p>* Number of people who can identify accessible communication plan formats (e.g., sign language, Braille): Tracks public awareness of the different formats available.</p> <p>* Pre- and post-advocacy surveys on knowledge of accessible communication plans: Measures</p>	CIL, DSE, SILC
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Advocate for improved and inclusive evacuation planning.	<p>- Increased representation: Individuals with disabilities and the aging population have their specific needs and vulnerabilities incorporated into Delaware's emergency and disaster preparedness plans.</p> <p>- COVID-19/infectious disease planning: Enhanced prepar</p>	<p>* Number of people who can identify accessible communication plan formats (e.g., sign language, Braille): Tracks public awareness of the different formats available.</p> <p>* Pre- and post-advocacy surveys on knowledge of accessible communication plans: Measures</p>	CIL, DSE, SILC

10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Work to develop accessible shelters and modify existing shelters to accommodate those with disabilities.	<p>* Number of individuals with disabilities utilizing accessible shelters during emergencies: Tracks the real-world use of accessible shelters by the target population.</p> <p>* Feedback from shelter users with disabilities: Provides qualitative insights into their</p>	<p>* Compliance with accessibility guidelines (e.g., ADA Standards): Evaluates if modifications adhere to established accessibility regulations.</p> <p>* Number and variety of accessible features implemented (e.g., ramps, wider doorways, lowered counters): Tracks th</p>	CIL, SILC
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Goal #5: Housing - Advocate for people with disabilities to have access to safe, affordable, accessible housing that meets their individual needs and preferences, and fosters independence and integration within their communities.

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Increase awareness and understanding of accessibility in built environments.	<p>1. Current Awareness Levels:</p> <p>Public Surveys: Conduct surveys of the general public to gauge their awareness of accessibility standards and common barriers faced by people with disabilities in built environments (e.g., buildings, sidewalks, public spaces).</p>	<p>Online Surveys & Questionnaires: Develop online surveys or questionnaires to gather information on public awareness levels and accessibility challenges.</p> <p>Accessibility Audits: Utilize standardized accessibility checklists or partner with accessibility exper</p>	CIL, SILC

10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Explore potential new funding opportunities and resources.	1. Existing Funding Landscape: Current Funding Sources: Identify all current funding sources for the Delaware Independent Living Network (e.g., federal grants, state allocations, private donations, fundraising events). Funding Amounts: Track the amount of	Data Collection Methods: Internal Review: Review existing financial records and strategic plans of the Delaware Independent Living Network. Grant Research: Utilize online databases like Grants.gov or GrantStation to explore relevant federal grant programs.	CIL, DSE, SILC
10/01/2024-09/30/2027	Advocate for improved, accessible, and inclusive housing options.	Public Education Campaigns: Develop and launch public education campaigns through various channels (e.g., social media, public service announcements, community events) to raise awareness about accessibility standards and the importance of inclusive design.	Online Surveys & Questionnaires: Develop online surveys or questionnaires to gather information on public awareness levels and accessibility challenges. Accessibility Audits: Utilize standardized accessibility checklists or partner with accessibility exper	CIL, DSE, SILC

1.5 - PART I: FINANCIAL PLAN

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.

Fiscal Year(s): 2025 - 2027

October 1, 2024 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	\$104418	\$226239	\$0	\$0	\$17403	\$348060
Chapter 1, Part C	\$0	\$0	\$1003832	\$0		\$1003832
						\$1351892
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	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
						\$0
Non-Federal Funds						
Part B State Match	\$0	\$34806	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$34806
Other State Match for Funds in SPIL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
						\$34806
TOTAL	\$104418	\$261045	\$1003832	\$0	\$17403	\$1386698

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 SILC resource plan will be funded with Part B funds. Most Part B resources will be used for direct services to consumers for \$ 348,060 over the three, one-year periods.

The IL Network has allocated \$226,239 for the next three years to support overall infrastructure as well as direct services to address the realization of SPIL goals through subcontracts with other community providers/vendors

Delaware will continue to review studies, and analyses, and update existing policies and procedures. The Delaware DSE will demonstrate ways to expand and improve IL services and present findings and recommendations to Federal, State, and local policymakers to enhance IL services.

The SILC has not received any Innovation and Expansion (I&E) Funds for the current or previous funding cycles. We will be actively pursuing the allocation of I&E Funds. This may involve:

- Communication: We will contact the designated agency responsible for distributing I&E Funds to understand the allocation timeline and any specific requirements for receiving them.
- Application Process: If an application process exists, we will ensure a complete and timely submission to maximize our chances of receiving I&E Funds.
- Advocacy: We may consider advocacy efforts to highlight the importance of I&E Funds for the SILC's work and its impact on the Independent Living (IL) community we serve.

Background:

People with disabilities in Delaware are driving efforts to expand their control over the services they receive.

Program Structure:

- The Division of Vocational Rehab (DSE) will award multi-year contracts to disability-focused organizations.
- To be eligible for continued funding each year, organizations must successfully deliver Independent Living (IL) Core Services as outlined in the contract.
- The program will focus on peer support and skills training to promote independent living for individuals with disabilities.

Funding:

- The DSE will allocate funding annually for this program over the SPIL three-year period based

on state match and funding availability.

Monitoring and Reporting:

- The DSE will monitor the activities of the contracted organizations and provide them with feedback.
- Organizations will submit reports on their activities at scheduled meetings of the State Independent Living Council (SILC).

Collaboration and Coverage:

- The DSE will work with the SILC to distribute and manage funding.
- Contracted organizations will collaborate to ensure service coverage across various geographic areas and address the needs of a wide range of disabilities.

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?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

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?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

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?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

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?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

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?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

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?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

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?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

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?	No
Provided By	CIL

Rehabilitation technology

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

Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader 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

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 (DELDOT, DART and other state agencies)

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?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

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?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation and training in the use of public transportation vehicles and systems

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

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?	Yes
Provided By	DSE

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

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 DSE

Services for children

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

Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with disabilities for similar services in the future

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

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 DSE

2.1 - OPTIONAL MAP ATTACHMENT

Uploaded Document Name:

2.2 - OUTREACH TO UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

To ensure all voices are heard, the SILC will actively seek board members who represent underserved communities, including minority groups and individuals from both urban and rural areas.

Unserved

Due to the lack of funds to support the Independent Living Network in Delaware, each of the three counties are unable to access Core Services for all individuals with significant disabilities. For this reason, we have determined all three counties to be unserved at the start of this Plan.

In unserved populations, outreach by the SILC will consist of conducting assessments to support the identification of needs for IL services in these areas, to identify statewide advocacy issues for guiding SPIL activities and to recruit SILC members.

The CILs will continue to engage in outreach to provide specific services in unserved areas, through contracts/fee-for-service agreements as they are developed.

Outreach will be done through collaboration with established community organizations and programs, including those of minority and ethnic populations within rural and urban areas.

Underserved

Due to inadequate funding, underserved populations exist within all funded service areas, including minority and ethnic populations in both urban, suburban, and rural settings.

Through the SPIL, outreach to underserved populations will be performed through the collaboration of the SILC and CILs.

In addition, CILs will develop their own targeted outreach plans for their underserved populations.

2.3 - COORDINATION

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

The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) houses several state agencies, including the Division of Public Health (DPH), Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH), Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS), and Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD). These divisions, along with seven others, work collaboratively to provide a comprehensive health and social services network for our state. Regular meetings between the administrations of all 12 divisions facilitate information and resource sharing. Relevant topics from these meetings are then shared with the State Independent Living Council (SILC).

Furthermore, the SILC actively partners with various public health programs to raise awareness and ensure accessibility to critical care areas like diabetes management, vaccinations, and emergency preparedness.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) offers Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) programs specifically designed to support transitioning students. These programs also partner with special education programs to provide comprehensive support. Internally, VR identifies cases that fall outside the scope of employment or education and refers them to the IL program for services or cost-sharing opportunities.

SILC meetings foster informed collaboration as members regularly share updates on activities of other organizations relevant to independent living, through participation on various boards, councils, and committees, SILC representatives provide input and advocate for the needs of the independent living community. This two-way exchange keeps the SILC well-informed and connected to the broader landscape of independent living services.

Regularly scheduled meetings of the IL System partners provide opportunities for communication

and coordination of services and activities. Through a collaborative approach, we increase the effectiveness of local services, promote inclusion, and minimize the duplication of services. A variety of SPIL objectives are designed to improve collaboration, including:

- CILs, the SILC, and partners come together to increase resources to better meet the needs of IL consumers.
- Consumers' access to health care, transportation, and housing is improved through IL Network participation in partnerships and coalitions.
- Working together to develop a tool for educating community partners about IL culture and service philosophy.
- Engaging in local and statewide systems advocacy to address issues impacting consumer needs. During the SPIL period, the IL Network intends to engage and collaborate with "non-IL" entities including, but not limited to:
 - Department of Education
 - Brain Injury Association of Delaware
 - Delaware's Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities
 - Adult Protective Services
 - Senior Medicare Patrol
 - Committees on Accessible Transportation
 - Department of Transportation and Transportation Committees
 - Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Service Organizations
 - Emergency Management Advisory Committee(s) or Planning Committees
 - Community Legal Aid Society
 - University of Delaware's Center for Disabilities Studies
 - Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
 - Delaware Hispanic Chamber
 - Consumer Advisory Council
 - Delaware's Department of Public Health
 - Delaware's Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
 - Autism Delaware
 - Milford Wellness Village
 - Social Security Administration
 - CAMP Rehoboth
 - Sussex Pride
 - Housing Alliance Delaware
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Developmental Disabilities Council
 - SCORE Delaware
 - La Red Health Center
 - La Esperanza
 - Neighbor Good Partners
 - First State Community Action Agency
 - Children & Families First
 - Seaford Community of Hope
 - United States Citizenship and Immigration Services entities

The SILC continues to work closely with the University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies and with their UDiscover program fostering a foundation for long-standing collaboration and combined effort within the disability community.

The SILC continues to work closely with the Community Legal Aid Society, Inc., Disabilities Law Program where many clients with mental health disabilities could use independent living supports, but who may not necessarily be aware of the CILs as a resource.

Collaboration strengthens relationships within Delaware's IL Network, driving progress toward SPIL

goals.

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

Independent Resources, Inc.

Counties Served: Kent, New Castle, Sussex

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: ACL: Oversight is done through annual reports such as the PPR for both parts B and C funds and the CARES Act funds. SILC: Through the SPIL, the SILC and DSE via regular meetings, evaluate and monitor the obligations and commitments of the CIL throughout the year.

State of Delaware: Oversight is accomplished through annual financial audits to ensure that the funds are being spent on allowable expenditures. Other Grantors: Other grantors include local

government grants such as Sussex County whose oversight is done through either quarterly and/or annual reports. The federally funded Network of Centers is geographically dispersed throughout the State and addresses both urban and rural needs, as well as specific underserved populations. All

Title VII, Part C funds continue to support only consumer-controlled organizations. Working together, Centers establish contractual or vendor relationships with other State agencies,

organizations serving individuals with disabilities, and the private sector, to promote standards established within the Rehabilitation Act as amended. The Network of Centers receives both Part C funding and Title VII Part B funds through contract as well as other public and or private funding

sources. The federally funded Network of Centers is geographically dispersed throughout the State and addresses both urban and rural needs, as well as specific underserved populations. All Title VII, Part C funds continue to support only consumer-controlled organizations. Working together, Centers

establish contractual or vendor relationships with other State agencies, organizations serving individuals with disabilities, and the private sector, to promote standards established within the

Rehabilitation Act as amended. The Network of Centers receives both Part C funding and Title VII Part B funds through contract as well as other public and or private funding sources.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: ACL: Oversight is done through annual reports such as the PPR for both parts B and C funds and the CARES Act funds. SILC: Through the SPIL, the SILC and DSE via regular meetings, evaluate and monitor the obligations and commitments of the CIL throughout the year.

State of Delaware: Oversight is accomplished through annual financial audits to ensure that the funds are being spent on allowable expenditures. Other Grantors: Other grantors include local

government grants such as Sussex County whose oversight is done through either quarterly and/or annual reports. The federally funded Network of Centers is geographically dispersed throughout the State and addresses both urban and rural needs, as well as specific underserved populations. All

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Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: ACL: Oversight is done through annual reports such as the PPR for both parts B and C funds and the CARES Act funds. SILC: Through the SPIL, the SILC and DSE via regular meetings, evaluate and monitor the obligations and commitments of the CIL throughout the year.

State of Delaware: Oversight is accomplished through annual financial audits to ensure that the funds are being spent on allowable expenditures. Other Grantors: Other grantors include local

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State Funds

Oversight Process: ACL: Oversight is done through annual reports such as the PPR for both parts B and C funds and the CARES Act funds. SILC: Through the SPIL, the SILC and DSE via regular meetings, evaluate and monitor the obligations and commitments of the CIL throughout the year.

State of Delaware: Oversight is accomplished through annual financial audits to ensure that the funds are being spent on allowable expenditures. Other Grantors: Other grantors include local

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Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Kent (Full Services)
New Castle (Full Services)
Sussex (Full Services)

The Freedom Center for Independent Living

Counties Served: New Castle

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: ACL: Oversight is done through annual reports such as the PPR for both parts B and C funds and the CARES Act funds. SILC: Through the SPIL, the SILC and DSE via regular meetings, evaluate and monitor the obligations and commitments of the CIL throughout the year. State of Delaware: Oversight is accomplished through annual financial audits to ensure that the funds are being spent on allowable expenditures. Other Grantors: Other grantors include local government grants such as Sussex County whose oversight is done through either quarterly and/or annual reports. The federally funded Network of Centers is geographically dispersed throughout the State and addresses both urban and rural needs, as well as specific underserved populations. All Title VII, Part C funds continue to support only consumer-controlled organizations. Working together, Centers establish contractual or vendor relationships with other State agencies, organizations serving individuals with disabilities, and the private sector, to promote standards established within the Rehabilitation Act as amended. The Network of Centers receives both Part C funding and Title VII Part B funds through contract as well as other public and or private funding sources.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: ACL: Oversight is done through annual reports such as the PPR for both parts B and C funds and the CARES Act funds. SILC: Through the SPIL, the SILC and DSE via regular meetings, evaluate and monitor the obligations and commitments of the CIL throughout the year. State of Delaware: Oversight is accomplished through annual financial audits to ensure that the funds are being spent on allowable expenditures. Other Grantors: Other grantors include local government grants such as Sussex County whose oversight is done through either quarterly and/or annual reports. The federally funded Network of Centers is geographically dispersed throughout the State and addresses both urban and rural needs, as well as specific underserved populations. All Title VII, Part C funds continue to support only consumer-controlled organizations. Working together, Centers establish contractual or vendor relationships with other State agencies, organizations serving individuals with disabilities, and the private sector, to promote standards established within the Rehabilitation Act as amended. The Network of Centers receives both Part C funding and Title VII Part B funds through contract as well as other public and or private funding sources.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: ACL: Oversight is done through annual reports such as the PPR for both parts B and C funds and the CARES Act funds. SILC: Through the SPIL, the SILC and DSE via regular meetings, evaluate and monitor the obligations and commitments of the CIL throughout the year. State of Delaware: Oversight is accomplished through annual financial audits to ensure that the funds are being spent on allowable expenditures. Other Grantors: Other grantors include local government grants such as Sussex County whose oversight is done through either quarterly and/or annual reports. The federally funded Network of Centers is geographically dispersed throughout the State and addresses both urban and rural needs, as well as specific underserved populations. All Title VII, Part C funds continue to support only consumer-controlled organizations. Working together, Centers establish contractual or vendor relationships with other State agencies, organizations serving individuals with disabilities, and the private sector, to promote standards established within the Rehabilitation Act as amended. The Network of Centers receives both Part C funding and Title VII Part B funds through contract as well as other public and or private funding

sources.

State Funds

Oversight Process: ACL: Oversight is done through annual reports such as the PPR for both parts B and C funds and the CARES Act funds. SILC: Through the SPIL, the SILC and DSE via regular meetings, evaluate and monitor the obligations and commitments of the CIL throughout the year. State of Delaware: Oversight is accomplished through annual financial audits to ensure that the funds are being spent on allowable expenditures. Other Grantors: Other grantors include local government grants such as Sussex County whose oversight is done through either quarterly and/or annual reports. The federally funded Network of Centers is geographically dispersed throughout the State and addresses both urban and rural needs, as well as specific underserved populations. All Title VII, Part C funds continue to support only consumer-controlled organizations. Working together, Centers establish contractual or vendor relationships with other State agencies, organizations serving individuals with disabilities, and the private sector, to promote standards established within the Rehabilitation Act as amended. The Network of Centers receives both Part C funding and Title VII Part B funds through contract as well as other public and or private funding sources.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

New Castle (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.

The State currently has two (2) Title VII, Part C federally funded CILs. This network of CILs serves all three of Delaware's counties (i.e., New Castle, Kent, and Sussex) and are both signatories of the SPIL.

- Independent Resources Inc.:

- Location 1: 6 Denny Road, Suite 101, Wilmington, DE 19809: Serves N. New Castle County

- Location 2: 154 S. Governors Avenue, Dover, DE 19901: Serves Kent County

- Location 3: 1609A Middleford Road, Seaford, DE 19973: Serves Sussex County

- Source of Funding: Part C Funds; State Grant-in-Aid; Part B Funds for peer programming; CARES Act funds and other grants.

- Oversight Entity: ACL; SILC; DSE; State of Delaware; and other Grantors.

- Oversight Process:

- ACL: Oversight is done through annual reports such as the PPR for both parts B and C funds and the CARES Act funds.
- SILC: Through the SPIL, the SILC, and DSE via regular meetings, evaluate and monitor the obligations and commitments of the CIL throughout the year.
- State of Delaware: Oversight is accomplished through annual financial audits to ensure that the funds are being spent on allowable expenditures.
- Other Grantors: Other grantors include local government grants such as Sussex County whose oversight is done through either a quarterly and/or annual report.

2. Freedom Center for Independent Living, Inc.

- Location: 105 Sleepy Hollow Drive, #A, Middletown, DE 19709: Serves the City of Newark & Southern New Castle County

- Source of Funding: Part C Funds; Part B Funds, and CARES Act funds. Oversight Entity: ACL;

SILC; Other funders.

Oversight Process:

- ACL: Oversight is done through annual reports such as the PPR for both parts B and C funds and the CARES Act funds.
- SILC: Through the SPIL, the SILC and DSE via regular meetings, evaluate and monitor the obligations and commitments of the CIL throughout the year.
- State of Delaware: Oversight is accomplished through annual financial audits to ensure that the funds are being spent on allowable expenditures.
- Other Grantors: Other grantors include local government grants such as Sussex County whose oversight is done through either quarterly and/or annual reports.

The federally funded Network of Centers is geographically dispersed throughout the State and addresses both urban and rural needs, as well as specific underserved populations. All Title VII, Part C funds continue to support only consumer-controlled organizations. Working together, Centers establish contractual or vendor relationships with other State agencies, organizations serving individuals with disabilities, and the private sector, to promote standards established within the Rehabilitation Act as amended.

The Network of Centers receives both Part C funding and Title VII Part B funds through contract as well as other public and or private funding sources.

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.

Priority 1: Should additional Part C or Part B funding become available, the priority would be strengthening and building the capacity of the current Centers.

Priority 2: An underserved or underserved service expansion to increase the state-wideness of the Network by establishing a new CIL or satellite offices in partnership with other human services organizations.

Definitions:

Served: Includes areas that offer the full spectrum of services and that the services are accessible and correspond to the area's needs.

Unserved: Includes areas that lack services totally or that have services but either are not accessible or do not correspond to the actual needs of those areas.

Underserved: Includes areas that experience disparities and/or inconsistencies in services or that the services are accessible but difficult to access.

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

If needs assessments show the need for a new Part C Center, the minimum funding would be consistent with the recommended amount that the National Council for Independent Living requires. To that end, Part C funds that become available beyond or inclusive of the COLA will be distributed among the federally funded CILs according to the population within their respective service areas. Specifically: The formula to be applied is 2/3 to Independent Resources serving Northern New Castle County, Kent County; and Sussex County; and 1/3 allocated to the Freedom Center for Independent Living serving Middle to Lower New Castle County.

Priorities for establishment of new CIL(s).

Additional new CILs will be added if needed, with priorities based on input from public meetings and identification of needs and unserved or underserved areas.

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

The DE SILC in coordination with the DSE and the CILs will identify through public input, surveys, and reliable data sources and trends where there is a greater need for IL Services in the state. Adjustments for distribution of funds when cut or reduced will either be a) based proportionately on a programmatic need basis or b) because Delaware is a small state and the CIL locations cover the whole state in all counties, the cuts or reductions will be adjusted in the same percentages as when COLA increase occurs as previously explained.

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

As new Part C funding is appropriated, expanded programming to the existing CILs or additional new CILs will be added if needed, with priorities based on input from public meetings and identification of needs and unserved or underserved areas.

If Part B funds increase, they could be contracted to the existing CILs to establish satellite offices in unserved or underserved areas or to increase the state-wideness of the Network; aid with the expansion or adjustment of programming; or build the capacity of existing Centers.

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

As new Part C funding is appropriated, expanded programming to the existing CILs or additional new CILs will be added if needed, with priorities based on input from public meetings and identification of needs and unserved or underserved areas.

If Part B funds increase, they could be contracted to the existing CILs to establish satellite offices in unserved or underserved areas or to increase the state-wideness of the Network; aid with the expansion or adjustment of programming; or build the capacity of existing Centers.

For any one-time funding streams, the CILs will create an appropriate disbursement formula based on current information on needs, funding allocations, and data, and submit a plan to ACL for approval. Any changes to the CIL service area and/or funding levels will be detailed and agreed upon by the SILC and CIL Directors in an approved SPIL amendment

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

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.

As new Part C funding is appropriated, expanded programming to the existing CILs or additional new CILs will be added if needed, with priorities based on input from public meetings and identification of needs and unserved or underserved areas.

If Part B funds increase, they could be contracted to the existing CILs to establish satellite offices in unserved or underserved areas or to increase the state-wideness of the Network; aid with the expansion or adjustment of programming; or build the capacity of existing Centers.

Temporary Changes (if applicable) Other (if applicable)

Any changes to the CIL service area and/or funding levels will be detailed and agreed upon by the SILC and CIL Directors in an approved SPIL amendment.

Section 4: Designated State Entity

4.0 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will serve as the entity in Delaware 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.

Within the DSE, a designated staff person is assigned to represent the DSE on the SILC. In addition, the DSE's financial staff person administers the Part B fund reimbursements and distributions as per the DE SPIL following the requirements mandated by the Federal DHHS/ACL. Supervision for DVR staff rests within the DSE.

It is assured that there is no conflict of interest between the staff of the SILC and the DSE.

How the DSE plans to use the 5% of the Part B appropriation on administrative costs:

Partial of the time and effort of the DSE staff person assigned to represent the DSE on the SILC and the DSE financial staff person are paid through the 5% of the Part B funds.

How the SILC will hire, fire, and supervise DSE staff:

The SILC does not hire, fire, or supervise any staff person of DSE. Although the SILC may evaluate the work of the DSE-assigned staff, the supervision of the DSE staff rests with the DSE.

How the DSE will not create a conflict of interest with the SILC:

The SILC and the DSE have a long-term history of collaboration and supportive interaction.

Delaware does not have an interagency agreement; however, all parties adhere to the mandate and intent of the Rehab Act to ensure the SILC autonomy. The DSE will monitor, and review as required by ACL.

It is of common understanding between the DSE and the SILC that the SILC will:

- Select and supervise own staff (even if assigned by DSE);
- Develop and manage own budget and expenses;
- Submit recommendations for appointment to Governor or appointing authority;

- Fulfill responsibilities in the Rehabilitation Act, as amended;
 - Independently comply with laws and regulations;
 - Be responsible for SPIL development which is approved by the SILC and CILs in conjunction.
- Although the DSE provides input and is a signer of the SPIL, the DSE has no role in approving it.

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

The DSE will ensure compliance with state-imposed requirements for fiscal management and spending authorizations per rules and regulations set forth by the Delaware Office of Management & Budget. The DSE will ensure the SILC complies with state policies regarding the Governor's appointment of Council members per the Delaware Code. The contract for the Executive Director of the SILC will comply with all relevant regulations per Title 29 Ch. 55 Delaware Code for contracting.

The DSE recognizes the SILC as an independent body and does not interfere with its duties, authorities, and responsibilities.

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

DSE adopts fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that ensure proper disbursement and accounting of funds through the Part B program. In addition, the DSE follows Delaware's State Accounting requirements as well as the federal fiscal accounting requirements.

The network of CILs has staff that handle their fiscal and fund accounting and human relations issues. The DSE and CILs both follow the GAAP principles for administering their funding sources. In addition, the CILs have independent audits on an annual basis as required.

The DSE receives accounts for and disburses Title VII Part B funds received by the State following the goals, objectives, and financial plan outlined in the DE SPIL. Funds needed for the SILC resource plan are reimbursed by the DSE. A grant agreement between the DSE and the CILs and IL partners lists the scope of services, applicable grant standards, and performance measures mutually agreed upon and signed between the parties to ensure both programmatic and fiscal compliance supporting core IL services. The DSE does not require a solicitation or formal application process. Rather the contracts are automatically renewed every fiscal year, provided that the CILs and IL providers have successfully met and completed the requirements agreed upon in the grant agreement. Evaluation of both programmatic and fiscal performance is done predominantly by having the contracted agencies report on status and accomplishments at every SILC meeting using a standardized evaluation report.

Development of format for proposals

DSE adopts fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that ensure proper disbursement and accounting of funds through the Part B program. In addition, the DSE follows Delaware's State Accounting requirements as well as the federal fiscal accounting requirements.

The network of CILs has staff that handle their fiscal and fund accounting and human relations issues. The DSE and CILs both follow the GAAP principles for administering their funding sources. In addition, the CILs have independent audits on an annual basis as required.

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Process for reviewing proposals and who reviewers will be

DSE adopts fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that ensure proper disbursement and accounting of funds through the Part B program. In addition, the DSE follows Delaware's State Accounting requirements as well as the federal fiscal accounting requirements.

The network of CILs has staff that handle their fiscal and fund accounting and human relations issues. The DSE and CILs both follow the GAAP principles for administering their funding sources. In addition, the CILs have independent audits on an annual basis as required.

The DSE receives accounts for and disburses Title VII Part B funds received by the State following the goals, objectives, and financial plan outlined in the DE SPIL. Funds needed for the SILC resource plan are reimbursed by the DSE. A grant agreement between the DSE and the CILs and IL partners lists the scope of services, applicable grant standards, and performance measures mutually agreed upon and signed between the parties to ensure both programmatic and fiscal compliance supporting core IL services. The DSE does not require a solicitation or formal application process. Rather the contracts are automatically renewed every fiscal year, provided that the CILs and IL providers have successfully met and completed the requirements agreed upon in the grant agreement. Evaluation of both programmatic and fiscal performance is done predominantly by having the contracted agencies report on status and accomplishments at every SILC meeting using a standardized evaluation report.

Process for evaluating performance and compliance of grantees

DSE adopts fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that ensure proper disbursement and accounting of funds through the Part B program. In addition, the DSE follows Delaware's State Accounting requirements as well as the federal fiscal accounting requirements.

The network of CILs has staff that handle their fiscal and fund accounting and human relations issues. The DSE and CILs both follow the GAAP principles for administering their funding sources. In addition, the CILs have independent audits on an annual basis as required.

The DSE receives accounts for and disburses Title VII Part B funds received by the State following the goals, objectives, and financial plan outlined in the DE SPIL. Funds needed for the SILC resource plan are reimbursed by the DSE. A grant agreement between the DSE and the CILs and IL partners lists the scope of services, applicable grant standards, and performance measures mutually agreed upon and signed between the parties to ensure both programmatic

and fiscal compliance supporting core IL services. The DSE does not require a solicitation or formal application process. Rather the contracts are automatically renewed every fiscal year, provided that the CILs and IL providers have successfully met and completed the requirements agreed upon in the grant agreement. Evaluation of both programmatic and fiscal performance is done predominantly by having the contracted agencies report on status and accomplishments at every SILC meeting using a standardized evaluation report.

4.5 - OVERSIGHT PROCESS FOR PART B FUNDS

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

The DSE, through technical assistance and the periodic performance and evaluation reporting by the IL Centers, maintains and evaluates such records. These records are available and accessible by the Secretary as deemed necessary. The DSE also provides additional information and assurances as the Secretary may require concerning the programming. All contracts meet and abide by the federal and state contracting guidelines.

Maintenance of records that fully disclose and document the information listed in 34 CFR 364.35. Under 34 CFR 364.37, the DSE and the Network of Centers' recordkeeping practices comply with the stated regulations. All records are confidential unless authorization for the release of information is received. The DSE and the Network of Centers submit annual performance and financial reports. The DSE and the Network of Centers have their record-keeping practices that comply with the stated regulations including policies and procedures for record-keeping practices and reporting. In addition, contracts are handled by the DSE and the Network of Centers under Federal and State regulations.

Under 34 CFR 364.37, the DSE and the Network of Centers will provide access to representatives for audit, examination, and compliance review purposes.

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 DE SILC is a freestanding organization that operates separately from any State Agency. The SILC does not have offices or facilities within any agency in the State of Delaware. It is located in the Department of Labor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for administrative and budgetary support purposes for the provision of expenditures only. The State Independent Living Council was designated by former Delaware Gov. Ruth AnnMinner as Board 0135. The SILC is governed by Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as Amended.

The SILC and the DSE have a long-term history of collaboration and supportive interaction.

Delaware does not have an interagency agreement; however, all parties adhere to the mandate and intent of the Rehab Act to ensure the SILC autonomy. The DSE will monitor, and review as required by ACL.

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."

1. Appointment and Composition

- The Governor makes appointments to the SILC.
- The membership committee ensures that the prospective appointees meet the composition requirements such as statewide cross-representation in all counties in Delaware. A diverse representation of persons with disabilities and backgrounds is part of the selection criteria. Applications are forwarded to the Governor's office.
- The Council nominates and votes on who will be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council.
- Term limits are maintained by the council and by the Governor's office.
- Vacancies are filled by recommendations by the SILC body to the Governor's office and then appointed by the Governor.

2. Staffing

The SILC hired its first full-time Executive Director on January 2, 2024, to allow for a more focused execution of the SPIL and to act as a liaison between the SILC/DSE/CILs.

The members of the SILC carry out the required functions in conjunction with its staff. A representative of DSE will serve as a liaison and an ex-officio member between DVR and SILC.

3. Funding

The funding for Delaware SILC's Resource Plan for FY 2025, 2026, and 2027 will come from Title VII Part B funds and the amount for 2025 will be \$104,418. Amounts for 2026 and 2027 are unknown but are based on historical award data and will be approximately \$104,418.

The 2025-2027 SPIL financial tables were developed based on realistic yet conservative revenue and expense projections, considering historical data combined with current information.

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

The Delaware Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) has been established to coordinate the functions related to the planning, monitoring, and evaluating the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) as described in Section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended. Delaware's SILC Bylaws are the foundation for the operations of the SILC. The SILC determines its annual budget for all resources allocated for its use and assures that all expenditures are appropriate for the purpose and funding period of the specific funding sources. The budget is approved during SPIL development where the opportunity for public input has already been received at public meetings. The SILC provides bi-monthly financial reports at its meetings, to publicly account for resources and expenditures. DVR also records and processes all deposits and expenditures, and provides necessary reports to federal and state entities, as the SILC's fiscal agent, and the SILC and DSE accounting reports are reconciled, at least quarterly, as a means of checks and balances. The SILC also reviews the financial reports generated by the DSE, which are provided to ACL.

The 2025-2027 SPIL goals and objectives were developed based on criteria that included careful consideration of outputs and outcomes, based on the capacity of the levels of funding and staffing available. The SPIL goals and objectives were developed based on an extensive needs assessment process incorporating the public's comments and feedback, available funds to continue advocacy/

education activities, and continued support of Delaware's Network of Centers. Collaboration is an ongoing priority since it maximizes efforts and limited resources. Based on conservative budget figures and developing SPIL goals and objectives within our financial and staffing means, the SILC resource plan is consistent with the existing resources expected to be allocated during the three-year period. The SILC will maintain a membership that will continue to foster the efforts necessary to carry out the work of the council and to be informed about independent living. The SILC will make a conscientious effort in recruiting and training individuals with disabilities and individuals with disabilities from minority groups. Council members will be expected to develop a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Independent Living philosophy. The chair and Vice-Chair must have extensive experience in the field of disability rights advocacy. General SILC activities and statewide systems advocacy efforts will be coordinated with the Network of Centers to promote awareness throughout the State of Delaware.

The SILC hosted public commenting sessions in a strategic and inclusive effort in multiple locations and formats over 2023 and early 2024, to develop a comprehensive SPIL.

The SILC has delegated to its Executive Director the responsibility to oversee the development of a draft budget, including the Resource Plan for conducting Rehabilitation Act Section 705 activities. The Executive Director and SILC Chairperson take the lead in negotiating the individual resources contributed by various entities, including the DSE. The full Council provides input, reviews the draft, and ultimately approves the final budget. The SILC's Executive Director is granted authority by the Council to approve day-to-day Resource Plan expenditures, in keeping with the Code of Federal Regulations, the Rehabilitation Act, 2 CFR 200 Office of Management and Budget Guidance, and the approved SILC budget.

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

All financial transactions and record-keeping are to be made in compliance with applicable ACL fiscal and accounting requirements, as well as all applicable state of Delaware financial policies, procedures, and laws. The DSE is to submit all required reports and provide access to records to the Administrator and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, to conduct audits, examinations, and compliance reviews.

The DSE maintains financial and accounting records of the SILC which are fully disclosed and documented.

The CILs, in addition to following ACL guidelines for Part C funds, will also follow the expenditure guidelines of the CARES Act.

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

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

The Governor appoints the members of the SILC. Before making appointments, the Governor shares applications with the SILC for vetting and recommendation regarding the individual's qualifications and fit in terms of the SILC's composition.

The SILC maintains a matrix comparing council demographics with Delaware's population demographics, to inform decisions regarding composition. The matrix is also used to monitor term limits, as a backup to the Governor's process. The SILC would notify the Governor's office of an expired term if needed.

Vacancies are filled either through SILC recruitment efforts or as individuals apply on their own. SILC policies and procedures provide guidance for conducting recruitment, and identify entities, including CILs, to reach out to creating a diverse membership.

The SILC's bylaws, policies, and procedures align with federal requirements for member composition.

The Council members elect the Council chairperson.

The DE SILC is independent of the DSE

The State through the Governor's Office of Board and Commissions will approve representation on the SILC Board.

SILC will submit expenditure and contract reimbursements to the DSE.

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

The Governor appoints the members of the SILC. Before making appointments, the Governor shares applications with the SILC for vetting and recommendation regarding the individual's qualifications and fit in terms of the SILC's composition.

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

The DE SILC is a freestanding organization that operates separately from any State Agency. The SILC does not have offices or facilities within any agency in the State of Delaware. It is located in the Department of Labor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for administrative and budgetary support purposes for the provision of expenditures only. The State Independent Living Council was designated by former Delaware Gov. Ruth AnnMinner as Board 0135. The SILC is governed by Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as Amended.

The SILC and the DSE have a long-term history of collaboration and supportive interaction.

Delaware does not have an interagency agreement; however, all parties adhere to the mandate and intent of the Rehab Act to ensure the SILC autonomy. The DSE will monitor, and review as required by ACL.

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

The DE SILC is a freestanding organization that operates separately from any State Agency. The SILC does not have offices or facilities within any agency in the State of Delaware. It is located in the Department of Labor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for administrative and budgetary support purposes for the provision of expenditures only. The State Independent Living Council was designated by former Delaware Gov. Ruth AnnMinner as Board 0135. The SILC is governed by Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as Amended.

The SILC and the DSE have a long-term history of collaboration and supportive interaction.

Delaware does not have an interagency agreement; however, all parties adhere to the mandate and intent of the Rehab Act to ensure the SILC autonomy. The DSE will monitor, and review as required by ACL.

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 SILC allocates sufficient operational funding to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities. Sources, uses of, and efforts to coordinate funding to be used to accomplish the Goals and Objectives. Process for grants/contracts, selection of grantees, and distribution of funds to facilitate effective operations and provision of services.

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 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Authorized representative of the DSE Elisha Jenkins. Title: Director.

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 Delaware 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:

Independent Resources, Inc.

The Freedom 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

Elisha Jenkins acting on behalf of the DSE Division of Vocational Rehabilitation located at:
Street: 4425 North Market Street
City: Wilmington
State: Delaware
Zip Code: 19802

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

Elisha Jenkins

Name of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Director

Title of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Elisha Jenkins

Electronic Signature

06/28/2024



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

Sandra Farina acting on behalf of the SILC Delaware Statewide Independent Living Council located at:

Street: 100 Sunnyside Road

City: Smyrna

State: Delaware

Zip Code: 19977

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:

Sandra Farina

Name of SILC Chair

Sandra Farina

Electronic Signature

04/28/2024

Date


I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

Section 9: Signatures

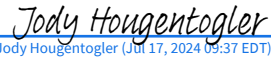

SIGNATURES

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 Delaware 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

Sandra Farina Name of SILC Chair Sandra Farina Electronic Signature 04/28/2024 Date I understand that this constitutes a legal signature		07/12/2024
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CIL SIGNATURE SECTION

The Freedom Center for Independent Living Name of Center for Independent Living Jody Hougentogler Name of CIL Director Jody Hougentogler Electronic Signature 06/27/2024 Date	 <small>Jody Hougentogler (Jul 17, 2024 09:37 EDT)</small>	
Independent Resources, Inc. Name of Center for Independent Living Lillian Harrison Name of CIL Director Lillian Harrison Electronic Signature 06/27/2024 Date		












DESPIL2024-2027

Final Audit Report

2024-07-24


Created:	2024-07-12
By:	Elisha Jenkins (elisha.jenkins@delaware.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAId5ZFp9Dh4f_s1Nfn6mdFB7oGuoF-sSF

"DESPIL2024-2027" History


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