

STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL)

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

SUBCHAPTER B -INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

Subchapter C - Centers for Independent Living

State: CONNECTICUT

FISCAL YEARS: 2021-2023 Effective Date: October 1, 2020

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

Executive Summary: The mission of the CT IL Network is to provide CT residents with disabilities full access to Centers for Independent Living and to expand educational opportunities, programs and services that expand and support opportunities for Independent Living.

The FY'2021-2023 SPIL will focus on maintaining the capacity of the 5 Centers for Independent Living, while also raising the awareness of the network and providing resources for the centers to expand their capacity. The SILC is charged with reducing barriers for persons with disabilities from the perspective of individual consumers as well as from a systemic perspective. The SILC and CILs, work in partnership with the advocates, statewide disability organizations, the DSE, and state and federal agencies and various non-profit partners to identify barriers, develop and implement policy initiatives and provide advocacy, communication and education on statewide initiatives. The SILC will continue to play a leadership role with the CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance, and other organizations to promote education and advocacy; employment, housing and transportation resources; and emergency management planning and training.

CT's Centers for Independent Living play a vital role in assisting consumers with disabilities to live independently and to exercise choice. The five CILs receive equal federal and state funding to support the delivery of core independent living services including consumer and systems advocacy; independent living skills training; information and referral services; peer counseling; and transition services to include school to work, as well as from nursing homes and other institutions to the community.

The FY'2021-2023 Title VII Part B funds will support activities that will support the cross-disability coalition and CILs to assess, maintain and support the needs of consumers by:

- Expanding resources for the CT Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance to further education and advocate on behalf of people with disabilities.
- Funding a consumer services advocate position at each CIL to coordinate and expand goods and services for consumers' Independent Living;
- Developing a public awareness and marketing campaign highlighting consumer stories and CILs outcomes and increasing the knowledge of CILs work;
- Providing training and technical assistance to individual CILs and the IL Network to develop capacity and sustainability efforts on disaster planning/emergency preparedness, non-profit management, strategic planning, employment, housing and transportation.

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

- 1.1 **Mission:** The mission is to provide CT residents with disabilities full access to Centers for Independent Living and to expand educational opportunities, programs and services that expand and support Independent Living.
- 1.2 **Goals:** The three goals of the FY'2021-2023 State Plan for Independent Living are as follows:
 - Goal #1: Develop Independent Living opportunities and resources through advocacy and education.

- Goal #2: Sustain and expand the capacity of the five (5) Centers for Independent Living and provide funding for purchase goods and services for consumers.
- Goal #3: Support the SILC operations and resource plan and DSE management.

1.3 **Objectives:** to include geographic scope, target dates and indicators.

Goal 1, Objective 1: Provide education, leadership and organizational support to the CT Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance (CCDLA), in order to promote coordinated statewide disability advocacy.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2023

Action Steps:

- Provide funding to support a 32 hour per month CCDLA coordinator;
- Conduct 6 full CCDLA meetings per year with a minimum of 30 members;
- Host 30-40 weekly advocacy and legislative calls to membership and general public;
- Develop a minimum of 10 written testimonies and/or legislation to expand and support disability funding and programs;
- Create 2 educational forums annually for a minimum of 100 CCDLA members and CT residents (i.e. Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness conferences and webinars and bi-annual Candidates' Forum on Disability Issues).

Indicators:

- Increase CCDLA membership by 25%;
- Meeting surveys indicate satisfaction of 75% or greater.

Goal 1, Objective 2: Partner with federal, state and CT disability organizations to develop a coordinated emergency preparedness plan for people with disabilities in CT and for CILs and the SILC;

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2023

Action Steps:

- Participate on statewide emergency preparedness committees and coalitions with FEMA, Region 1, state agencies, CCDLA, and various CT disability organizations to develop a state preparedness plan;
- Develop a SILC Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Prep Committee;
- Provide 1-2 training/technical assistance sessions annually for CILs to develop plans that include a framework, for providing accessibility training for federally mandated organizations.

Indicators:

- Increase knowledge of need and issues related to disaster recovery;
- Increase participation by 25% of individuals and organizations working on disaster recovery/emergency preparedness planning;
- Increase knowledge of SILC members and CIL staff and board members on importance of having plans for accessibility training regarding disaster planning and emergency management.

Goal 1, Objective 3:

- Collaborate with state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and disability organizations to expand employment, housing and transportation programs and services for CT residents with disabilities.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2023

Action Steps:

- Partner with state agencies, CILs, other nonprofit agencies, CT's DD Network (DD Council, DRCT and UCEDD) to expand programs, services and funding for the respective organizations and the CCDLA;
- Partner with CT's Protection and Advocacy Agency, Disability Rights CT, to collaborate on joint I&R training workshops and services;
- Attend 2-4 meetings annually on accessible communication, employment, aging, accessible housing, home and community-based services and transportation, customized employment to provide resources for CILs.

Indicators:

- Increase the number of collaborative activities developed annually;
- Expand the information that is shared with CILs on new initiatives or programs;

Goal 2, Objective 1:

- Provide each CIL with funding to support a part-time equivalent consumer services advocate;

Geographic Scope: Statewide based on catchment area of each CIL.

Target Date: 01/01/2021

Action Steps:

- Create a scope of services for position that outlines work with consumers and CIL staff;
- Determine the staff to perform role;
- Develop a written overview of the position that clarifies consumers needs for goods, equipment and services and ways the program will support Independent Living;
- Advocate, educate and collaborate with consumers and other agencies on the consumer services program and identify alternative sources of funding to expand opportunities for consumers;
- Coordinate with vendors, conduct bill paying and complete quarterly reporting; provide training on updated consumer services policy, procedures and reporting;

Indicators:

- Staff person hired within first 60 days of SPIL;
- Increase the number of consumers served annually to include 30 existing consumers and 10 new consumers;
- Increase new community partnerships/collaborations to provide additional consumer resources and/or funding by 50%;
- Finalize new consumer services form and provide 1 consumer services training per year;

Goal 2, Objective 2:

- Develop statewide training, technical assistance, resource development, strategic planning opportunities to support CILs and SILC staff and board members in the areas of board development and outreach, non-profit management, pre-employment/employment, sustainability, youth transition and other areas as identified by CILs.

Geographic Scope: Statewide**Target Date:** 9/30/2023**Action Steps:**

- Create a comprehensive statewide training for SILC, CILs boards and staff orient to provide strategies for greater outreach and recruitment; more diverse membership; and improved fundraising knowledge;
- Develop individualized plans tailored to each CILs specific non-profit and board needs;
- Hold one statewide board reception per year and conduct 2-4 social media posts/email blasts annually to outreach and recruit prospective SILC and CILs members;
- Develop partnerships in each CIL catchment area with various organizations and community foundations to assist with board training and outreach and recruitment.

Indicators:

- Add a minimum of four new board and/or committee members per CIL in Years 2-3;
- Identify a consultant to work with each CIL on an individualized plan for board recruitment, increased membership and fundraising.

Goal 2, Objective 3:

- Provide funding to each CIL for the purchase of consumer goods and direct services to support IL.

Geographic Scope: Statewide to each CIL**Target Date:** 9/30/2023**Action Steps:**

- Update and finalize the consumer services policy, procedures and reporting document; coordinate the funding through the consumer services advocate;
- Develop an annual report that shows how the funds are spent and how the funds meet the gaps and needs of consumers; determine how the funds meet the gaps and needs of consumers.

Indicator:

- Provide goods and services to 50-75 consumers per CIL annually in order facilitate and improve the consumers Independent Living.

Goal 2; Objective 4:

- Expand the awareness of CILs and IL by partnering on a statewide CIL public awareness and marketing campaign.

Geographic Scope: Statewide**Target Date:** 9/30/2023

Action Steps:

- Collaborate with CT Association for Independent Living (CACIL) on marketing consultant to assist with press releases, issues briefs and any additional marketing materials created;
- Conduct 2 IL Education Days (SPIL Year 1 and Year 3) at the Capitol for SILC, CIL consumers, staff and partners to educate and advocate with legislators on importance of IL work;
- Conduct two SILC IL Awards events in Year 1 and Year 3 to recognize community advocates and leaders and educate the public on importance of IL, CILs and SILC;
- Highlight the importance of IL through an art display/showcase to be held at CT's Legislative Office Building;
- Develop one new issue brief per year; consumer press stories and conduct social media to educate funders, legislators, state agencies, on IL.

Indicators:

- Increase press stories and coverage by 25%
- Increase knowledge by 50% of individuals who attend art showcase; IL Awards and Education Days.

Goal 2, Objective 5:

- Continue the Data/Tech Committee to expand the development of unified reports, consumer satisfaction surveys, statewide outcomes measures, and site review tools and training.

Geographic Scope: Statewide through each CIL

Target Date: 9/30/2023

Action Steps:

- Staff the Data/Tech Committee and determine a CIL representative as Data/Tech Committee co-chair with SILC;
- Conduct 6-8 meetings per year to review and develop reporting formats, develop an outcomes framework; work with CILs and CILs First to develop consolidated online reporting;
- Conduct and review consumer satisfaction surveys;
- Review site review tools and collaborate with DSE, SILC and CILs on site reviews.

Indicators:

- Maintain 75% or greater consumer satisfaction on surveys;
- Maintain 75% or higher rating on site reviews.

Goal 3, Objective 1: Support the SILC operations, the DSE's administration and contract management of the Title VII funds and develop a three-year work plan that outlines the SILC & DSE roles, responsibilities and deliverables.

Geographic Scope: Statewide through SILC and DSE operations

Target Date: 9/30/2023

Action Steps:

- Meet quarterly with the SILC and DSE to review resource plan, SPIL financials and work plan.
- Present SPIL updates quarterly at SILC meetings.

- Submit quarterly invoices and program reports;
- Conduct annual fiscal audit and submit to DSE;
- Conduct programmatic annual report.

Indicators:

- Complete 100% of the proposed SILC activities in compliance with the timeline;
- Monitor all SPIL activities annually and maintain a 75% satisfaction or greater score on activities evaluation.

1.4 Evaluation:

The CT-SILC is responsible for evaluation of the FY'2021-2023 SPIL. The evaluation plan is detailed in the goals, objectives and indicators table below. Through the SILC Data-Tech Committee, which is represented by five CIL director, ADS Bureau Chief for Community Living (DSE representative), SILC Chair, SILC members and SILC Ex. Director, will develop a new reporting mechanism to review and evaluate each goal, objective, and data to be collected. All 5 CILs are currently using the same data reporting systems, CILs First. The Data-Tech Committee will work with CILs First to create a unified streamlined electronic report to capture the SPIL goals, objectives, indicators and data to be collected. As a result of this reporting, the SILC will prepare an aggregated quarterly report on SPIL progress and the report will be presented at each SILC full board meeting.

During Year 2, the Data-Tech Committee will begin work on an outcomes project. The Committee will report on outcomes related to the SPIL, but also look to develop additional IL network outcomes that can be reported to and shared with CT legislations, policy makers and funders. The project will review the 2017 CT IL Funding Formula report developed in 2017 and other outcomes frameworks to develop useful outcomes data for CILs and CT-SILC to present to funders, policy makers and legislations. In addition, during Year 3, the SILC/CILs Data-Tech Committee, will conduct a consumer satisfaction survey. The survey will continue its current model of 30% consumer cases with 80% open and 20% closed and 50% mailed and 50% phoned. The 2020 consumer satisfaction survey response rate was 35% response rate with 85% respondents stating positively that they either a strongly agree or agree on services provision Provide funding

Timeline	Goals	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection (please check as many as apply)
10/1/2020-9/30/2023	Goal #1: Develop Independent Living opportunities and resources	Provide education, leadership and organizational support to the CT Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance (CCDLA), in order to	Increase CCDLA membership by 25%;	Membership applications; Active members;	SILC

	through advocacy and education.	promote coordinated statewide disability advocacy	Meeting surveys indicate 75% satisfaction or greater.	Member surveys; Meeting surveys; Program surveys.	
9/10/1/2020-9/30/2023	Goal #1: Develop Independent Living opportunities and resources through advocacy and education.	Partner with federal, state and CT disability organizations to develop a coordinated emergency preparedness plan for people with disabilities in CT and for CILs and the SILC;	<i>Increase knowledge of needs and issues related to disaster recovery;</i> <i>Increase number of advocates and organizations working on disaster recovery;</i> <i>Increase knowledge of SILC and CILs on importance of accessibility training.</i>	<i>Meeting surveys;</i> <i>Pre and post surveys.</i>	<i>SILC</i>
10/1/2020-9/30/2023	Goal #1: Develop Independent Living opportunities and resources through advocacy and education.	Collaborate with state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and disability organizations to expand employment, housing and transportation programs and services for CT residents with disabilities.	Increase collaborations; Increase number of new initiatives and/or programs shared with CILs	Meeting surveys; Meeting attendance; New programs developed.	<i>SILC</i> <i>CILs</i>

10/1/2020-9/30/2023	Goal #2: Sustain and expand the capacity of the five (5) Centers for Independent Living and provide funding for purchase goods and services for consumers.	Provide each CIL with funding to support a part-time equivalent consumer services advocate;	Staff person hired; Increase number of consumers served; Increase number of new partnerships; Create new reporting form	CIL quarterly reporting	<i>SILC CILs DSE</i>
10/1/2020-9/30/2023	Goal #2: Sustain and expand the capacity of the five (5) Centers for Independent Living and provide funding for purchase goods and services for consumers.	Develop statewide training, technical assistance, resource development, strategic planning opportunities to support CILs and SILC staff and board members in the areas of board development and outreach, non-profit management, pre-employment/employment, sustainability, youth transition and other areas as identified by CILs.	Number of trainings; Number of new board members and/or committee members; Workplans developed with consultant	Training surveys; Satisfaction of new board members; Increased CIL board members;	<i>SILC CILs</i>
10/1/2020-9/30/2023	Goal #2: Sustain and expand the capacity of the five (5) Centers for Independent Living and provide funding for purchase goods and	Provide funding to each CIL for the purchase of consumer goods and direct services to support IL.	<i>Increase number of consumers served</i>	<i>CIL quarterly reporting</i>	<i>SILC CILs DSE</i>

	services for consumers.				
10/1/2020-9/30/2023	Goal #2: Sustain and expand the capacity of the five (5) Centers for Independent Living and provide funding for purchase goods and services for consumers.	Expand the awareness of CILs and IL by partnering on a statewide CIL public awareness and marketing campaign.	<i>Increase press stories;</i> <i>Increase social media stories;</i> <i>Increase public knowledge</i>	<i>Event surveys;</i> <i>Press stories;</i> <i>Attendance at events</i>	<i>SILC</i> <i>CILs</i> <i>DSE</i>
10/1/2020-9/30/2023	Goal #2: Sustain and expand the capacity of the five (5) Centers for Independent Living and provide funding for purchase goods and services for consumers.	Continue the Data/Tech Committee to expand the development of unified reports, consumer satisfaction surveys, statewide outcomes measures, and site review tools and training.	<i>75% satisfaction on consumer surveys</i>	<i>Meeting satisfaction;</i> <i>New reports developed;</i> <i>Consumer satisfaction surveys;</i> <i>Site reviews</i>	<i>SILC</i> <i>CILs</i> <i>DSE</i>
10/1/2020-9/30/2023	Goal # 3: <i>Support the SILC operations, the DSE administration.</i>	Develop a three-year work plan that outlines all the SPIL work and programs; Use work plan to monitor progress;	Meet quarterly with the SILC and DSE to review resource plan, SPIL financials and work plan. Present SPIL updates	Quarterly invoicing and reports; Quarterly SILC/DSE meeting notes;	<i>SILC</i> <i>DSE</i>

			quarterly at SILC meetings. Submit quarterly invoices and program reports; Conduct annual fiscal audit and submit to DSE; Complete 100% of the proposed SILC activities in compliance with the timeline and maintain 75% satisfaction on SPIL activities;	SPIL evaluation documents; Annual fiscal audit.	
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1.5 Financial Plan:

Sources of Funding: This plan exceeds the \$338,717 awarded to Connecticut for Part B funds. Annually the DSE holds back a percentage of funds as “planned carry forward” funds. This planned carry forward allows for services to continue and payments to be issued prior to receipt of the subsequent FFY grant award funds.

Process for utilization of funds through grants, contracts, selection of grantees and distribution of funds. The SILC negotiates contracts through an array of processes, including soliciting through RFP’s and awarding contracts to specific qualified entities. Selection of recipients through an RFP process is conducted with a rating sheet and a committee assembled specifically for that activity/process. Contracts are negotiated through the SILC Executive Director and contract outcomes are monitored through the SILC, the Board Chair and the Board. Funds are paid as negotiated in the contracts through invoice and upon completion of specific tasks within specified timelines.

Other SPIL Activities: Funds will be used to support the Ct Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance in addressing system advocacy efforts as well as community education on Independent Living issues, voting rights, and other policy efforts. Funds will also be used for emergency planning for each CIL collectively through the network, and will also be used for a CIL community outreach and awareness campaign.

CARES ACT Funding: Cares Act funds totaled 4941, 295. This was split equally to the five centers in the amount of \$188,259. These funds are used for food home delivery for consumers and to address the other consumer needs related to COVID -19.

Budget Narrative: Chapter 1 Part B funds will support the administration and operations of the SILC and the purchase of consumer goods and services for CIL consumers, along with funding to hire a consumer advocate at each CIL. The Other SPIL Activities as described above will support the Ct Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance, emergency planning for each CIL and collectively for the network and the CIL community outreach and awareness campaign.

Year 1: October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021

Fiscal Year(s): Year 1: FY'2021					
Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
+	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
Title VII Funds					
Chapter 1, Part B	\$101,400		\$215,000	\$106,600	
Chapter 1, Part C		\$973,815			
Other Federal Funds					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)					
Social Security Reimbursement					
Other: CARES Act, Part C		\$941,295			
CARES Act, OAA		\$150,000			
Non-Federal		\$38,352			

Funds (include the match amount in non-federal funds)					
State Funds		\$612,725			
Other					

Year 2: October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022

Fiscal Year(s): Year 2: FY'2022					
Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
Title VII Funds					
Chapter 1, Part B	\$101,400		\$220,000	\$29,952	
Chapter 1, Part C		\$973,815			
Other Federal Funds					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)					
Social Security Reimbursement					
Other					
Non-Federal Funds (include the match amount in non-federal funds)		\$38,352			
State Funds		\$612,725			
Other					

Year 3: October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023

Fiscal Year(s): Year 3: FY'2023					
Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B)

					funding)
Title VII Funds					
Chapter 1, Part B	\$101,400		\$225,000	\$24,952	
Chapter 1, Part C					
Other Federal Funds					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)					
Social Security Reimbursement					
Other					
Non-Federal Funds (include the match amount in non-federal funds)		\$38,352			
State Funds		\$612,725			
Other					

2.1 Services

Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
	X	X	CILs, DSE
	X	X	CILs
	X	X	CILs
	X	X	CILs

Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Core Independent Living Services, as required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Information and referral – IL skills training – Peer counseling – Individual and systems advocacy – Transition services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transition from nursing homes & other institutions ▪ Diversion from institutions ▪ Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life 	X	X	CILs
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	X	X	CILs
Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with disabilities) Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.		X	CILs
Rehabilitation technology			CILs
Mobility training	X	X	CILs
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	X	X	CILs
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services		X	CILs

Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation, and other support services	X	X	CILs, DSE
Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and independent living services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act	X	X	CILs
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	X	X	CILs
Supported living Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.			CILs
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation and training in the use of public transportation vehicles and systems	X	X	CILs
Physical rehabilitation			CILs
Therapeutic treatment			CILs
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	X	X	CILs
Assistive Technology	X	X	CILs
Individual and group social and recreational services		X	CILs
Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options	X	X	CILs

Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Services for children	X	X	CILs
Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance, of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities	X	X	CILs, DSE
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with disabilities for similar services in the future	X	X	CILs
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	X	X	CILs
Such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act: -Aging in Place -Benefits Counseling -Community Rehab Provider -Employment Services -Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS -Legal Services -Occupational Therapy -Visitability services/Universal Design	X	X	Various CILs

2.2 Outreach

Outreach efforts will focus on several specific underserved and underserved populations:

Latino Populations: Latinos make up the largest and fastest growing ethnic minority group in Connecticut. The Latino population is growing 12 times faster than the general population. It is therefore particularly important to maintain bilingual staff where possible, to translate materials into Spanish and to provide simultaneous interpreter services at meetings. The SILC will utilize an interpreter and translator service, provide Spanish informational materials and announcements of meetings, and provide interpreter services as needed.

Urban minority populations: Black, brown and native populations in our cities are also unserved and underserved. Outreach to these populations can be enhanced through connection to local grassroots organizations who routinely serve and know these individuals. Faith organizations, community service organizations and other local groups can be particularly effective in reaching these individuals and will be used by the CILS and SILC in their efforts.

The CILs will prioritize the deaf and hard of hearing community. During the FY' 2019 state budget, CILs received additional funding to develop services dedicated to the deaf community. Each CIL has at least one staff person focused on this effort and providing outreach and recruitment to the deaf community. Although each CIL has their own outreach method, all the CILs meet quarterly to discuss this new initiative and to work collectively on training, outreach and recruitment.

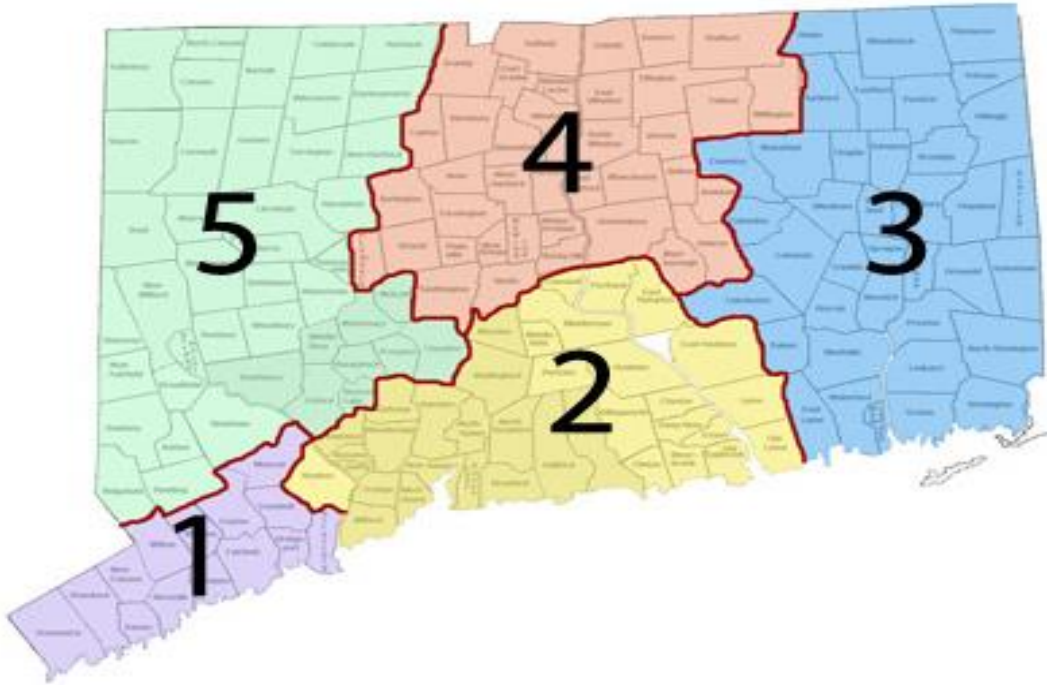
In addition, the CILs will work with the SILC, DSE and statewide organizations to coordinate the new initiative. The CILs have presented at CT Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance meetings and have held meeting with CT's Protection and Advocacy Agency, Disability Rights Connecticut (DRCT) to develop ways to partner and expand services to the deaf community.

Although all five CILs geographically cover the entire state and each CT county, there are a few geographic areas that remain underserved by CILs. Therefore, the CILs will prioritize the deaf and hard of hearing community as a continued underserved population, along with the following underserved geographic areas and/or specific cities and towns:

1. **Access Independence**, located in Stratford, CT, will prioritize Norwalk and Stamford in coastal Fairfield County;
2. **Center for Disability Rights**, located in West Haven, will prioritize Middletown and surrounding towns of Meriden, Durham, Wallingford in Middlesex County;
3. **Disabilities Network of Eastern CT**, located in Norwich, CT, will prioritize Willimantic in Northeastern CT;
4. **Independence Unlimited**, located in Hartford, CT, will prioritize the towns of Enfield and Tolland in North Central CT;
5. **Independence Northwest**, located in Naugatuck, CT, will prioritize Greater Danbury, Greater Torrington and the Northwest corner of CT to include the towns of Cornwall and Salisbury.

Section 3: Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Centers



Legal name	Counties served	Funding Sources	Oversight process	Oversight entity	SPIL Signatory (yes/no)
1: Access Independence (AI)	Fairfield	Part B, Part C and State of CT General Fund State of CT, DSS, Money Follows the Person MIPPA General fundraising	Ex. Director, Board and funding source	Funding source	YES
2: Greater New Haven Disability Rights, Inc. DBA: Center for Disability Rights (CDR)	Fairfield, Hartford, New Haven and Middlesex	Part B, Part C and State of CT General Fund State of CT, DSS, Money Follows the Person General fundraising and membership	Ex. Director, Board and funding source	Funding source	NO
3: Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut (DNEC)	New London, Tolland Windham	Part B, Part C and State of CT General Fund State of CT, ADS, Community Rehab Provider	Ex. Director, Board and funding source	Funding source	YES

		Ticket to Work, SSA General fundraising Fee from Interpreting Services and ASL classes			
4: Independence Unlimited (IU)	Hartford	Part B, Part C and State of CT General Fund General fundraising	Ex. Director, Board and funding source	Funding source	NO
5: Independence Northwest (IN)	Litchfield New Haven Fairfield, Hartford, Tolland, Windham	Part B, Part C and State of CT General Fund HOPWA State of CT, AIDS Housing State of CT, DSS, Money Follows the Person State of CT, ADS, MIPPA Title IIIB, State Unit on Aging General fundraising	Ex. Director, Board and funding source	Funding source	YES

3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network

Five Connecticut Centers for Independent Living represent all eight Connecticut counties. It's important to note that Connecticut has 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.

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 proposed for each region. In 1988, it was estimated that, \$200,000 was necessary annually to start and operate a new CIL, with \$50,000 per year for each satellite office. Today, in 2020, those costs are significantly higher.

By 1989, CT had established 5 out of the 8 planned CILs with state and Title VII Part B and Part C funding. However, in 1993, when the five-year plan was reviewed, no new CILs or satellites were established. Instead, it was determined that building the capacity of the existing CILs was the long-

term goal. Today, that goal remains along with sustaining and increasing the current funding for CILs and not the establishment of a new CIL.

During both the FY'2017 & FY'2021 SPIL planning process, it was agreed to maintain the base level funding at \$550,000. While Part C funding has been recently increased as a result of COVID-19, the state allocations to CILs has decreased over the past six years with only a moderate increase (\$300,000 total/\$60,000 per CIL) in 2019 to solely accommodate deaf services. The \$550,000 base level figure is based on operating budgets submitted by the CILs to the SILC and remains as an accurate estimate for the development of the FY'2021 SPIL. It is important to note that \$550,000 remains a goal as the minimum funding level per CIL is currently \$300,000.

The minimum \$300,000 level of funding was intended to be provisional based on the development of a strategic plan that would address diversification of funding. Unfortunately, with the severe decline in state revenue over the years, the state has reduced the ability to increase funds for all programs, including but not limited to programs and services within the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

Subsequently, the SILC and the CILs are planning for a potential significant decrease in state funding given the current pandemic. CT currently anticipates \$400 million in cuts and/or recessions for the current fiscal year, as the state has a current \$934 million deficit and is anticipating \$2.3 billion shortfall as of July 1, 2020.

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 CILs receive equal amounts of Title VII, Part C; Title VII, Part B and CT state general funds. Connecticut's CILs are strategically located throughout the state to provide statewide coverage of IL core services for all CT residents. The CILs overlap counties, but do not overlap cities and towns. The CIL service areas are as follows.

- 1.) Region 1 (Southwest Region) is serviced by Access Independence located in Stratford, CT, which is adjacent to the city of Bridgeport that holds the largest number of residents with disabilities in the region. AI services the cities and towns in Fairfield County.
- 2.) Region 2 (South Central Region) is served by Center for Disability Rights in West Haven, CT, which is next door to the city of New Haven that holds the largest number of residents with disabilities 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 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 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 in

the Northwest region. IN serves cities and towns in Litchfield County, New Haven County, and Fairfield County.

In 2017, the SILC, in conjunction with the five CILs, conducted the *Connecticut Funding Formula for Centers for Independent Living Regions*. The funding formula model is an adaptation of a model developed by the Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living and adapted by the Indiana Business Research Center (2009). The model was adapted for the Connecticut’s county populations, land areas, and employment levels, along with the current inflation factor. The formula serves as both a planning tool and an implementation tool, if new funds become available.

The funding formula developed for Connecticut’s Centers for Independent Living service areas was created from the average score across three main indicators, based upon US Census and state employment estimates for each CT County. The three indicators are as follows:

1. **Service Index:** The level of service need in the county based upon the number of persons with a self-reported disability
2. **Worker Disability index:** The rate of disability within the worker age range (18-64) in the county compared to the statewide rate
3. **Economic Distress Index:** The job density for the county compared the statewide job density.

The average score for the above three factors is calculated for each county. Using this average score, funding in terms of year 2000 dollars is calculated as \$1000 multiplied by the average score for each county. This dollar amount was then converted to 2016 dollars by multiplying by the inflation factor of 1.403 (a 40.3% inflation rate).

The total funding for each region was calculated by adding funding amounts for all and/or portions of the counties served. If more than one center served a county, then the percentage of that county served by the center was based upon the population of the persons within zip codes served for that county served by the center. The percentage of total funds for each region was also calculated. The total funds estimated under the model for the State of Connecticut is \$5.6 million with \$2,750,000 coming from the \$550,000 base funding for each center and \$2,840,831 being the amount estimated to provide the five core services under the funding allocation formula. Below is the distribution of funds by service region:

	Base Funding	Formula Funding	Total Funding	Total Percent State Funding for Each Region
<i>Connecticut (statewide)</i>	2,750,000	\$2,840,831	\$5,590,831	
<i>Region</i>				
Access Independence	\$550,000	\$352,473	\$902,473	16.1%
Center for Disability Rights	\$550,000	\$604,969	\$1,154,969	20.7%
Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut	\$550,000	\$716,235	\$1,266,235	22.6%
Independence Northwest	\$550,000	\$511,509	\$1,061,509	19.0%
Independence Unlimited	\$550,000	\$655,645	\$1,205,645	21.6%

If any additional subchapter C grants are relinquished, the SILC and the 5 CILs will work together to review statewide IL needs and current service delivery. We will use the following process: 1.) determine which CILs are interested in expanding their catchment area; 2.) review the CT IL funding formula and update any data, indicators and need; 3.) use an RFP to determine best response to geographic need. If additional Part B and/or state funds are increased, the SILC and the DSE will continue to divide the funding equally among the 5 CILs.

The SPIL Committee reviewed current CIL PPR reports, CIL site reviews, US Census data, 2016-2019 American Community Survey data to determine the underserved areas. Underserved areas were outlined by CIL staff and board members and the five CILs continue to highlight the following geographic areas as underserved. In addition, the deaf community, through the new funds made available by the State of CT in 2019, is an underserved population that all five CILs are expanding service delivery.

Section 4: Designated State Entity

Aging and Disability Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services will serve as the entity in Connecticut designated to receive, administer, and account for funds made available to the state under Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Act on behalf of the State.ⁱ

4.1 DSE Responsibilities

(1) receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under this chapter based on the plan;

(2) provide administrative support services for a program under Part B, and a program under Part C in a case in which the program is administered by the State under section 723;

(3) keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;

(4) submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and

(5) retain not more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for the performance of the services outlined in paragraphs (1) through (4).

4.2 Grant Process & Distribution of Funds

Connecticut's Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS), Bureau of Rehabilitation Services is the Designated State Unit (DSE) for the Connecticut State Plan for Independent Living. ADS is the state agency that includes the following programs and services: Disability Determination Services, Education and Services for the Blind, Rehabilitation Services, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and State Unit on Aging

The CT state budget, under the Department of Aging and Disability Services, includes \$612,725 in general funds to equally support the five CT Centers for Independent Living. Each CIL receives \$122,545 in state funding. The DSE receives the Title VII, Part B funds and develops contracts for each CIL to include the state funding and the Title VII Part B appropriation. In addition, the DSE develops a contract with the CT State Independent Living Council for the Title VII Part B funds to support the resource plan.

ADS agrees to the following as the DSE:

- 1.) Identifies a staff person, Bureau Chief Community Living Division Bureau of Rehabilitation Services who works in partnership with the Ex. Director of the CT State Independent Living Council to coordinate the Title VII, Part B funds;
- 2.) Bureau Chief of Community Living works with the ADS fiscal staff, CILs and SILC to develop and coordinate contracts for the Title VII Part B and state funds;
- 3.) Bureau Chief of Community Living facilitates quarterly payments for five (5) CILS and SILC;
- 4.) CILs and SILC submit quarterly invoices and reports that are reviewed by the Bureau Chief of Community Living;
- 5.) Bureau Chief of Community Living and SILC Ex. Director coordinate review of the Title VII Part B funds that support CILs
- 6.) ADS fiscal staff works with the Bureau Chief of Community Living to process payments.

4.3 Oversight Process for Part B Funds

The DSE has a designated staff person who works with the CILs and SILC to discuss expenditures, program needs, and planning. The DSE monitors, evaluates, and reviews funds and CIL activity through reports on Part B and state funding grants and via SILC and CIL meetings. The DSE is an active participant in all aspects of the SILC and SPIL to include serving on the SPIL Committee, SILC Data-Tech Committee and various ad hoc committees. The DSE receives quarterly reports on expenditures of Part B funds and state funds. These reports are shared with the SILC Executive Director and jointly reviewed to include: review quarterly written and fiscal reports from each CIL and SILC; reviewing annual financial reports, 990s and audits. All appropriate reports and records are retained by the Bureau Chief of Community Living and the SILC.

4.4 Administration and Staffing

The DSE doesn't provide any staffing to the SILC. The resource plan provides for a SILC staff person, rent, computer equipment, funds for accessibility, office supplies and accounting expenses. The DSE will not use more than 5% of the Title VII, Part B funds (including the state match) for administrative costs associated with managing the Title VII Part B grant. The DSE doesn't have employees that serve as staff to the SILC.

4.5 State Imposed Requirements

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

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

There are no requirements imposed by the State of Connecticut that need to be adhered to as it relates to the establishment or operations of the SILC, provision of Independent Living Services or any other requirements related to the SILC, CILs or IL services or funding. The State of Connecticut, through the DSE, Aging and Disability Services, will ensure compliance with state-imposed requirements without restricting the independence and autonomy of the SILC in fulfilling its duties and

responsibilities as a federally mandated planning council and as a state determined non-profit organizations.

4.6 722 vs. 723 State

Check one: *To indicate which applies to your state*

 722 (if checked, will move to Section 5)

 723 (if checked, will move to Section 4.7)

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 Establishment of SILC

The CT State Independent Living Council (CT-SILC) is a non-profit as of 1989, has IRS 501(c)(3) status and is independent of all CT state agencies, including the DSE, Aging and Disability Services. The CT-SILC was designated by state legislation in full compliance with the federal rehabilitation act, and organized to meet the requirements of the federal act.

5.2 Resource plan

Resource plan funding source and amount, for CT-SILC to fulfill all duties and authorities is as follows: Year 1-3, \$101,400 from Title VII Part B funds will support the administration and operations of the SILC. No other Federal funds, such as I&E or Social Security, will be used. However, in Year 1, an additional \$106,600 in carry-forward funds will support SPIL activities and possibly the resource plan. The DSE and SILC are currently in discussion on how best to use these funds most effectively and efficiently. Each year, the SILC and DSE will review the resource plan, along with all SPIL goals and make any necessary modifications or changes. If a SPIL Amendment is needed, the SILC will work with the SPIL Committee and CIL directors to develop, implement and submit to ACL.

At the annual review, the SILC and DSE will also evaluate whether or not I&E funding can be used to support the SILC operations. The SILC will implement the authorities via the following action items: 1.) Work with the SILC and the CILs on strategic planning; 2.) Conduct resource development for the SILC and in conjunction with the CILs; 3.) Education and coordinate professional development for SILC board members and CILs and CIL board members; 4.) Provide statewide disability leadership and systems advocacy through the SILC and the CT Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance; 5.) Coordinate and staff the committee that oversees outcome and return on investment data for both the SILC and CILs.

The resource plan will be facilitated through a contract with the DSE and the SILC and will include quarterly reporting and quarterly payments. The contract or partnership with the DSE will not in any way hinder the independent operations of the 501 c3 SILC.

5.3 Maintenance of SILC

Funds to support the administration and operations the CT-SILC over the course of the FY'2021-2023 SPIL will come from the Title VII Part B funds. In Year 1, \$208,000 will support the SILC operations. This number represents \$101,400 in current SPIL funds with a \$106,600 in carry-forward funds. In Years 2 & 3, \$101,400 will be used to support the SILC operations. As an independent non-profit organization, the SILC will continue to develop its annual budget with review and a vote by its Board of Directors. In addition, the CT-SILC will operate as an autonomous organization to fulfill its duties and authorities as outlined by the SILC Assurances and seek additional external funds for specific projects and activities.

CT-SILC will continue to work directly with Governor Lamont's office to annual facilitate appointments of board members. Nominations will be provided by the SILC through the outreach and recruitment process of the CT-SILC's Board Development Committee. The CT-SILC will continue to conduct statewide board outreach and recruitment receptions. The receptions are an opportunity to introduce IL to prospective board members and describe the work of the CT-SILC and the 5 CILs. Board applications will be received, reviewed and approval determined. If an applicant is not the correct fit for the CT-SILC, based on the SILC's needs and criteria, board applicants will be shared with CILs to determine if there is a fit for a CIL board. CT-SILC board nominations will ensure the maintenance of the majority of people with disabilities not employed by a CIL or state agency, and approved by the full SILC. Nominations and supporting documents will continue to be reviewed by the Board Development Committee with recommendations made to the full CT-SILC Board for presentation and vote. The CT-SILC will then work directly with Governor's Lamont's Boards and Commissions to present, approve and official appoint new members. The CT-SILC Executive Director will work directly with the staff from CT's Boards and Commissions to facilitate all appointment packets, maintain appointment paperwork and track term limits.

The CT-SILC Chair is elected annually and the Chair may serve additional terms consecutively with approval of the full Board of Directors. All CT-SILC board vacancies are filled by individuals nominated, and appointed, to serve the remainder of the term vacated.

Section 6: Legal Basis and Certifications

6.1 The state entity/agency designated to receive and distribute funding, as directed by the SPIL, under Title VII, Subchapter B of the Act is Aging and Disability Services with David Doukas, Director of Rehabilitation Services, as the authorized representative.

6.2 Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

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

6.3 Centers for Independent Living (CILs): The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) eligible to sign the SPIL, a minimum of 51% whom must sign prior to submission, are: Access Independence; Disabilities Network of Eastern CT; and Independence Northwest.

6.4 Authorizations

6.4.a. The SILC is authorized to submit the SPIL to the Independent Living Administration, Administration on Community Living, **YES** (Yes/No)

6.4.b. The SILC and CILs may legally carryout each provision of the SPIL, **YES** (Yes/No)

6.4.c. State/DSE operation and administration of the program is authorized by the SPIL, **YES** (Yes/No)

Section 7: DSE Assurances

Acting on behalf of the DSE, Aging and Disability Services located at 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT, David.Doukas@ct.gov. 45 CFR 1329.11 assures that:

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

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

7.3. The DSE will not retain more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Subchapter B for administrative expenses;1

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

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

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

7.6. The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC want to utilize DSE staff:

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

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

7.8. The DSE shall make timely and prompt payments to Subchapter B funded SILCs and CILs:

1. When the reimbursement method is used, the DSE must make a payment within 30 calendar days after receipt of the billing, unless the agency or pass-through entity reasonably believes the request to be improper;
2. When necessary, the DSE will advance payments to Subchapter B funded SILCs and CILs to cover its estimated disbursement needs for an initial period generally geared to the mutually agreed upon disbursing cycle; and
3. The DSE will accept requests for advance payments and reimbursements at least monthly when electronic fund transfers are not used, and as often as necessary when electronic fund transfers are used, in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693-1693r). The signature below indicates this entity/agency's agreement to: serve as the DSE and fulfill all the responsibilities in Sec. 704(c) of the Act; affirm the State will comply with the aforementioned assurances during the three-year period of this SPIL; and develop, with the SILC, and ensure that the SILC resource plan is necessary and sufficient (in compliance with section 8, indicator (6) below) for the SILC to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities under Sec. 705(c) of the Act, consistent with the approved SPIL:

David Doukas, Aging and Disability Services, Director of Rehabilitation Services

Signature:



Date: 6/29/2020

An electronic signature may be used for the purposes of submission, but hard copy of signature must be kept on file by the SILC.

Section 8: Assurances Compliance

8.1 Assurances

Daria Smith is the CT-SILC Executive Director and acts on behalf of the CT-SILC Living Council, Inc. located at 151 New Park Avenue, #75, Hartford, CT 06106, PO Box 1222, Farmington, CT 06034, daria@ctsilc.org; 860-681-7599.

45 CFR 1329.14 assures that:

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

Section 8.2 Indicators of Minimum Compliance

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

(a) STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL INDICATORS. –

- (1) SILC written policies and procedures must include: a. a method for recruiting members, reviewing applications, and regularly providing recommendations for eligible appointments to the appointing authority;
- b. A method for identifying and resolving actual or potential disputes and conflicts of interest that are in compliance with State and federal law;
- c. A process to hold public meetings and meet regularly as prescribed in 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
- d. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
- e. A process and timeline for advance notice to the public for SILC “Executive Session” meetings, that are closed to the public, that follow applicable federal and State laws; i. “Executive Session” meetings should be rare and only take place to discuss confidential SILC issues such as but not limited to staffing.
- ii. Agendas for “Executive Session” meetings must be made available to the public, although personal identifiable information regarding SILC staff shall not be included;
- f. A process and timelines for the public to request reasonable accommodations to participate during a public Council meeting;

- g. A method for developing, seeking and incorporating public input into, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating implementation of the State Plan as required in 45 CFR 1329.17; and
 - h. A process to verify centers for independent living are eligible to sign the State Plan in compliance with 45 CFR 1329.17(d)(2)(iii).
- (2) The SILC maintains regular communication with the appointing authority to ensure efficiency and timeliness of the appointment process.
 - (3) The SILC maintains individual training plans for members that adhere to the SILC Training and Technical Assistance Center's SILC training curriculum.
 - (4) The SILC receives public input into the development of the State Plan for Independent Living in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.17(f) ensuring:
 - a. Adequate documentation of the State Plan development process, including but not limited to, a written process setting forth how input will be gathered from the state's centers for independent living and individuals with disabilities throughout the state, and the process for how the information collected is considered.
 - b. All meetings regarding State Plan development and review are open to the public and provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i)-(ii);
 - c. Meetings seeking public input regarding the State Plan provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws, and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i);
 - d. Public meeting locations, where public input is being taken, are accessible to all people with disabilities, including, but not limited to:
 - i. proximity to public transportation,
 - ii. physical accessibility, and
 - iii. effective communication and accommodations that include auxiliary aids and services, necessary to make the meeting accessible to all people with disabilities.
 - e. Materials available electronically must be 508 compliant and, upon request, available in alternative and accessible format including other commonly spoken languages.
 - (5) The SILC monitors, reviews and evaluates the State Plan in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(2) ensuring:
 - a. Timely identification of revisions needed due to any material change in State law, state organization, policy or agency operations that affect the administration of the State Plan approved by the Administration for Community Living.
 - (6) The SILC State Plan resource plan includes:
 - a. sufficient funds received from:
 - i. Title VII, Subchapter B funds; 1. If the resource plan includes Title VII, Subchapter B funds, the State Plan provides justification of the percentage of Subchapter B funds to be used if the percentage exceeds 30 percent of Title VII, Subchapter B funds received by the State;
 - ii. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18), as applicable;
 - iii. Other public and private sources.
 - b. The funds needed to support:
 - i. Staff/personnel;
 - ii. Operating expenses;
 - iii. Council compensation and expenses;

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

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

Section 9: Signatures

The signatures below are of the CT-SILC chairperson and at least 51 percent (51%) of the Directors of the Centers for Independent Living listed in section 6.3.

These signatures indicate that the CT-SILC and the 5 CT Centers for Independent Living agree with and intend to fully implement this SPIL's content. These signatures also indicate that this SPIL is complete and ready for submission to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2020.

1. Name and Signature of CT-SILC: Chairperson, Karen Roseman

Karen Roseman

Date: June 30, 2020

2. Name and Signature of CIL Director: Charles Conway, Access Independence, 300 Long Beach Blvd., Suite #1, Stratford, CT



Date: June 30, 2020

3. Name and Signature of CIL Director: Eileen Healy, Independence Northwest: Center for Independent Living of Northwest CT, Inc. DBA: Independence Northwest, 1183 New Haven Road, #4, Naugatuck, CT

Eileen M. Healy

Date: June 30, 2020

4. Name and Signature of CIL Director: Sharon Heddle, Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut, 19 Ohio Avenue, Norwich, CT

Sharon J. Heddle

Date: June 30, 2020

ⁱ Sec. 704(c).

ⁱⁱ 45 CFR 1329.17(g).