

Connecticut State Plan for Independent Living

October 1, 2010

2011-

2013

Under the reauthorized Rehabilitation Act Amendments requirements, the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) is jointly developed by the SILC and the Designated State Units (DSUs). The 2011-2013 Connecticut SPIL describes how the network of Independent Living programs and services will meet the Independent Living needs of persons with disabilities. The SPIL was submitted to the US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) on July 1, 2010, resubmitted on September 30, 2010 and approved on October 1, 2010.

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Part I: Assurances

Section 1: Legal Basis and Certifications

1.1 The designated State unit (DSU) eligible to submit the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL or the plan) and authorized under State law to perform the functions of the State under the State Independent Living Services (SILS) and Centers for Independent Living (CIL) programs.

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS).

1.2 The separate State agency eligible to submit the plan and authorized under State law to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to individuals who are blind.

Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB).

1.3 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.

Connecticut State Independent Living Council.

1.4 The DSU and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, and the SILC are authorized to jointly develop, sign and submit this SPIL on behalf of the State, and have adopted or otherwise formally approved the SPIL.

Yes

1.5 The DSU, and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, may legally carry out each provision of the plan and will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the three-year period it receives funding under the SPIL.

Yes

1.6 The SPIL is the basis for State operation and administration of the program. All provisions of the SPIL are consistent with State law.

Yes

1.7 The representative of the DSU and, if applicable, of the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, who has the authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds

made available under the SPIL and to submit the SPIL jointly with the SILC chairperson is Amy L. Porter, Director Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and Brian S. Sigman, Executive Director Board of Education and Services for the Blind.

Section 2: SPIL Development

2.1 The plan shall be reviewed and revised not less than once every three years, to ensure the existence of appropriate planning, financial support and coordination, and other assistance to appropriately address, on a statewide and comprehensive basis, the needs in the State for:

- The provision of State independent living services;
- The development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living;
- Working relationships between programs providing independent living services and independent living centers, the vocational rehabilitation program established under title I, and other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities.

Yes

2.2 The DSU and SILC conduct public meetings to provide all segments of the public, including interested groups, organizations and individuals, an opportunity to comment on the State plan prior to its submission to the Commissioner and on any revisions to the approved State plan.

Yes

2.3 The DSU and SILC establish and maintain a written description of procedures for conducting public meetings in accordance with the following requirements. The DSU and SILC shall provide:

- appropriate and sufficient notice of the public meetings;
- reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication in the conduct of the public meetings, including providing sign language interpreters and audio-loops; and
- public meeting notices, written material provided prior to or at the public meetings, and the approved State plan in accessible formats for individuals who rely on alternative modes of communication.

Yes

2.4 At the public meetings to develop the State plan, the DSU and SILC identify those provisions in the SPIL that are State-imposed requirements beyond

what would be required to comply with the regulations in 34 CFR parts 364, 365, 366, and 367.

Yes

2.5 The DSU will seek to incorporate into, and describe in, the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under a project funded under chapter 2 of title VII of the Act and that the DSU determines to be effective.

Yes

2.6 The DSU and SILC actively consult, as appropriate, in the development of the State plan with the director of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) authorized under section 112 of the Act.

Yes

Section 3: Independent Living Services

3.1 The State, directly or through grants or contracts, will provide IL services with Federal, State, or other funds

Yes

3.2 Independent living services shall be provided to individuals with significant disabilities in accordance with an independent living plan mutually agreed upon by an appropriate staff member of the service provider and the individual, unless the individual signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary.

Yes

3.3 All service providers will use formats that are accessible to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII about:

- the availability of the CAP authorized by section 112 of the Act;
- the purposes of the services provided under the CAP; and
- how to contact the CAP.

Yes

3.4 Participating service providers meet all applicable State licensure or certification requirements.

Yes

Section 4: Eligibility

4.1 Any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), is eligible for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs authorized under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act. Any individual may seek information about IL services under these programs and request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities, as appropriate. The

determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51.

Yes

4.2 Service providers apply eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services.

Yes

4.3 Service providers do not impose any State or local residence requirement that excludes any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for IL services from receiving IL services.

Yes

Section 5: Staffing Requirements

5.1 Service provider staff includes personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers.

Yes

5.2 To the maximum extent feasible, a service provider makes available personnel able to communicate:

- with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille or audio tapes, and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act; and
- in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act.

Yes

5.3 Service providers establish and maintain a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, if appropriate, in administering the CIL program. The staff development programs emphasize improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy.

Yes

5.4 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same

terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act.

Yes

Section 6: Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

6.1 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will comply with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements and will adopt those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for those funds.

Yes

Section 7: Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

7.1 In addition to complying with applicable EDGAR recordkeeping requirements, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will maintain records that fully disclose and document:

- the amount and disposition by the recipient of that financial assistance;
- The total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which the financial assistance is given or used;
- the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources;
- compliance with the requirements of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act and Part 364 of the regulations; and
- other information that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit.

Yes

7.2 With respect to the records that are required by 34 CFR 364.35, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will submit reports that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate.

Yes

7.3 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will provide access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, to the records listed in 34 CFR 364.37 for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews.

Yes

Section 8: Protection, Use, and Release of Personal Information

8.1 Each service provider will adopt and implement policies and procedures to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names in accordance with the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a)(1-6).

Yes

Section 9: Signatures

As the authorized signatories, we will sign, date and retain in the files of the state agency(ies) and the Statewide Independent Living Council the Part I: Assurances, 1-8, and the separate Certification of Lobbying forms ED-80-0013 for the state independent living program (Part B) and the centers for independent living program (Part C).

The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2010.

Section 9: Signature for SILC Chairperson

Name

Katherine Carver

Title

Vice-Chairperson

Signed

Yes

Date signed

07/01/2010

Section 9: Signature for DSU Director

Name

Amy L. Porter

Title

Director Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Signed

Yes

Date signed

07/01/2010

Section 9: Signature for Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind

Is there a Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind?

Yes

Name

Brian S. Sigman

Title

Executive Director Board of Education and Services for the Blind

Signed

Yes

Date signed

07/01/2010

Part II: Narrative

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities - Screen 1

1.1 Goals and Mission

Describe the overall goals and mission of the State's IL programs and services. The SPIL must address the goals and mission of both the SILS and the CIL programs, including those of the State agency for individuals who are blind as they relate to the parts of the SPIL administered by that agency.

Goal Name: Goal #1

Goal Description: To ensure Independent Living choices and opportunities through statewide advocacy.

SILC is charged with considering the needs of persons with disabilities from both the individual and systemic perspective. To this end, the SILC works to identify major barriers people with disabilities may face as they seek to achieve the full measure of their independence. Having this information, the SILC can develop and implement activities and policy initiatives to reduce barriers. The barriers will likely require active advocacy and education at the federal and state level.

The SILC will collaborate and partner with the five Centers for Independent Living (CILs), along with other disability organizations, state agencies, statewide initiatives, advocacy organizations and policymakers to identify barriers, choices, changes, opportunities and threats to independent living and to recommend changes in policy to reduce barriers.

Goal Name: Goal #2

Goal Description: To improve the capacity and build sustainability for the five (5) Centers for Independent Living.

In 1988, CT's Independent Living Advisory Council developed a five-year plan to establish 8 CILs. The plan divided the state into 8 geographic regions, with a center in each region and several satellite offices from the established centers. In 1988, it was estimated that \$200,000 was necessary to start and operate a new CIL. However, in 2010 the costs are significantly higher.

During the current challenging economic times, the CILs need to be the most effective and efficient community-based disability organizations. In order for them to meet the needs of their communities, they need to have the following: 1.) trained and professional staff; 2.) sufficient funds to provide the mandated services and funds to meet any new and developing disability needs; 3.) technology and equipment for improved communication with consumers and to support data collection and database development, in order to demonstrate, report, track service delivery more effectively; and 4.) engaging marketing and public relations that provides an increase in volunteerism, membership and fundraising.

Goal Name: Goal #3

Goal Description: To fund purchase of independent living services for consumers who have approved Independent Living Plans or waivers.

The availability of funds to offset expenditures for goods and services is essential to the completion of Independent Living Plans and remains a critical resource for strategic interventions, which are often vital to the success of a consumer's plan.

The Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) is the designated state agency that is funded to provide vocational rehabilitation services to consumers who are legally blind. BESB receives an annual allocation of Part B funding from RSA and passes through the majority of the funding, plus the state match, to BRS to support the SPIL. BESB will retain \$12,000 of funding for the purchase of equipment and services to meet the independent living needs of consumers as per approved ILP of IL Waiver, when these services cannot be funded through VR or other federal or state sources.

Goal Name: Goal #4

Goal Description: To expand a statewide network of CILs that provides for a community-based presence and the availability of IL services to a broad spectrum of people with disabilities of all ages.

In order to review the possibility of network expansion and the needs of the unserved and underserved populations and geographic areas, the SILC is committed to developing a comprehensive collaborative planning process that studies the needs of people with disabilities, especially those with new disabilities, along with indentifying unserved and underserved populations

and underserved geographic areas in the state. The ultimate goal is to develop a multi-year plan for IL service delivery in Connecticut that will service as a blueprint of action for the CILs, SILC and DSUs.

Goal Name: Goal #5

Goal Description: To develop community inclusion opportunities for people with disabilities.

The SILC has identified the mobilization of community assets as one of the primary keys to community integration of people with disabilities. The intent of Goal #5 is to develop a community inclusion approach and philosophy that can be adapted at a local or non-profit level. The SILC recognizes that there are various models that should be examined, reviewed and presented, in order to obtain the best fit for a CIL, disability organization, municipal government or the SILC.

Goal Name: Goal #6

Goal Description: To support the SILC operations and resource plan.

The SILC receives \$180,000 yearly in Section 101 (a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion) funds. Since 2007, the SILC received level funding, which supports personnel (two 30 hour staff), health stipends, office space, interpreters, PCAs, transportation for board members, resource materials, office supplies, etc. The 2011-2013 SPIL will reserve \$72,000 over three years to supplement the SILC annual budget, in order to provide for cost increases and cost of living adjustments.

Part II: Narrative

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities - Screen 2

1.2 Objectives

1.2A. Specify the objectives to be achieved and the time frame for achieving them.

Goal(s) from Section	Objective to be achieved	Time frame start date	Time frame end date
1.1			

<p>Goal #1</p>	<p>To continue SILC PCA Initiative started in 2009 by participating in the Money Follows the Person Workforce Development Workgroup in order to support and develop a direct care workforce that is sustainable, respected and skilled.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC Executive Director will continue to serve as an active member of the Money Follows the Person Workforce Development Workgroup; 2.) SILC will assist with the coordination and presentation to the Workforce Investment Boards on the direct care workforce, especially the critical work of the PCAs; 3.) SILC will assist with development of any trainings, technical assistance and educational forums developed for PCAs as part of the MFP Workforce Development Workgroup; and 4.) SILC will seed a PCA resource sharing forums for workers and employers to come together to exchange information, communication and resources.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase knowledge of the need for PCAs among elected officials, policy makers, educators and workforce investment board members; 2.) Increase educational and work opportunities for current and future PCAs; and 3.) Increase collaboration and sharing of information among PCAs and PCA employers</p>	<p>10/01/2010</p>	<p>09/30/2013</p>
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<p>Goal #1</p>	<p>To collaborate with local and statewide organizations working on transportation, specifically the New Freedom Initiative, in order to educate and advocate for increased accessibility.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC Executive Director and designated SILC staff to work with the New Haven Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities MetroTaxi, and other partners to complete Connecticut's application DOT application for accessible cabs; and 2.) SILC Executive Director and CIL Executive Directors and staff to attend Council of Government meetings to advocate for increased accessible transportation through the New Freedom Initiative funds.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase Connecticut accessible taxicabs by 100; and 2.) Increase collaborations with Councils of Government in the rural, Northwest and Eastern areas of the state in order to build a foundation for additional accessible transportation.</p>	<p>10/01/2010</p>	<p>09/30/2013</p>
<p>Goal #1</p>	<p>To collaborate with local and statewide organizations to advocate for increased accessible and affordable housing, especially Visitability.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC and CILs to partner with Independence Unlimited on educational and outreach activities and special events to local governments, planning councils and</p>	<p>10/01/2010</p>	<p>09/30/2013</p>

	<p>community groups in order to education residents, architects, builders, and community leaders on the benefits of affordable and accessible housing; 2.) SILC and CILs to collaborate with Independence Unlimited on a Visitable website, resource directory and speakers; 3.) SILC and CILs to collaborate with Independence Unlimited on coordinated visits to model Visitable homes; and 4.) SILC to partner with Independence Unlimited to conduct a contest with local architectural schools in order to promote the Visitable home designs.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase knowledge among residents, architects, builders and community leaders on accessible and Visitable housing; 2.) Create one (1) comprehensive website and resource directory; 3.) Develop and pass legislation that promotes accessible, affordable and Visitability housing.</p>		
Goal #2	<p>To convene a planning group to identify and research staff training and professional development needs and consumer skills training models and curricula.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC to conduct a CIL staff survey to assess the training needs and requests; 2.) SILC to outreach to SILC board members and CIL staff for planning group members.</p>	10/01/2010	09/30/2011

	<p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Create a defined list of staff training needs, competencies to be obtained and workplan for the creation of a "training academy".</p>		
Goal #2	<p>To partner with educational institutions, disability consultants and local and statewide disability organizations to implement a "training academy" that will provide professional development opportunities for CIL staff and other disability staff.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC to outreach to local colleges, universities, educational and disability consultants and disability organizations to join efforts to develop a staff training academy; 2.) SILC to convene a collaborative planning group that seeks to define key competencies, training modules, training sessions and trainers; 3.) SILC and partners to pilot and evaluate the training academy;</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase number of individuals and organizations that view professional development as a need within the disability community; 2.) Increase number of collaborating partners engage in the development of a training academy; and 3.) Increase the knowledge and competencies of CIL staff.</p>	10/01/2011	09/30/2013
Goal #2	To review models and develop curricula	10/01/2010	09/30/2013

	<p>for implementing IL skills at each CIL.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC and DSUs to develop a working group represented by the SILC staff and CIL Executive Directors to research and assess consumer skills training models and curricula; 2.) Group to determine the consumer skills training models and curricula to be used, train staff and pilot.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase usage among CILs of consumer skills training curricula; 2.) Improve consumer independent living skills by implementing consumer skills training sessions.</p>		
Goal #2	<p>To develop a fund development committee to explore new fundraising options, such as fee-for-service, for-profit ventures and new private and public funding opportunities for CILs.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC will obtain a fund development consultant to work collectively and individually with the CILs; 2.) SILC consultant to assess the fund development needs of each CIL and develop a statewide fund development plan for the Connecticut CIL network; 3.) SILC will work with the consultant to provide fund development direct training, technical assistance and coaching to the CILs.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) 75% of CIL</p>	10/01/2010	09/30/2013

	<p>staff are satisfied with the fund development consultation service; 2.) Increase by 2013 of unrestricted funds raised developed above Title VII, Part B, Part C and state funds through new fundraising strategies; 3.) Increase in number of hits to CIL donation webpage; 4.) Increase in web-based donors to CILs; 5.) Increase in total funds donated to CIL via websites.</p>		
Goal #2	<p>To develop a marketing and public awareness campaign that seeks to increase volunteerism, membership and fundraising for the five (5) CILs.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC and CILs to obtain a consultant to develop a public relations campaign for the CT CIL network to will use PSAs, billboards, and other collateral materials, along with new marketing strategies to support and increase IL awareness, membership, volunteerism and donations; 2.) Develop a brand for IL in Connecticut; 3.) Develop a program for attracting new members, member activities and benefits for membership.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase the number of new total members for the network by 10% by 2013; 2.) Increase the number of new total volunteers for the network by 10% by 2010; 3.) Increase by 2013 unrestricted funds developed above Title VII, Part B, Part C and state funds as a result of the new public relations and marketing</p>	10/01/2010	09/30/2013

	campaign.		
Goal #2	<p>To continue computer and technology committee, in order to improve MIS, data collection database management, system tracking and consumer communication for the CILs and SILC.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC to continue the Goal #3 Committee in order train staff on 704 report definitions; 2.) SILC Goal #3 Committee to conduct 2 trainings on consistent 704 reporting and IL planning during 2010-2011; 3.) SILC to purchase CIL Suite for CILs in order to have consistent data collection, management and reporting; 4.) SILC to develop a SILC database is able to combine and aggregate all the CIL 704 data; 5.) SILC to develop a technology plan with a IT consultant and coordinate purchase of new technology equipment for SILC and CILs that allows for better information technology, improved data collection and tracking; improved consumer communication; and increased consumer access.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Improved accurate and uniform data collection and tracking per CILs; 2.) Development of a SILC database that aggregates CIL data and reports SILC data; 3.) Increased consumer usage per CIL of technology offerings.</p>	10/01/2010	09/30/2013
Goal #2	To develop and support activities to assist youth, 16-21, with self-advocacy,	10/01/2010	09/30/2013

	<p>self-esteem development, skills for success and transition.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC will develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be distributed to CILs to develop and/or expand a youth group that promotes self-advocacy and skill development for transition; 2.) SILC will develop a partnership with the Connecticut Youth Leadership Forum in order to build upon YLF community service projects and to partner on youth transition issues; 4.) SILC and CT YLF to pilot a mentoring program that will recruit mentors from SILC and CILs and match with YLF students in order to promote a continuum of care for youth transitioning; and 5.) SILC will seek to recruit a member to the SILC Board of Directors, a representative from the CT Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, who works on youth transition issues.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase number of CILs that provide youth groups for students in transition; 2.) Present 1 workshop on Independent Living to the YLF students in 2011; 3.) Recruit and train 10 mentors to participate in the SILC/YLF pilot mentoring program; and 4.) Increase by 1 new SILC board member that works directly with youth transitioning.</p>		
Goal #2	To continue the CIL/SILC/DSU pre-vocational partnership and to explore	10/01/2010	09/30/2013

	<p>additional pre-vocational and vocational activities for youth and adults, to include but not limited to Ticket-to-Work.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC, DSUs and CILs to convene collaborative meetings to explore and develop pre-vocational and vocational opportunities for youth and adults; 2.) SILC to work with partners to schedule a Ticket-to-Work presentations for all CILs, along with pre-vocational and vocational guest speakers and presenters.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase numbers of consumers who have pre-vocational plans; 2.) Increase number of consumers who have vocational plans; 3.) Increase the number of CILs that are employment centers and provide Ticket-to-Work and/or other vocational opportunities.</p>		
Goal #3	<p>To research personal manager programs and to develop a pilot personal manager initiative, in order to produce qualitative and quantitative data on potential implementation opportunities.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC to convene a planning committee and hire a consultant to research personal manager models; 2.) SILC to pilot personal manager initiative in order to evaluation the effectiveness and efficiency of program implementation;</p>	10/01/2010	09/30/2011

	<p>and 3.) SILC to develop a report on the pilot personal manager initiative that is presented to the state legislature and policy makers.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the pilot personal manager; 2.) Increase the available data on the cost effectiveness and implementation of a personal manager program.</p>		
Goal #3	<p>To provide \$15,000 per year per CIL for the purchase of direct services and goods for consumers case services.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC, DSUs and CILS to develop policies, procedures and processes for the purchase of consumer services and goods; 2.) SILC and DSU to coordinate quarterly reporting to the services and goods.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Educate CIL staff in any changes to the use of funds for services and goods; 2.) Increase the number of new consumers who access these funds; 3.) Develop qualitative stories regarding the needs and use of the funds by consumers.</p>	10/01/2010	09/30/2013
Goal #3	<p>BESB to retain \$12,000 in Part B funds for the purchase of services and good for legally blind consumers.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) The SILC and DSU will coordinate the retention of these funds and a reporting mechanism.</p>	10/01/2010	09/30/2013

	<p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Maintain and/or increase the number of blind consumers that obtain services or goods.</p>		
Goal #4	<p>To conduct needs assessment, research and planning to identify unserved and underserved populations, statewide and regional consumer needs, changing demographics and new disabilities, and to develop a long-term plan for service delivery.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC to hire a consultant that will assist with convening a planning group to coordinate the needs assessment data and research, in order to develop a long-term plan for CILs service delivery.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase knowledge among the SILC, CILs and DSUs on the unserved, underserved, changing demographics and new disabilities; and 2.) Increase use of the new data to plan and develop programs to meet the new and/or ongoing needs.</p>	10/01/2010	09/30/2012
Goal #4	<p>To explore the use of the IL Funding Formula, as a planning tool to further explore underserved geographic areas and associated service delivery costs for CILs.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC to present IL Funding Formula to full SILC Board of Directors and CIL staff and Boards; 2.) SILC to facilitate the hiring of a</p>	10/01/2011	09/30/2012

	<p>graduate student and/or consultant to input Connecticut data and numbers into the funding formula equations; 3.) SILC to develop a presentation on the use of the IL Funding Formula data, implications and recommendations.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase knowledge of service index numbers by county and CIL; 2.) Increase knowledge of worker disability index by county and CIL; 3.) Increase knowledge of economic stress index number by county and CIL; 4.) Increase knowledge among DSUs, SILC members and CIL members and staff on information provided through IL Funding Formula and how it may be used for CIL planning purposes.</p>		
Goal #4	<p>To develop and implement a consumer needs assessment to obtain information for long-term planning.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC to convene a group of CIL staff to discuss consumer needs assessment questions; 2.) SILC and CILs to development the assessment tool; SILC and CILS to distribute the assessment tool and use online and phone services to accommodate all consumers needs.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase knowledge of consumer needs; 2.) Increase knowledge of consumers strengths, and areas of improvement; 3.) Develop a CIL network report on</p>	10/01/2011	09/30/2012

	consumer needs assessment data.		
Goal #4	<p>To develop a series of trainings and tools to be used by CIL staff, providers and policy-makers on addressing underserved populations and changing demographics.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC to develop a series of trainings, presentation and in-service workshops that present the data collected to CIL staff, providers and policy-makers.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase the awareness, knowledge and education of participants on unserved, underserved and changing demographics.</p>	10/01/2012	09/30/2013
Goal #5	<p>To develop a committee to review models of community inclusion that is successful.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC and partners to develop a committee to develop an Request For Proposals (RFP) to be issued in order to partner with a community organization, consultant, etc. to review models of community inclusion and to develop a set of recommendations on how to implement, expand, etc. community inclusion activities in CT cities and towns.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase awareness and knowledge on intent, goals and outcomes of community inclusion models.</p>	10/01/2010	09/30/2011

<p>Goal #5</p>	<p>To collaborate with organizations, consultants and consumers to sponsor and/or to develop community inclusion learning opportunities that support inclusion for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC to partner with organizations to determine a series of community inclusion activities and events and way to sustain.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase number of CT residents that understand the mission of community inclusion; and 2.) Increase the number of people with disabilities that participate in and are engage in community activities as a result of the presented SILC program.</p>	<p>10/01/2011</p>	<p>09/30/2013</p>
<p>Goal #5</p>	<p>To compile successful community inclusion stories, strategies and methods that can be used as a teaching tool for organizations, communities and consumers.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC to develop a toolkit that includes a "how to" for organizations, communities, etc. to implement community inclusion activities.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase the number of cities, towns, neighborhood associations, and organizations that offer inclusive activities.</p>	<p>10/01/2012</p>	<p>09/30/2012</p>
<p>Goal #5</p>	<p>To continue partnership with VSA Arts and CT Commission on Culture and Tourism to promote artists with</p>	<p>10/01/2010</p>	<p>09/30/2013</p>

	<p>disabilities through exhibitions, educational forums and career opportunities and to connect art to community inclusion efforts.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC to continue participation on the statewide arts committee; 2.) SILC to sponsor 2 "Change" art exhibits by providing interpreters, PCAs and transportation for the events.</p> <p>Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Increase awareness and knowledge of artists with disabilities; 2.) Increased knowledge among people with disabilities on the vocational opportunities within the arts and culture field.</p>		
Goal #6	<p>To augment the SILC operational budget to provide for cost increases and cost of living adjustments.</p> <p>Activities to include: 1.) SILC to secure adequate non-personnel resources in order to better administer a statewide nonprofit organization; 2.) SILC to improve the capacity of the staff and interns through additional trainings and professional development opportunities; and 3.) SILC to provide learning opportunities for Board of Directors by providing guest speakers and presentations.</p>	10/01/2010	09/30/2013

Part II: Narrative

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities - Screen 3

1.2 Objectives

1.2B Describe the steps planned regarding outreach to populations in the State that are unserved or underserved by programs under title VII, including minority groups and urban and rural populations.

- Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts

In Connecticut there are five Centers for Independent Living. The overall population of Connecticut is 3.5 million with the following ethnic breakdown: 84.3% White; 10.3% Black; .4% American Indian; 3.5% Asian; .1% Native Hawaiian; and 1.5% Biracial. However significant numbers of racial/ethnic minority populations reside in the urban areas of the state specifically the cities of Bridgeport Hartford and New Haven and these populations include but not limited to West Indians Latinos African-Americans and Brazilians. Three of the five CILs are located in and/or adjacent to the three cities mentioned above: Bridgeport (Disability Resource Center of Fairfield County located in Stratford) Hartford (Independence Unlimited located in Hartford) and New Haven (Center for Disability Rights located in West Haven). All five CILs seek to provide outreach efforts and materials that are language appropriate and ethnically and culturally relevant. For example. the Disability Resource Center of Fairfield County is working diligently with community organizations and residents to reinstate the Bridgeport Disability Commission in order to assess the needs of individuals with significant disabilities from minority backgrounds. The 2011-2013 SPIL will target populations to include consumers who reside in underserved communities and geographic areas of the state; racial and ethnic minority populations residing in urban areas; and youth transitioning.

- Identify the geographic areas (i.e., communities) in which the targeted populations reside

All the centers receive equal Part B and Part C funding and serve consumers who reside in one of the five geographic areas of the state: Independence Unlimited Inc. (North Central); Disability Network of Eastern Connecticut (Eastern) Independence Northwest Inc. (Western); Center for Disability Rights (South Central); and Disability Resource Center of Fairfield County (South Western). Within these geographical regions some areas continue to be underserved including but not limited to the Northeast and Northwest

corners Western area that borders New York state the Central corridor of the state and lower Fairfield County.

- Describe how the needs of individuals with significant disabilities from minority group backgrounds will be addressed

The CILs will partner with appropriate ethnic and cultural organizations, faith-based organizations and resident groups in order to outreach to minority populations. Brochures, educational materials, intake forms, etc. will be translated into appropriate languages.

In addition, the SILC is responsible for assuring diversity of its council members, thereby obtaining the input of a broad range of stakeholders in design, development and implementation of the SPIL. The SILC is in the process of recruiting for new council members and seeks to have an ethnically and culturally diverse council as possible. Specifically, Goals #2, 4 & 5, will provide opportunities to expand upon the delivery of independent living services to underserved and unserved populations and communities. In addition, the SILC will utilize primary and secondary data gathered from a variety of sources to include the US Census; American Community Survey; The Center on Aging University of Connecticut Health Center Demographic Analysis of Individuals with Disabilities report published by CT-SILC; ILRU; SILC-Net; and NCIL to obtain current demographic changes and trends.

1.3 Financial Plan

Describe in sections 1.3A and 1.3B, below, the financial plan for the use of Federal and non-Federal funds to meet the SPIL objectives.

1.3A Financial Plan Tables

Complete the financial plan tables covering years 1, 2 and 3 of this SPIL. For each funding source, provide estimated dollar amounts anticipated for the applicable uses. The financial plan table should include only those funding sources and amounts that are intended to support one or more of the objectives identified in section 1.2 of the SPIL. To the extent possible, the tables and narratives must reflect the applicable financial information from centers for independent living. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about completing the financial tables and narratives.

Year 1 - 2011 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	\$22,000		\$100,000	\$219,426
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C		\$413,481	\$413,481	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$180,000			
Other Federal funds - other		\$388,000	\$295,481	
Non-Federal funds - State funds				
Line item in state DSS budget		\$321,500	\$321,500	
Total	202000	1122981	1130462	219426

Year 2 - 2012 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
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Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	\$24,000		\$225,000	\$237,125
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C		\$413,481	\$413,481	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$180,000			
Other Federal funds - other		\$388,000	\$295,481	
Non-Federal funds - State funds				
Line item in state DSS budget		\$321,500	\$321,500	
Total	204000	1122981	1255462	237125

Year 3 - 2013 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1,	\$26,000		\$225,000	\$252,875

Part B				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C		\$413,481	\$413,481	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$180,000			
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds				
line item in state DSS budget		\$321,500	\$321,500	
Total	206000	734981	959981	252875

1.3B Financial Plan Narratives

1.3B(1) Specify how the part B, part C and chapter 2 (Older Blind) funds, if applicable, will further the SPIL objectives.

Goal #1: To ensure Independent Living choices and opportunities through advocacy.

Year 1: \$18,440

-The first three months of SPIL Year 1 will be used to develop an independent

contractor scope of services to assist the SILC with three key statewide advocacy initiatives: workforce development, housing and transportation.
-Independent contractor will cost \$13,440. SPIL FY'10 no-cost extension funds will be used to off-set this initiative.
-Workshops and trainings will be developed to educate consumers, partners and CIL staff on workforce development, housing and transportation issues.

Year 2: \$25,125

-\$20,160 will be for an independent contractor to assist with the statewide workforce development, housing and transportation advocacy.
-\$5,000 for workshops and trainings to advocate and educate on issues related to workforce development, housing and transportation advocacy.

Year 3: \$25,125

-\$20,160 will be for an independent contractor to assist with the statewide workforce development, housing and transportation statewide advocacy.
-\$5,000 for workshops and trainings to advocate and educate on issues related to workforce development, housing and transportation.

TOTAL: \$68,690

Goal #2: To improve the capacity and sustainability for the five (5) Centers for Independent Living.

Year 1: \$133,440

-An independent contractor will be hired to assist with the development of Objectives 1-5 & 8. The SILC will continue the Data/Technology Committee work (started in the 2008-2010 SPIL) to include, but not limited to trainings on data collection, IL plan development, the 704 report, technology to improve CIL capacity and consumer service delivery, etc. In addition, technology and equipment will be purchased for the CILs and the SILC to support data collection and database development.
-\$13,440 will support an independent contractor,
-\$10,000 for workshops, trainings and educational opportunities for CIL staff for objectives 1-5 & 8.
-\$50,000 (\$25,000 per CIL) for youth transition programming at 2 CILs.
-\$60,000 (\$10,000 for 5 CILs and SILC) for computer equipment and technology.

Year 2: \$315,000

-\$20,160 for an independent contractor to assist with the statewide advocacy efforts to include workforce development, housing and transportation statewide advocacy. Ideally, we will combine Goal #1 and Goal #2 funds to support one (1) independent contractor for 120 hour per month to assist on activities related to both Goals, with an emphasis on Objectives 1-4.

-\$3,000 for workshops and trainings for Objectives 1-8.

-\$17,840 for Objective 5, advertising and marketing collateral materials for the public awareness campaign.

-\$9,000 for Objective 6, computer, data and technology activities to continue the data collection, reporting and technology work started in the 2008-2010 SPIL.

-\$40,000 for Objective 7 for activities and services to assist youth transition at 2 CILs and to support statewide youth activities.

-\$225,000 (\$45,000 per CIL) for Objective 8 to continue support for the ARRA Part B prevocational or vocational/employment networks at the 5 CILs.

Year 3: \$315,000

-\$20,160 for an independent contractor to assist with the statewide workforce development, housing and transportation statewide advocacy. As stated above, the SILC will combine Goal #1 and Goal #2 consulting funds to support one (1) independent contractor for 120 hour per month to assist on activities related to both Goals, with an emphasis on Objectives 1-4.

-\$3,000 for workshops and trainings for Objectives 1-8.

-\$17,840 for Objective 5 to support advertising and marketing collateral materials for the public awareness campaign.

-\$9,000 for Objective 6 to support computer and technology activities to continue the data collection, reporting and technology work started in the 2008-2010 SPIL.

-\$40,000 for Objective 7 for activities to assist youth transition at 2 CILs and to support statewide youth activities.

-\$225,000 (\$45,000 per CIL) for Objective 8, to continue support for the ARRA Part B prevocational or vocational/employment networks of the 5 CILs.

TOTAL; \$763,440

Goal #3: To fund the purchase of independent living services for consumers who have approved Independent Living Plans or waivers.

Year 1: \$95,000

-\$12,000 for BESB for the purchase of services and goods for legally blind consumers.

-\$8,000 for an independent contractor services to review personal service manager models, funding, and best practices and to develop a report with the feasibility and recommendations for developing a personal manager pilot.

-\$75,000 for case services for the CILs. Each CIL will receive \$15,000 per year.

Year 2: \$97,000

-\$12,000 for BESB for the purchase of services and goods for legally blind consumers.

-\$10,000 for consulting services to review personal service manager models, funding, best practices and write a report with feasibility and recommendations for a CT pilot project.

-\$75,000 for case services for CILs. Each CIL will receive \$15,000 per year.

Year 3: \$112,750

-\$12,000 for BESB for the purchase of services and goods for legally blind consumers.

-\$25,750 to pilot the personal manager project.

-\$75,000 for case services for CILs. Each CIL will receive \$15,000 per year.

TOTAL: \$304,750

Goal #4: To expand a statewide network of CILs that allow for community-based presence and availability of IL services to a broad spectrum of people with disabilities of all ages.

Year 1: \$15,000

\$15,000 to support a planning process that will include research of demographics, changing disability populations, and development of a consumer assessment survey to aid in long-term planning process.

Year 2: \$10,000

-\$10,000 to continue the planning process that will include research of demographics, changing disability populations, and development of a consumer assessment survey to aid in long-term planning process.

Year 3: \$10,000

-\$10,000 will be used to develop a series of activities, trainings, tools and workshops to present the data and information collected in Years 1-2.

TOTAL: \$35,000

Goal #5: To develop community inclusion opportunities for people with disabilities.

Year 1: \$57,546

-\$40,000 will be used to contract with a statewide disability organization that will research existing community inclusion models and produce a report that outlines a state plan for community inclusion. The plan will include, but not limited to workshops and educational forums to present models and tools for CILs, community organizations and municipalities.

-\$17,546 to co-sponsor artistic forums, education events and exhibitions that celebrate community inclusion, along with recognizing disability cultural identity and pride. The SILC will continue to partner with VSA Arts and CT Commission on Culture and Tourism to promote artists with disabilities exhibitions and to connect art to community inclusion efforts.

Year 2: \$15,000

-\$12,000 will be used to continue the community inclusion activities and to compile a toolkit that includes stories, strategies and methods that can be used as a teaching tool for organizations, communities and consumers.

-\$3,000 for continued support of arts and culture activities.

Year 3: \$15,000

-\$12,000 will be used to continue the community inclusion activities and to compile a toolkit that includes stories, strategies and methods that can be used as a teaching tool for organizations, communities and consumers.

-\$3,000 for continued support of arts and culture activities.

TOTAL: \$87,546

Goal #6: To support the SILC operations and resources plan.

Year 1: \$22,000

-\$22,000 will support the SILC cost increases to include, but not limited to personnel, office rent, conferences, interpreters, PCAs, transportation,

supplies and equipment. These funds will compliment the \$180,000 I&E resource plan budget.

Year 2: \$24,000

-\$24,000 will support the SILC cost increases to include, but not limited to personnel, office rent, conferences, interpreters, PCAs, transportation, supplies and equipment.

Year 3: \$26,000

-\$26,000 will support the SILC cost increases to include, but not limited to personnel, office rent, interpreters, PCAs, transportation, conferences, supplies and equipment.

TOTAL: \$72,000

It is important to note that 2008-2010 SPIL (FY'10) no-cost extension funds will be used to off-set costs for Year 1 of the 2011-2013 SPIL.

1.3B(2) Describe efforts to coordinate Federal and State funding for centers and IL services, including the amounts, sources and purposes of the funding to be coordinated.

The Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitation Services directs Federal Innovation & Expansion (I&E) funds to support the majority of the operation of the SILC. In addition, a small amount of Part B funding (\$22,000 in Year 1; \$24,000 in Year 2; and \$26,000 in Year 3) will support the SILC's budget cost increases. All funding streams including Part C, Part B, I&E are considered and coordinated as the State Plan for Independent Living is developed. For example, Part B funds are directed to support technology needs, staff training, and organizational capacity building to existing CILs. While Part C funds are directed for general operations of the CILs and while it can be defined that technology, training and capacity-building are general operations, the SILC and DSU are aware that Part C alone is inadequate to fund general operations. Part B is utilized to support CILs when needs arise. State funds (\$643,000) are also used to support general CIL operations and independent living services. State contracts are based on standards and indicators in section 725 to assure strategic and programmatic alignment with the Part C funds.

1.3B(3) Describe any in-kind resources including plant, equipment or services to be provided in support of the SILC resource plan, IL services, general CIL operations and/or other SPIL objectives.

The State of Connecticut, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, provides substantial in-kind resources. The resources include: one (1) Independent Living Counselor who dedicates at least 50% to the SPIL, CILs and SILC operations, while the other 50% to statewide independent living services; one (1) Contract Administrator who dedicates 50% to SPIL contract development and monitoring and fiscal oversight. In addition, the BESB Independent Living Services Grant Coordinator serves as an Ex-Officio SILC member and serves on and/or chairs various SILC committees to include Board Development, By-Laws and SPIL Development. Lastly, both BRS and BESB often provide conference space to assist the CILs and SILC with meetings and educational workshops.

1.3B(4) Provide any additional information about the financial plan, as appropriate.

N/A.

1.4 Compatibility with Chapter 1 of Title VII and the CIL Work Plans

1.4A Describe how the SPIL objectives are consistent with and further the purpose of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act as stated in section 701 of the Act and 34 CFR 364.2.

The overarching goal of the 2011-2013 SPIL is to link work plan objectives with the SPIL goals. To this end, the SPIL seeks to provide capacity-building and organizational support to the CILs in order to improve the provision of IL services, pre-employment/employment opportunities for consumers, and services to unserved and underserved consumers and geographic areas. In addition, the SPIL seeks to support CIL organizational self-sufficiency by supporting increased marketing, public relations, volunteerism and the diversification of financial resources.

Four of the six SPIL goals focus on CIL capacity-building, sustainability and expansion of the network. The goals are Goal #2-5.

1.4B Describe how, in developing the SPIL objectives, the DSU and the SILC considered and incorporated, where appropriate, the priorities and objectives established by centers for independent living under section 725(c)(4) of the Act.

In January 2010, the Executive Director and SILC Executive Committee members began to conduct meetings with each CIL Board of Directors in order to obtain input from staff and consumers for the 2011-2013 SPIL. The meetings were held to not only obtain suggestions for the SPIL, but to better understand the goals, objectives and needs of the CILs in order to improve and coordinate the CILs, SILC and DSU partnership. Also, the SILC used a toll-free 800 number, blog, and social media to outreach to consumers and organizations that were not able to attend a meeting.

In addition, the SILC held a stakeholder breakfast in April 2010 to present the draft SPIL goals and to obtain input from our key state partners, to include Board of Education Services for the Blind, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, Aging and Disability Resource Center, CT Council on Developmental Disabilities, Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, CT Commission on Aging, Department of Social Services, Money Follows the Person, UConn Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and the Centers for Independent Living.

1.5 Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships Among Various Entities

Describe the steps that will be taken to maximize the cooperation, coordination and working relationships among the SILS program, the SILC, and centers; the DSU, other State agencies represented on the SILC and other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues; and other public and private entities determined to be appropriate by the SILC.

The description must identify the entities with which the DSU and the SILC will cooperate and coordinate.

The DSU, the Board of Education Services for the Blind (BESB), the CIL directors and the SILC director will meet regularly to discuss progress on SPIL goals. Representatives from the DSU and BESB attend all the SILC meetings and are mandated members of the SPIL development committee.

In addition, the SILC has representation on the DSU's State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), along with the BESB SRC. Through the SPIL goals, partnerships will continue with various state disability agencies, along with various disability non-profit organizations across the state.

1.6 Coordination of Services

Describe how IL services funded under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will be coordinated with and complement other services to avoid unnecessary duplication with other Federal, State, and local programs, including the OIB program authorized by chapter 2 of title VII of the Act, that provide IL- or VR-related services.

Teams are critical to coordination of services and avoiding duplication of services. Various consultants and counselors at BRS work in a team environment with IL staff as needs arise to share expertise specific to individual consumers. During a team process, the IL center staff is the lead relative to IL plans (including transition from nursing homes) and the BRS counselor is the lead on IL needs relative to a work plan. Through teamwork, unnecessary duplication is avoided.

The DSU, the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB), and CILs also exchange referrals, recognizing that each provider offers unique services necessary for consumers to reach their independent living goals. Services are coordinated at the local level between partners to avoid duplication and to maximize self-direction on the part of the individual consumer. Under Connecticut's Medicaid infrastructure grant(s) including Money Follows the Person, all partners are actively engaged in ensuring that IL services provided by all parties are coordinated.

The services provided by the DSU and the OIB program are unique, specialized, and targeted to meet the needs of consumers where other resources do not exist or are minimally available. The Board of Education and Services for the Blind retains \$12,000 in Part B funding (including state matching funds) to purchase adaptive equipment for consumers, primarily under the age of 55, where other resources are not available from other sources of federal, state, or private funding that the agency administers. In addition policies and procedures within the agency stipulate that the agency

pursue comparable benefits whenever practical (such as access to Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance. When other resources do exist, this information is made available to clients, consistent with the practice of informed choice and consumer control.

The Title VII, OIB program administered by the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) is not duplicative of IL services rendered by the CILs. The CILs refer consumers to BESB that are in need of specialized training and adaptive equipment such as Closed Circuit Television Viewers that BESB can provide to qualified individuals with approved IL or IPE plans. The CILs continue to collaborate with BESB in delivering self-advocacy skill training in conjunction with a series of conferences designed to educate the elderly service provider community on low vision issues, community based services, and information on Titles I and II of ADA and its application to individuals with severe vision impairment.

BRS, BESB and the CILs collaborate with the Department of Developmental Services, various divisions of the Department of Social Services (Medicaid, Housing), the Area Agencies on Aging, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Transportation, the Office of Protection and Advocacy and the State Department of Education as well as other nonprofit agencies to provide coordinated delivery of independent living services. For example, BESB's VR and IL staff are currently working with the Department of Developmental Services, the Department of Social Services, and one of the CILs to prevent a client from becoming evicted using Part B dollars for rent, and to obtain supported employment services through a private vendor. Additionally, the SILC and the CT Association of Centers for Independent Living have worked with various Veterans groups to promote awareness of the services that the CILs can provide to veterans. BESB typically refers blind veterans who need independent living to the VA-VIST program as a comparable resource.

Connecticut has three comprehensive initiatives that seek to coordinate agencies administering special education, vocational education, developmental disabilities, public health, mental health, housing and transportation for people with disabilities. In particular, the initiatives have had major impact on enhancing the collaborative opportunities of the state and local agencies involved in the provision of services to people with disabilities. The initiatives are: 1) the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG), 2)

the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration (MFP), and 3) the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs).

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) has been administered by the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services since the first grant award in 2001. The funding has enabled BRS to support the goal of removing barriers to employment of people with disabilities and to create lasting improvements by expanding the state's capacity to support those individuals with disabilities who wish to work. BRS includes a Connect to Work Center that is responsible for administering the MIG projects, Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) grants, Medicaid Buy-In programs, assistive technology, independent living programs, and the Ticket to Work program. The work of the MIG is guided by its Steering Committee, which includes representation from the following: BRS, Departments of Labor, Corrections, Developmental Services, Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Economic and Community Development, and the state Office of Policy and Management, Public schools, Centers for Independent Living, Spinal Cord Injury Association, Developmental Disabilities Council, Office of Workforce Competitiveness, ARC, Disability Advocacy Collaborative, University of Connecticut, Board of Education and Services for the Blind. Activities have included major public awareness campaigns, employer summits, transportation initiatives, and nine local level pilot initiatives to create infrastructure changes in the areas of transportation/employment/and transition for individuals with disabilities.

Money Follows the Person has enabled more Medicaid recipients living in long term care facilities, such as nursing homes to move back to their communities. The Connecticut Department of Social Services applied to participate in the National Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration. The application was successful and in January 2007, Connecticut was awarded with the opportunity to participate in the demonstration.

The demonstration is the largest Medicaid systems change initiative ever funded by the federal government. Connecticut's Demonstration has 2 goals: 1) Reduce reliance on institutional care; 2) Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of long term care systems.

Success of the demonstration is based on attainment of 5 annual benchmarks. Each benchmark was established as a measure indicating Connecticut's advancement towards increased choice and reduced reliance on institutional

care. A highlight of Connecticut's program includes transitioning 700 Medicaid-eligible elderly and people with disabilities from nursing facilities or other institutions back into the community to receive support and services at home. The transition of 700 people from institutions to the community is Benchmark 1 of the demonstration.

In the review of the first year evaluation of MFP it was noted that the increased networking and collaboration between the different state agencies and waiver providers, as well as the multiple community providers, increased the overall success of this project to date. The 28 member Steering Committee includes multiple stakeholders, with representation from Departments of Social Services, Developmental Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Economic and Community Development, and Office of Policy and Management, Connecticut Legal Services, ARC of Connecticut, Commission on Aging, National Association of Social Workers ? CT, AARP, Brain Injury Association, MS Society, Merrill Lynch, ADAPT of CT, University of Hartford, Council on Developmental Disabilities, and self advocates and care givers. Another identified strength of the MFP program is the number of workgroups developed to work on different aspects of MFP. A common strength of most of the workgroups was a core number of diverse, engaged stakeholders representing providers, individuals with disabilities, and state agencies.

The US Administration on Aging and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have partnered to launch a national initiative for the development of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) to promote the integration of long-term care information and referral services, benefits and options counseling services, and access to publicly and privately financed services and benefits for those in need of long-term supports and their families. The initiative ideally restructures existing resources and programs while complementing other long term care system change activities designed to enhance access to community living for both older and disabled adults by empowering them to make informed decisions through a streamlined long-term support system.

The National Vision of ADRCs is to have Aging and Disability Resource Centers in every community serving as highly visible and trusted places where people of all incomes and ages can turn for information on the full range of long-term support options and a single point of entry for access to public long-term support programs and benefits.

In Connecticut, the ADRC initiative is titled "Community Choices". Community Choices offers a range of information about long-term care community supports, from a simple name and phone number to detailed help concerning community services, policies and procedures, and assistance with completing benefits applications. Connecticut currently has three ADRCs, which partners with CILs and the local Area Agency on Aging.

1.7 Independent Living Services for Individuals who are Older Blind

Describe how the DSU seeks to incorporate into, and describe in, the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under the Older Individuals who are Blind program and that the DSU determines to be effective.

The program manager of the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program serves as an ex-officio member of the SILC and reports on OIB activities as well as other activities of the DSU at SILC meetings. The Independent Living Services program administered by BESB consists of three components that are incorporated into the State Plan and benchmarks set for the agency. These components include (1) 8-10 community based training groups held at Senior Centers throughout the State; (2) 3 conferences per year to train the elderly service provider network and others on vision rehabilitation services available in the community; and (3) seminars conducted at Senior Centers and other localities to educate seniors at risk and consumers who have age-related eye conditions about vision rehabilitation services available at the local, state and federal level. Consumer evaluations of these programs remain very high.

Part II: Narrative

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services

2.1 Scope and Extent

2.1A Check the appropriate boxes in the SPIL Instrument table indicating the types of IL services to be provided to meet the objectives identified in section 1.2 of this SPIL, and whether the services will be provided by the CILs or by the DSU (directly and/or through contract or grant).

Table 2.1A: Independent living	Provided	Provided by	Provided by
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services	by the DSU (directly)	the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/grants)
Core Independent Living Services - Information and referral	No	Yes	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - IL skills training	No	Yes	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - Peer counseling	No	Yes	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - Individual and systems advocacy	No	Yes	Yes
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	No	No	No
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 significant disabilities)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rehabilitation technology	Yes	No	No
Mobility training	Yes	No	No
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and	Yes	Yes	Yes

sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services			
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	No	No	Yes
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services	No	Yes	Yes
Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and IL 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	Yes	Yes	Yes
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	No	Yes	Yes
Supported living	No	No	No
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	No	Yes	Yes
Physical rehabilitation	Yes	No	No
Therapeutic treatment	No	No	No
Provision of needed prostheses and	Yes	No	No

other appliances and devices			
Individual and group social and recreational services	No	Yes	Yes
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	Yes	Yes	Yes
Services for children with significant disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
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 significant disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	No	Yes	Yes
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	No	Yes	Yes
Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act	Yes	Yes	Yes

2.1B Describe any service provision priorities, including types of services or populations, established for meeting the SPIL objectives identified in section 1.2.

The following are service provision priorities established for the 2011-2013 SPIL:

1.) Goal #5 will explore and develop community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into the community of individuals with disabilities.

2.) Goal #2 seeks to improve the capacity and sustainability of the five Centers for Independent Living to include supporting activities, events and programs that develop skills designed for youth to promote self-awareness and self-esteem and to develop advocacy, self-empowerment skills and to explore educational and career options.

3.) As stated above, Goal #2 seeks to improve the capacity and sustainability of the five CILs. One of the key objectives for Goal #2 is to assess staff training and resource needs and to develop training programs in order to strengthen and sustain the capacity of the CIL staff to provide the four core services.

4.) Goal #4 is to expand the CIL statewide network that allows for a community-based presence and the availability of IL services to a broad spectrum of people with disabilities. This goal will identify the needs of unserved and underserved populations, along with geographically underserved areas.

2.1C If the State allows service providers to charge consumers for the cost of services or to consider the ability of individual consumers to pay for the cost of IL services, specify the types of IL services for which costs may be charged and for which a financial need test may be applied, and describe how the State will ensure that:

- Any consideration of financial need is applied uniformly so that all individuals who are eligible for IL services are treated equally; and
- Written policies and consumer documentation required by 34 CFR 364.59(d) will be kept by the service provider.

Indicate N/A if not applicable.

N/A

2.2 Arrangements for State-Provided Services

2.2A if the DSU will provide any of the IL services identified in section 2.1A through grants or contractual arrangements with third parties, describe such arrangements.

The DSU contracts directly with each of the 5 Centers for Independent Living for the provision of core independent living services, along with general CIL operations.

2.2B If the State contracts with or awards a grant to a center for the general operation of the center, describe how the State will ensure that the determination of an individual's eligibility for services from that center shall be delegated to the center.

The DSU delegates responsibility for the determination of an individual's eligibility for services to the five Centers for Independent Living through a legal contract that mandates the CILs service delivery authority and responsibilities.

Part II: Narrative

Section 3: Design for the Statewide Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Network

Provide an overview of the existing network of centers, including non-Part C-funded centers that comply with the standards and assurances in section 725 (b) and (c) of the Act, and the geographic areas and populations currently served by the centers.

The five Connecticut Centers for Independent Living represent the eight Connecticut counties. It is important to note that Connecticut never had strong county governments and since 1960, the names and boundaries of its eight counties have existed only as geographical names used to define parts of the state and weather conditions. Connecticut's CILs are strategically located throughout the state to provide statewide coverage for the delivery of IL core services. All the CILs receive equal amounts of state and federal

funding and service all populations within their service area. The CILs overlap counties, but do not overlap cities and towns. The CIL service areas are as follows:

1.) Region #1 (Southwest Region) is service by the Disability Resource Center of Fairfield County located in Stratford, CT, which is adjacent to the city of Bridgeport that holds the largest number of residents with disabilities (approximately 32,000) in the region. DRCFC services the cities and towns in Fairfield County.

2.) Region #2 (South Central Region) is served by Center for Disabilities Rights in West Haven, CT, which is next door to the city of New Haven that holds the largest number of residents with disabilities (approximately 25,000) in the region. CDR serves the cities and towns in New Haven County and Middlesex County.

3.) Region #3 (Eastern Region) is served by Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut located in Norwich, CT, which is home to the largest community of individuals with disabilities (approximately 8,000) in the region, DNEC serves cities and towns in New London County, Windham County and Tolland County.

4.) Region #4 (North Central Region) is served by Independence Unlimited located in Hartford, CT, which is home to the largest community of individuals with disabilities (approximately 30,000) in the region. IU serves cities and towns in Hartford County and Tolland County.

5.) Region #5 (Northwest Region) is served by Independence Northwest located in Naugatuck, CT, which is adjacent to the city of Waterbury that holds the largest number of residents with disabilities (approximately 23,000) in the Northwest region. IN serves cities and towns in Litchfield County, New Haven County, and Fairfield County.

In 1988, CT's Independent Living Advisory Council developed a five-year plan to establish 8 CILs in the state. The plan divided the state into 8 geographic regions, with a center in each region and several satellite offices for the established centers. It was estimated that, in 1988, \$200,000 was necessary annually to start and operate a new CIL with \$50,000 per year for each satellite office. Today, those costs are significantly higher.

By 1989, CT had established 5 out of the 8 planned CILs with a combination of state and federal funding. However, in 1993, when the five-year plan was reviewed, no new CILs or satellites were established. Building the capacity of the existing CILs was identified as the immediate funding priority while the expansion of the network remained a long-range goal.

In 2008, CT's Bureau of Rehabilitation Services submitted a letter to the US DOE , RSA stating that as a result of stakeholder input, the SILC and combined DSUs mutually agreed to seek approval to amend Connecticut's existing SPIL to delay the expansion of independent living services to continue to focus efforts on strengthening the capacity and sustainability of five centers within the Connecticut network.

A 2004 needs assessment for the SILC by the Center on Aging at the University of Connecticut Health Center determined that given the size of the state of Connecticut, the entire state is served by a Center for Independent Living. However, the degree to which a given town and/or area is underserved tends to rise from the distance of its CIL. The CILs are seeking to expand outreach and service delivery to underserved populations and geographic areas through the ARRA stimulus funds.

3.2 Expansion of Network

Describe the design for the further expansion of the network, including identification of the unserved and underserved areas in the State and the order of priority for serving these areas as additional funding becomes available (beyond the required cost-of-living increase).

In 2004, after discussion with the existing CILs, it was agreed to increase the base level funding to \$550,000. While Part C funding has moderately increased over the past ten years, state allocations to CILs have varied significantly. The \$550,000 figure was based on operational budgets submitted by the CILs to the SILC and remained a constant unit of the development of the current SPIL in 2005. In 2008, the SILC voted to decrease the base level of funding from \$550,000 to \$300,000.

The lower level of funding was intended to be provisional based on the development of a strategic plan that would address diversification of funding

and expansion to underserved communities and populations. Unfortunately, before the strategic planning began, the severe decline in state revenue significantly reduced the ability of the state to fund all programs at their existing level, including but not limited to rehabilitation services.

Subsequently in November 2009, Governor Rell's budget deficit mitigation plan proposed the elimination of all state funding administered by the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (DSU) to Connecticut's five CILs, except for their 11.12% state match required to retain the Part B funding. In April 2010, the Connecticut General Assembly successfully restored state funding to the CILs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

However, the instability of state funding results in difficult planning and underscores the need for the SILC and CILs to advocate more aggressively for full funding of the network, as well as to seek alternative resources to advance independent living in the state. The SILC determined that using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds to establish new CILs is not feasible given current revenue shortfalls. However, a SPIL amendment was submitted in March 2010 (and approved on August 10, 2010) to raise the base level back to \$550,000, which remains the benchmark in this three year state plan.

As stated above, the SILC and the DSU have determined that using ARRA stimulus funds to establish new CILs is not feasible given current revenue shortfalls. However, the base level of \$550,000 remains the benchmark and therefore reestablishes the priority of building organizational capacity of the existing five CILs. The current Part C funds are distributed equally among the five Connecticut CILs. Therefore, we've distributed the IL Part C ARRA funds equally among the 5 existing Part C centers to meet the needs of underserved areas. Connecticut will also distribute any excess regular fiscal year 2010 IL Part C funds equally among the existing Part C centers to meet the needs of underserved areas.

Connecticut's network of five Part C CILs provides statewide coverage, although underserved areas and populations exist within the service areas of each center. Connecticut proposes the following priorities for use of funds:

1. Restore the base funding level to \$550,000 per CIL;
2. Expand IL services in underserved geographic areas of CT;

3. Expand data collection to improve the tracking of legally blind clients in order to improve referrals and coordination with BESB.

The above recommendations are based on the SILC gathering and reviewing the following data and research:

1. Past and current CIL 704 reports;
2. SILC 2004 Needs Assessment;
3. CT Census data;
4. Current CIL budgets; and
5. Estimates of CT non-profit operational and programmatic costs.

IL services will be expanded into the following geographic underserved areas:

1. Middlesex County and Estuary area;
2. Lower Central and Coastal Fairfield County;
3. North Eastern CT;
4. North Central CT; and
5. Northwest, CT.

Within the 2011-2013 SPIL, the SILC, DSUs and Connecticut CILs will:

1. Create effective collaborations and partnerships to assist children with disabilities and their families meet their educational, psychosocial and vocational needs;
2. Build and strengthen the CILs ability to provide pre-vocational and vocational skills to consumers referred through BRS and BESB VR and IL counselors;
3. Build long-term capacity by improving the technological core of the center, including, but not limited to, purchasing equipment, improving electronic network connection, and obtaining software in order to better serve consumers;
4. Create more efficient and effective ways of increasing Independent Living services to students with disabilities transitioning from school to employment and independent living;
5. Expand information and referral and advocacy series to address the needs of consumers who were laid off and may need assistance replacing services or assistive technology previously provided through an employer; and
6. Provide professional development opportunities that have both short-term and long-term benefits to staff of centers.

3.3 Section 723 States Only

3.3A If the State follows an order of priorities for allocating funds among centers within a State that is different from what is outlined in 34 CFR 366.22, describe the alternate order of priority that the DSU director and the SILC chair have agreed upon. Indicate N/A if not applicable.

N/A

3.3B Describe how the State policies, practices and procedures governing the awarding of grants to centers and the oversight of these centers are consistent with 34 CFR 366.37 and 366.38.

N/A

Part II: Narrative

Section 4: Designated State Unit (DSU)

4.1 Administrative Support Services

4.1A Describe the administrative support services to be provided by the DSU for the SILS (Part B) program and, if the State is a Section 723 State, for the CIL (Part C) program.

Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about administrative support services.

Connecticut has two DSUs: The Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) and the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB). BRS provides administrative support to include financial and technical assistance in planning Part B program, budget development and evaluation of CIL and SILC activities. In addition, BRS provides contract management and competitive procurement for the SPIL.

BESB also provides technical assistance in planning, developing and evaluating Part B programs. BESB receives an annual allocation of Part B funding from RSA and ?passes? the majority of the funds to BRS to support the Connecticut State Plan for Independent Living. BESB provides \$12,000 of funding (Part B funds, plus state match) for the purchase of adaptive equipment and services to meet the independent living needs of consumers as per approved ILP or IL waiver, when these services cannot be funded through Vocational Rehabilitation or other sources of state and federal funding.

4.1B Describe other DSU arrangements for the administration of the IL program, if any.

N/A

Part II: Narrative

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 Resource plan

5.1A Describe the resource plan prepared by the SILC in conjunction with the DSU for the provision of resources, including staff and personnel, made available under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII, section 101(a)(18) of the Act, and from other public and private sources that may be necessary to carry out the functions of the SILC identified in section 705(c). The description must address the three years of this SPIL.

- Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

For more information click the icon.

The SILC is an independent Connecticut 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. However, as part of the collaborative relationship between the DSU and the SILC, BRS provides \$180,000 annually for the SILC resource plan. The \$180,000 contract is provided through non-competitive resources, specifically BRS's Innovation and Expansion funds. The \$180,000 contract will continue through the implementation of the 2001-2013 SPIL and will be supplemented with \$72,000 over three years from the SPIL. The additional funds will allow the SILC to appropriately budget for increased costs over the three years. The total resource plan budget will be \$202,000 for Year 1, \$204,000 for Year 2 and \$206,000 for Year 3.

This budget supports non-personnel costs to include office rental, office supplies, professional development, conferences, educational materials and travel. The personnel costs support two (2) full-time staff, an Executive Director and an Administrative Assistant.

5.1B Describe how the following SILC resource plan requirements will be addressed.

- The SILC's responsibility for the proper expenditure of funds and use of resources that it receives under the resource plan.

The SILC received funds through a contract administered by the DSU, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. Proper expenditure of funds is detailed in the contract and monitored through quarterly programmatic and fiscal reports, in addition to an annual audit. The SILC and DSU meet quarterly to assess and monitor the SPIL income and expenditures by goal.

- Non-inclusion of conditions or requirements in the SILC resource plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC.

The SILC is an independent 501(c)(3) Connecticut nonprofit organization. All appropriate policies, procedures and processes are in place to ensure the autonomy of the SILC.

- Reliance, to the maximum extent possible, on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the State plan.

The SILC budget is comprised of noncompetitive resources. All resources are anticipated during the period of implementation of the SPIL.

5.2 Establishment and Placement

Describe how the establishment and placement of the SILC ensures its independence with respect to the DSU and all other State agencies. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

The SILC operates as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Connecticut. Its Board of Directors is representative of volunteers from the disability community and two ex-officio members that represent the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and the Board of Education and Services for the Blind. The two DSUs work in partnership with the SILC, but do not staff the SILC. There is no apparent conflict of interest with the DSUs and/or other state agencies.

The SILC is governed by and adheres to its non-profit Articles of Incorporation

and By-Laws, which includes a conflict of interest policy that all members to sign annually. Also, as an incorporated nonprofit, the SILC must abide by the non-profit duty of care, loyalty and fiduciary regulations set forth by the State of Connecticut. The SILC holds an office at 151 New Park Avenue in Hartford, CT. The office is located in an independent accessible office building and conference center outside the structure of the state government.

5.3 Appointment and Composition

Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b). Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

Article 3 of the SILC By-Laws states in detail the process for appointing members. The Executive Director, Executive Committee and Board Development Committee take all measures to ensure that requirements for general SILC composition and those individual membership qualifications are met. The Chairperson and Executive Director work in concert with the Board Development Committee to outreach, solicit and review names of potential members.

A nomination application is completed for each potential candidate and reviewed by the Committee to ensure statewide representation, skill set, interests, and representation of individuals with a broad range of disabilities. A board job packet is shared with potential members to explain SILC, independent living services and to define board member roles and responsibilities.

The SILC, its agents and any participants in the selection process will ensure the utmost confidentiality of all potential applicants and will practice nondiscrimination in the selection of members. The Board Development Committee will present recommendations and then a slate of candidates will be submitted to the Executive Committee for review. Candidates will be required to sign a Code of Ethics statement and complete a Conflict of Interest declaration prior to the names being submitted to the Executive Committee. In addition, all candidates will receive a board binder that includes Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, current SPIL, Personnel and Financial Policies, ILRU history of IL, Rehabilitation Act, Board Membership directory, committee assignment and roles and responsibilities, and SILC and SPIL budgets.

The Executive Committee shall act upon the slate of candidates and appoint directors at the annual September meeting. After appointment, the Executive Committee shall submit the names of the directors for appointment to the Governor through the office of the Governor's Aide of Board and Appointments by October of each year. The Governor shall act upon the slate of candidates and his or her sole discretion.

5.4 Staffing

Describe how the following SILC staffing requirements will be met.

- SILC supervision and evaluation, consistent with State law, of its staff and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

As stated above, the SILC is an independent nonprofit organization with a full-time Executive Director and Administrative Assistant. The organization maintains personnel policies and financial policies developed, approved and implemented by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee of the Board of Director meets monthly and evaluates the Executive Director annually no later than September 30th. In turn, the Executive Director evaluates the Administrative Assistant annually by the same date. In 2009, the Executive Committee approved a staff performance tool that is used to evaluate both the Executive Director and Administrative Assistant.

The Executive Director responsibilities include executing all organizational business on behalf of the Board, including hiring and supervising all staff, maintaining all administrative and fiscal controls and policies, and working with the DSUs and partners to develop and implement the SPIL objectives.

- Non-assignment of duties to SILC staff and other personnel made available by the DSU, or any other State agency or office, that would create a conflict of interest while assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties.

Part II: Narrative

Section 6: Service Provider Requirements

Describe how the following service provider requirements will be met:

6.1 Staffing

- Inclusion of personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers.

All CILs have qualified staff trained in the IL five core services and most staff are individuals with disabilities. The five CIL executive directors have worked in the IL field since the 1980s and are highly knowledgeable and proficient in the development IL services and operating CILs. In addition, goal #2 was developed to improve the capacity and sustainability of the CILs by developing a professional development training program, in order for staff to keep pace with changes in the IL field and continue to be highly trained specialists.

- Availability, to the maximum extent feasible, of personnel able to communicate (1) with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille, or audio tapes and (2) in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act.

All CILs are equipped with staff and technology that allows for communicating with individuals who rely on alternative modes of communication and nonverbal devices. Specifically, the current 2008-2010 SPIL prioritized technology as a top goal. Therefore, the CILs and the SILC are in the process of upgrading technology from computers to software to alternative modes of communication that will allow CILs to better serve and outreach to consumers. Most of the CILs have staff that are able to communicate with consumers in their native languages. If this is not available, the CILs partner with local agencies and interpreters to assist consumers.

- Establishment and maintenance of a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, where appropriate, in administering the CIL program, improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy.

The 2011-2013 SPIL will create a CIL training academy that will provide for training, workshops and staff development opportunities for all classes of CIL

staff. The CIL staff, DSU, and SILC will work together to determine the professional development categories, in order to fully develop and expand staff knowledge base and to build a career lattice.

- Affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act.

All CILs will adhere to affirmative action policies to employ and advance qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act and 34 CFR 364.31.

6.2 Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

- Adoption of those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for funds made available through parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act, in addition to complying with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements.

The SILC and four of the five CILs use a Certified Public Accountant who adheres to all fiscal controls and fund accounting procedures as necessary for the disbursement and accounting for the parts B and Part C of the chapter 1. The executive director of the fifth CIL performs all fiscal tasks for her CIL, as she is highly proficient and knowledgeable of fiscal controls, accounting procedures, EDGAR, federal and state reporting requirements, etc.

In addition, the DSU complies with all state and federal fiscal controls and accounting procedures to ensure proper disbursement of SPIL funds. The DSU and SILC meet regularly to review the income and expenditures for the SPIL funds and we are working to improve our tracking of SPIL expenditures by goals and objectives for 2011-2013.

6.3 Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

- Maintenance of records that fully disclose and document the information listed in 34 CFR 364.35.

The SILC and the five CILs maintain all records in a locked and secure locations that fully disclose and document information for recipients of financial assistance, in compliance with 34 CFR 364.35.

- Submission of annual performance and financial reports, and any other reports that the Secretary determines to be appropriate

The CILs and the SILC, in coordination with the DSU, will submit in a timely fashion all annual performance reports, financial reports, and other reports as determined, to the Secretary.

- Access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews, to the information listed in 34 CFR 364.37.

The CILs and the SILC, in coordination with the DSU, will submit in a timely fashion any and all audits, examinations and compliance reviews for all recipients of financial assistance related to 34 CFR 364.37.

6.4 Eligibility

- Eligibility of any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs.

Any consumer with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), is eligible for IL services under the SILS and the CIL programs, authorized under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act.

- Ability of any individual to seek information about IL services under these programs and to request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities.

All CILs provide the ability for an individual who may seek information about IL services under these programs and request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities, as appropriate.

- Determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs in a manner that meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51.

All CILs will adhere to the requirements set forth in 34 CFR 364.51 for the determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services.

- Application of eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services.

All CILs apply eligibility requirements, in compliance with 34 CFR 364.41(b), without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services.

- Non-exclusion from receiving IL services of any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for IL services, based on the imposition of any State or local residence requirement.

CILs will not impose any state or local residence requirement that excludes any individual who is present in the state and who is otherwise eligible for IL services from receiving IL services.

6.5 Independent Living Plans

- Provision of IL services in accordance with an IL plan complying with Sec. 364.52 and mutually agreed upon by the individuals with significant disabilities and the appropriate service provider staff unless the individual signs a waiver stating that an IL plan is unnecessary.

Independent living services shall be provided by the CILs to all consumers with significant disabilities, in accordance with an independent living plan mutually agreed upon by an appropriate CIL staff member and the consumer, unless the consumer signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary.

6.6 Client Assistance Program (CAP) Information

- Use of accessible formats to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII about the availability of the CAP program, the purposes of the services provided under the CAP, and how to contact the CAP.

The CILs provide assistance in informing and advising all consumers and consumer applicants of all available benefits under the Act, and, upon request of such consumers or consumers applicants

6.7 Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information

- Adoption and implementation of policies and procedures meeting the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a), to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names.

All CILs have policies and procedures in place that protect the confidentiality of consumers, to include but not limited to name(s), personal information, photographs, etc.

Part II: Narrative

Section 7: Evaluation

Describe the method that will be used to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the plan in meeting the objectives established in Section 1. The description must include the State's evaluation of satisfaction by individuals with significant disabilities who have participated in the program.

Section 7: Evaluation

Goal(s) and the related Objective(s) from Section 1	Method that will be used to evaluate
Goal #1	The SILC will employ four methods of evaluation: 1.) an annual workplan that will be an overview of the SPIL goals and objectives; 2.) consumer satisfaction surveys conducted by the CILs; 3.) formative evaluation for Goals 1, 2, 4 & 6; and 4.) summative evaluation for Goals 3 & 5.
Goal #2	
Goal #3	
Goal #4	The SILC will create an annual work plan which will include specific activities to implement SPIL goals, as well as priorities for the provision of additional IL services that may arise. The Executive Director will prepare a report on the plan's programmatic and financial progress for
Goal #5	
Goal #6	

	<p>presentation and discussion at each of the SILC meetings.</p> <p>The work plan will include a SPIL evaluation component, which will assess the progress on the objectives, indicators, methods, resources and outcomes. The SILC will use the SPIL evaluation plan presented as part of the IL Net National Training on evaluation by ILRU/NCIL/APRIL as a template. Through this review process, recommendations will be made by the committee to improve objective outcomes and strategies or to realign resources that will better meet consumer needs.</p> <p>The CILs will conduct a consumer satisfaction survey for their consumers who participate in a SPIL activity and/or program. The DSUs and SILC will require other SPIL partners to conduct a similar satisfaction survey, developed in collaboration with the SILC. The SILC will require provider to report the results to the SILC and the SILC will consider the survey results in its evaluation of the SPIL.</p>
<p>Goal #1</p> <p>Goal #2</p> <p>Goal #4</p> <p>Goal #6</p>	<p>Formative evaluation will be used to assess Goals 1, 2, 4 & 6. This form of evaluation will be used to help the SILC, CILs and DSU to examine the delivery of service, specifically the process of delivering a program or service.</p>
<p>Goal #3</p> <p>Goal #5</p>	<p>Summative evaluation will be used to assess Goals 3 & 5. This form of evaluation will be used to examine the effects and outcomes of consumers.</p>

Part II: Narrative

Section 8: State-Imposed Requirements

8 State-Imposed Requirements

Identify any State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL.

N/A

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number of this information collection is 1820-0527. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data sources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537. If you have any comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: Ms. Sue Rankin-White, U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, PCP-5013, 400 Maryland Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20202-2800.