

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: 2024-2027 Effective Date: October 1, 2024

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Executive Summary: The 2024-2027 State Plan for Independent Living for Connecticut is the strategic plan to collaborate across the Independent Living (IL) Network to advance the independence of individuals with significant disabilities. Together, the IL Network will work toward the mission “to ensure that people with disabilities have the freedom to live independently in Connecticut as they choose, direct their own lives, and participate in the community of their choice.

The FY’2024-2027 SPIL will focus on expanding independent living options so that people with disabilities can live good lives in the community of their choice. This will be achieved by the development and implementation of improved policies and best practices that impact people with disabilities as well as expanding the capacity of the five Centers for Independent Living in Connecticut. The SILC is charged with reducing barriers for persons with disabilities from the perspective of individual consumers as well as from a systemic perspective. In order to achieve this the SILC and CILs will work in partnership with advocates, statewide disability organizations, the DSE, state and federal agencies and various non-profit partners to identify barriers, develop and implement policy initiatives and provide advocacy, training and communication about disability policy and program initiatives. The SILC will continue to play a leadership role with the CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance (CCDLA), as well as collaborate with other organizations to promote improvements for people with disabilities regarding education, advocacy, employment, housing and transportation resources as well as maintaining a focus on emergency management planning and training. Emergency preparedness will focus on strategies to address emergency preparedness before, during and after a disaster.

The FY’2024-2027 Title VII Part B funds will support activities that will assist the SILC, the CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance and CILs to assess, maintain and support the needs of consumers by:

- Expanding resources for the CT Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance to educate and advocate on behalf of people with disabilities.
- Continued funding for a consumer services advocate position at each CIL to coordinate and expand goods and services to assist consumers in achieving Independent Living in the community Of their choice.
- Developing a public awareness and marketing campaign highlighting consumer stories, SILC and CIL data and outcomes, and increasing the knowledge of CILs work;
- Providing a regular schedule of training to the IL Network to develop capacity and sustainability efforts on an array of Independent Living topics.

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. While each partner in the Plan has their own work within their organization and their community, this Plan is our vehicle to come together in a unified way to impact all individuals with disabilities across the state. In order to achieve this, the Connecticut IL Network had identified the following goals for this Plan:

- Goal #1: Persons with disabilities have a range of options that support independent living in the community of their choice.
- Goal #2: CT effectively serves people with disabilities throughout the state, through the development and implementation of improved disability policies and best practices.
- Goal #3: Strengthen and support the independent living network in Connecticut by enhancing its capacity to effectively meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Throughout the three years of this plan, the Connecticut IL Network will continue efforts towards making Connecticut a better state for those with disabilities. This will be achieved through advocacy, Independent Living Services, and collaboration with state and community partners. These collaborations are critical to the success of the IL Network goals. This Plan contains many important details on how the IL Network will work together over the three-year period. Below is a brief description of the contents of the plan, by section.

Section 1: Goals, Objectives, and Activities - In this section, you will find the outline of the overall goals and objectives that the Connecticut IL Network will be working to complete over the course of this three-year period, including the evaluation plan, and financial resources anticipated to be available for the IL Network's work. This section is important because it creates the roadmap of how we will work to make progress in achieving our overall mission.

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangement of Services - In this section, you will find information on the services that will be provided by the IL Network, the outreach plan, and the plan for coordination with other programs and organizations that support community life for persons with disabilities. Important contents in the section include the targeted outreach to unserved and underserved populations that have been defined by the IL Network, as well as the partnership and collaborative efforts that the IL Network will continue to grow and expand.

Section 3: Network of Centers - In this section, you will find information on the existing network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs). From this section you can find the information on where each CIL is operating, the funding needs of the IL Network, and any plans for changes and increases in funds for the IL Program.

Section 4: Designated State Entity (DSE) - In this section, you will find information on how the DSE will administer the financial and administrative functions required, including the grant and disbursement, and oversight process. This section outlines how the CT Department of Aging and Disability Services will maintain its role as the DSE for the IL Program.

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) - In this section, you will find information on the establishment and operations of the SILC, including information on the SILC Resource Plan. This section outlines how the Connecticut SILC will remain autonomous and continue to perform the required duties and engage in the granted authorities of SILC.

Section 6: Legal Basis and Certifications - In this section, you will find the information on the DSE, SILC, and the CILs that are eligible to sign this Plan. You will also find the certification that SILC is authorized to submit this Plan, the SILC and CILs are legally authorized to carry out all provisions of the Plan, and the DSE has authorization to carry out the applicable administration of the Plan.

Section 7: DSE Assurances - In this section, you will find the DSE Director's signature agreeing for the Agency to serve as the DSE and to comply with the Assurances.

Section 8: SILC Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance - In this section, you will find the SILC Chairperson signing and agreeing to the SILC's continued compliance with the Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance.

Section 9: Signatures - In this section, you will find the signatures of the SILC Chairperson and the Directors of the Centers for Independent Living agreeing to fully implementing the Plan. Title VII, Chapter 1 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, establishes the Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living programs with the purpose: "to promote a philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy, in order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society"

The Connecticut IL Network believes all elements of this State Plan for Independent Living are aligned with the stated purpose of the Independent Living Program as defined in Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act.

Mission: The mission of CT SILC is to ensure that people with disabilities have the freedom to live independently in Connecticut as they choose, direct their own lives, and participate in the community of their choice.

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

The three goals of the FY'2024-2026 State Plan for Independent Living are as follows:

- Goal #1: Persons with disabilities have a range of options that support independent living in the community of their choice.
- Goal #2: CT effectively serves people with disabilities throughout the state, through the development and implementation of improved disability policies and best practices.
- Goal #3: Strengthen and support the independent living network in Connecticut by enhancing its capacity to effectively meet the needs of people with disabilities. training, conferences and Candidates forum.

Goal #1: Persons with disabilities have a range of options that support independent living in the community of their choice.

Objective 1.1 Identify and expand integrated opportunities for community socialization and participation for people with disabilities in their communities.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2027

Action Steps:

1. Each Center will identify at least one rural and one urban community each year
2. Reach out to potential partners in each community to develop community contacts, which can include meetings with community leaders and focus groups.
3. Identify and address barriers to community participation.
4. Promote the opportunities for community involvement with individuals served in each center.
5. Evaluate the process and revise as needed.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of communities
- Number of contacts developed in each community
- Barriers identified and modified through technical assistance to communities
- Opportunities promoted
- Satisfaction of individual participants

Objective 1.2 Expand the array of housing options and supports for persons with disabilities in their communities.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2027

Action Steps:

- Identify potential collaborators who are addressing the housing crisis in Connecticut communities.
- Work with collaborative housing partners to develop policy proposals/possible solutions that address the challenges of disability in housing access and homelessness.
- Work with HUD, housing authorities and other housing agencies to review and modify policy that will improve housing options and access.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of communities
- Collaborators
- Policies modified to address disability access
- Community education and presentations given on housing and disability

Objective 1.3 Improve emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities in communities across the state.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2027

Action Steps:

- Collaborate with other emergency preparedness stakeholders to assist in accommodating people with disabilities before, during and after a disaster.
- Participate on statewide emergency preparedness committees and coalitions with representation from all five CILs, FEMA, Region 1, state agencies, CCDLA, and various CT disability organizations to develop a state preparedness plan;
- Maintain the SILC Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Prep Committee;
- Develop and provide a minimum of two training/technical assistance sessions each year to CILs staff, individual with disabilities, agencies and community groups.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of collaborations with emergency preparedness stakeholders
- Number of emergency preparedness committees and coalitions
- Number of meetings of SILC emergency preparedness committee
- Number of trainings and attendees at training and technical assistance sessions

Goal #2: The independent living network in CT effectively serves people with disabilities through the development and implementation of improved disability policies and best practices.

Objective 2.1 Provide support to the CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance to mobilize people with disabilities and organizations to educate the public and address disability policy issues in CT with a focus on healthcare, housing, employment and transportation.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2027

Action Steps:

- Convene meetings of the Ct Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance (CCDLA)

- Develop a plan, including a policy agenda to address disability policy issues
- Provide information on policy issues to the CCDLA mailing list
- Provide information on strategies to educate the legislature on these issues including messaging and potential alliances with other advocacy groups addressing these issues.
- Convene a candidate forum on disability issues in even years (2024, 2026)

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of meetings and number of attendees at CCDLA meetings
- Disability issues identified
- Number of constant contact messages sent regarding the issues
- Number of policies improved, developed to address disability policy concerns
- Number of attendees at candidates forum

Objective 2.2 Provide a minimum of six webinars or other educational opportunities to inform the public about best practices and initiatives that can build good lives for people with disabilities in CT.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2027

Action Steps:

1. In consultation with CILs and the CCDLA, develop a calendar of webinars and other events on topics identified.
2. Identify speakers, training and content for each event
3. Publicize these events through the CILs, the CCDLA and other partners
4. Implement and evaluate training.
5. Modify the calendar as needed.

Measurable Indicators:

- Consumer satisfaction surveys and summary of results
- Knowledge gained surveys and summary of results

Objective 2.3 Focus on educating policymakers about improved policies that will enhance the lives of people with disabilities, including information on Supported Decision Making/guardianship, Medicaid, access to health care, HCBS and closure of institutions, best practices in transition and other issues that may arise.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2027

Action Steps:

1. Participate in weekly policy calls in preparation for the legislative session, during the legislative session and a summary meeting after the legislative session.
2. Hold informational hearings with key legislators on specific disability issues
3. Disseminate information to policymakers on key disability issues.

Measurable Indicators:

Number of informational hearings held and number attending

Number of policies that are improved in response to information provided by SILC

Satisfaction surveys for training events and informational hearings

Goal #3: Strengthen and support the independent living network and increase its capacity to effectively serve people with disabilities.

Objective 3.1 Improve data collection and reporting to tell the story of the CILs and how they support people with disabilities to live good lives in the community.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2027

Action Steps:

1. Provide funding each year to each CIL to support a data coordinator position.
2. Convene monthly meetings with statewide data coordinator (SILC) and the five center data coordinators.
3. Identify issues in reporting, consistency and data elements and develop and implement an improvement plan,
4. Convene monthly Data Tech meetings with all CIL directors, CIL data coordinators and the SILC data coordinator to develop reporting strategies that can effectively tell the story of the CILs and the work they do.

Measurable Indicators:

- Identification of center data coordinators
- Number of reports developed using improved data to tell the CIL's story.
- Number of meetings convened with data coordinators.
- Number of Data tech meetings convened.

Objective 3.2 Develop three trainings per year for the IL network on an array of topics relevant to independent living.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2027

Action Steps:

1. In collaboration with the five CIL directors, develop a calendar of statewide training either in person or virtually, including content and speakers.
2. Implement training.
3. Evaluate training and make modifications to future training as needed.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of trainings held.
- Consumer satisfaction surveys
- Knowledge gained surveys.

Objective 3.3 Provide funding to each CIL for the purchase of consumer goods and direct services to support IL.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2027

Action Steps:

1. Submit quarterly reports detailing 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.

2. Review quarterly spending with each CIL to ensure that funds are being accessed.
3. Develop and disseminate an annual report with stories about some of the individuals who were assisted.

Measurable Indicators:

- Provide goods and services to 15-25 consumers per CIL annually in order facilitate and improve the consumers Independent Living.

Objective 3.4 Support SILC operations, including DSE administration and contract management of the Title VII funds and develop a strategic plan for SILC which includes operations, outreach, support to the CILs and addressing policies and programs that support independent living in the state. This plan will guide the SILC to increase its public presence, develop a stronger SILC infrastructure, sustainability plan, succession planning and diverse funding.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Target Date: 9/30/2027

Action Steps:

1. Convene a strategic planning committee of the SILC Board
2. Hire a strategic planning consultant.
3. Develop the strategic plan with input from the board, CIL directors and key stakeholders.

Measurable Indicators:

- Monthly meetings of strategic planning committee
- Strategic Plan
- Actions taken to implement the plan.

Evaluation:

The CT-SILC is responsible for evaluation of the FY'2024-2027 SPIL. Each meeting of the SILC Board (six times per year) includes a committee update from the SPIL Committee as well as from each committee or entity working on one or more of the goals as outlined in the SPIL. Evaluation will include summative and formative evaluation tools and will be integrated into the framework of each goal, objective, and activity. Thus, planning for each event must include an evaluative process. The SILC Board will receive a summary evaluation reports on activities and events, as well as the status of all three SPIL goals and objectives at each meeting. This evaluation report will be a standing agenda item for each meeting.

The evaluation plan is detailed in the goals, objectives, and indicators table below. The SILC SPIL Committee, represented by SILC Board members, including the Vice president (who chairs the committee), CIL Directors and staff, the SILC Data Coordinator and SILC Ex. Director will meet a minimum of four times a year. This Committee will utilize evaluation data from activities and evaluate current progress on each goal. This committee will present this data to the SILC Board along with any recommendations to improve outcomes and adjust activities as needed. Reporting. All 5 CILs are currently using the same data reporting system, CILs First. SILC will be adopting data reporting through SILC Connect in CIL Suite. The Data-Tech Committee will work with SILC Connect 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 report on SPIL progress and the report will be presented to the SPIL Committee and then presented to the SILC board. During Year 2, the Data-Tech Committee will report on outcomes related to the SPIL as well as report on additional IL network outcomes that can be reported to and shared with CT legislators, policy makers and funders. SILC will prepare an annual report of these outcomes, to be shared at the Annual Meeting in 2025, 2026 and 2027. 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.

Timeline	Goals	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection (please check as many as apply)
10/1/2024-9/30/2027	Goal #1: Goal #1: Persons with disabilities have a range of options that support independent living in the community of their choice.				
		1.1 Identify and expand integrated opportunities for community socialization and participation for people with disabilities in their own communities,	Number of communities Number of contacts developed in each community. Barriers identified and modified through T.A. to communities. Satisfaction of individual participants and community leaders.	Summative and formative methods including meeting notes, reports on these activities, agendas, and consumer satisfaction surveys will be gathered at completion of an activity, meeting or other event and compiled into a summary report.	SILC, CILs

9/10/1/2024-9/30/2027		Obj. 1.2 Expand the array of housing options and supports for persons with disabilities in their communities.	<p>Number of communities Collaborators</p> <p>Policies modified to address disability access.</p> <p>Community education and presentations given on housing issues for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Summative and formative methods including meeting notes, reports on these activities, agendas, and consumer satisfaction surveys will be gathered at completion of an activity, meeting or other event and compiled into a summary report.</p>	SILC and CILs
		Objective 1.3 Improve emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities in communities across the state.	<p>Number of collaborations with emergency preparedness stakeholders</p> <p>Number of emergency preparedness committees and coalitions</p> <p>Number of meetings of SILC emergency preparedness committee</p> <p>Number of trainings and attendees at training and technical assistance sessions.</p>	<p>Summative and formative methods including meeting notes, agendas, training announcements, and consumer satisfaction surveys will be gathered at completion of an activity, meeting or other event and compiled into a summary report.</p>	SILC, CILS

10/1/2024-9/30/2027	.Goal 2: the independent living network in Connecticut effectively serves people with disabilities through the development and implementation of improved disability policies and best practices.	Objective 2.1 Provide support to the CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance to mobilize people with disabilities and organizations to educate the public on disability policy issues in Ct with a focus on healthcare housing, employment, and transportation.	<p>Number of meetings and number of attendees at CCDLA meetings.</p> <p>Disability issues identified.</p> <p>Number of Constant Contact messages sent regarding issues.</p> <p>Number of policies improved, developed to address disability policy concerns.</p> <p>Number of attendees at candidate's forum.</p>	Summative and formative methods including meeting notes, reports on these activities, agendas, and consumer satisfaction surveys will be gathered at completion of an activity, meeting or other event and compiled into a summary report.	SILC
10/1/2024-9/30/2027		Obj. 2.2 Provide a minimum of six webinars or other educational opportunities to inform the public about best practices and initiatives that can build good lives for people with disabilities in CT.	<p>Consumer satisfaction surveys and summary of results.</p> <p>Knowledge gained surveys and summary of results</p>	Summative and formative methods including meeting notes, reports on these activities, agendas, and consumer satisfaction surveys will be gathered at completion of an activity, meeting or other event and compiled into a summary report.	SILC CILs

10/1/2024-9/30/2027		Obj. 2.3 Educate policymakers about improved policies that could enhance the lives of people with disabilities, including information on Supported Decision Making /guardianship, Medicaid, access to healthcare, HCBS, closure of institutions, best practices in transition and other issues that may arise.	Number of informational hearings held and number of attendees. Number of policies improved in response to information provided. Satisfaction surveys for training events and informational hearings.	Summative and formative methods including meeting notes, Annual report on legislative policy changes impacting people with disabilities, reports on these activities, agendas, and consumer satisfaction surveys will be gathered at completion of an activity, meeting or other event and compiled into a summary report.	SILC
10/1/2024-9/30/2027	Goal 3: Strengthen and support the independent living network and increase the capacity to effectively serve people with disabilities.	Obj. 3.1 Improve data collection and reporting to tell the story of the CILs and how they support people with disabilities to live good lives in the community.	Identification of Center Data Coordinators Number of new data reports developed using improved data to tell the CILs story. Number of meetings convened with data coordinators. Number of Data Tech meetings convened.	Summative and formative methods will be used including a quarterly summary report by the data coordinator and specific reports run through CILs First, agendas and minutes of meetings.	SILC CILs
10/1/2024-9/30/2027		Objective 3.2 Develop three trainings per year for the IL network on an array of topics relevant to independent living.	Number of trainings held. Consumer satisfaction surveys Knowledge gained surveys	Summative and formative methods including meeting notes for planning meetings, reports on these activities, agendas, and consumer satisfaction surveys will be gathered at completion of an	<i>SILC and CILs</i>

				activity, meeting or other event and compiled into a summary report.	
		.Objective 3.3 Provide funding for each CIL for the purchase of consumer goods and direct services to support IL.	Number of consumers provided with goods and services through these funds. Narrative stories of individuals who accessed funds to live independently.	Quarterly reports on expenditures, including amounts per person, items purchased and impact of the funds. Narrative reports from each center on one or to individuals per quarter who were assisted	SILC and CILs
10/1/2024-9/30/2027		.Objective 3.4 Support SILC operations including DSE administration and contract management of the title VII funds and develop a strategic plan for ISLC which includes operations outreach, support to the CILs and addressing policies and programs that support independent living in the state. This plan will guild the SILC to increase its public presence, develop a strong SILC infrastructure, sustainability plan, succession planning and diverse funding streams.	Monthly meetings of strategic planning committee Strategic plan elements Actions taken to implement the plan. Diversified funding	Meeting agendas and minutes, preliminary and final strategic planning documents, and based on the plan, summative and/or formative evaluation tools.	SILC

1.2 Financial Plan:

Sources of Funding: This plan exceeds awarded to Connecticut for Part B funds. Annually the DSE holds back a percentage of funds the \$348,060 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. It includes I & E funding as well as funding from other collaborators and grants.

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 a state wide data coordinator/ office administrator and data positions at each CIL. The office administrator who will assist with material development, communication, social media postings and accommodations as requested. The SILC will provide training to all CIL staff based on input from the CIL directors and staff. The SILC will provide support to 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. CILs will identify communities in their regions to develop socialization and recreational activities that people with disabilities can join, and will assist the communities in building their capacity to accommodate such activities. SILC will continue to work on Emergency Preparedness initiatives.

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 an advocate at each CIL. These funds will also provide support to hire a data coordinator 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 a CIL community outreach and awareness campaign including training.

Fiscal Year(s): Year 1: FY'2025					
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		\$1,095,000			
Other Federal Funds					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$159,088				
Social Security Reimbursement					
Other					
Non-Federal Funds (include the match amount in non-federal funds)		\$38,352			
State Funds		\$1,025,528			
Other					

Fiscal Year(s): Year 2: October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026					
Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for 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		\$1,095,000			
Other Federal Funds					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$159,088				
Social Security Reimbursement					
Other					
Non-Federal Funds (include the match amount in non-federal funds)		\$38,352			
State Funds		\$1,025,528			
Other					

Fiscal Year(s): 3 Year 3: October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027					
Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for 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		\$1,095,000			
Other Federal Funds					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$159,088				
Social Security Reimbursement					
Other					
Non-Federal Funds (include the match amount in non-federal funds)		\$38,352			
State Funds		\$1,025,528			
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)
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 			
– Information and referral	X	X	CILs
– IL skills training	X	X	CILs
– Peer counseling	X	X	CILs
– Individual and systems advocacy	X	X	CILs
– Transition services including:	X	X	CILs
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	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 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	X	CILs
Rehabilitation technology	X	X	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
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

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)
Supported living Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.			
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation and training in the use of public transportation vehicles and systems	X	X	CILs
Physical rehabilitation			
Therapeutic treatment			
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices			
Assistive Technology	X	X	CILs
Individual and group social and recreational services		X	CILs
Training to develop skills specifically designed for youth who are individuals with disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options	X	X	CILs
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

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)
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 -Employment Services -Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS -Legal Services -Visitability Services -Universal Design -Veterans Services -Deaf Services	X	X	Various CILs

2.2 Outreach

Outreach efforts will focus on several specific unserved and underserved 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.

Black, brown and native populations in our state are also unserved or 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 continue to prioritize the deaf and hard of hearing community. Each CIL has at least one staff person who is fluent in ASL and is focused on this effort and providing outreach and recruitment to the deaf community. In addition the Centers will target outreach to people with visual disabilities or people who are deaf/blind are underserved.

Coordination

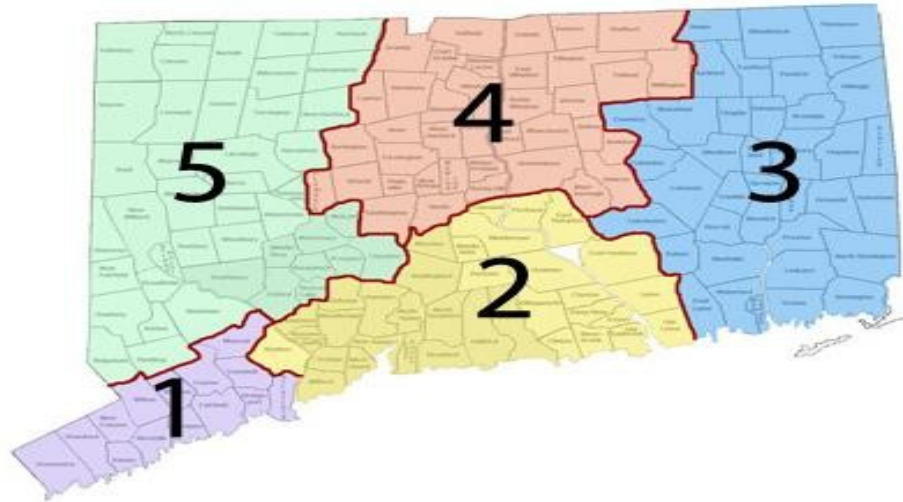
In addition, the CILs will work with the SILC, DSE and numerous statewide initiatives. The Supported Decision Making Coalition, the CCDLA, the Coalition to close institutions, wheelchair repair, and other projects routinely collaborate with many organizations including the UCEDD, the DD Council, Disability Rights CT, the Department of Developmental Services, the Arc Ct, and numerous consumer/advocacy groups, attorneys and self advocates. The CILs also present to the numerous organizations listed. In addition the CILs participate as stakeholders in both the Pathways to Integrated Employment and the Disability Innovation Fund.

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.

Section 3: Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Centers In 1988 the State of Connecticut decided to develop eight CILs to correspond to the eight counties in the state. However, funds did not allow for eight CILs and therefore only five were established.



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 Fee for Service	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 Fee for services 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, Windham	Part B, Part C and State of CT General Fund State of CT, ADS, Ticket to Work, SSA Fee for Service	Ex. Director, Board and funding source	Funding source	YES

		General fundraising			
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 ARPA Fee for Service	Ex. Director, Board and funding source	Funding source	YES

3.1 Oversight Entity

The Part C funding is overseen by the CILs directly and the Assistive Technology funds are overseen by ACL.

3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network ADD Discussion of inability to serve all areas of each county. Cite current data.

Connecticut CILs do not operate on a County system. In 1988, CT's Independent Living Advisory Council developed a five-year plan to establish eight geographic areas. 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 2024 those costs are significantly higher, yet state funds have been reduced over the years.

By 1989, due to the lack of sufficient funding, CT had only five out of the eight planned CILs. This left the CILs with more towns to serve with fewer dollars. Building the capacity of the existing CILs to serve more towns 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.

Fifteen years ago (2009) the base level of funding was determined to be \$550,000 per CIL. In today's economy that amount would be amount would be approximately \$800,000. The current funding level per CIL is currently \$419,000 combined state and federal IL allocation.

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. It also emphasizes the need for improved data collection that can effectively tell the story of the work the CILs do.

All five of the CILs equally receive 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.) The Southwest Region is served 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 serves the cities and towns in Fairfield County.
- 2.) The 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.) The 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.

4.) The 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.) The 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.

All Part B and Part C funds are distributed equally among the five CILs. However any new funds will use the Funding Formula process as described here. 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:

	2017 Base Funding	Formula Funding	Total Funding	Total Percent State Funding for Each Region
Connecticut (statewide)	\$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%

The CILs and SILC established this formula, which could be used to distribute new funds in the future.

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 the 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.

. Underserved areas are identified by CIL staff and the five CILs continue to highlight the following geographic areas as underserved. In addition is an underserved population that all five CILs are expanding service delivery. The following definitions are used :

- **Served:** those consumers currently participating in a CIL
- **Underserved:** Populations that the CIL seeks to serve but are hard to reach either geographically or in other ways;
- **Unserved:** populations not currently served by a CIL

Section 4: Designated State Entity

Ageing 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.

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.

The SILC and the DSE will work together to develop various proposals, which will include internal and external reviewers. In addition, the quarterly reports submitted by the CILs serve as evaluation and compliance funding documents.

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. The SILC will include any additional funds raised in the financial plan.

4.4 Administration and Staffing

The DSE doesn't provide any staffing to the SILC. The resource plan provides for TWO FTE SILC staff, 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 will allow the SILC to add it to the resource plan budget. The DSE doesn't have employees that serve as staff to the SILC. The SILC has a collaborative partnership with the DSE to develop a policy. The SILC and DSE do not have a conflict of interest policy that speaks to each respective role. The SILC will work with the DSE to develop this policy.

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 Year1, 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.

All administrative needs are completed by the current Executive Director, OFFICE STAFF or consultants hired for special projects. The Executive Committee of SILC meets monthly to evaluate the administrative and financial capacity of the organization and make changes for efficiency when possible. In addition the Finance Committee meets monthly to review all budgets, financial policies and current financial status of SILC and address any needed changes.

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'2024-2027 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. The funding outlined in the financial table is sufficient to administer and operate the SILC with one full-time staff person and the ability to hire consultants on an as needed basis for specific projects or activities.

The SILC will adhere to all staffing requirements and needs as outlined in the SPIL instrument. The SILC Executive Committee will review current job descriptions and adjust as needed. The SILC has written policies including financial policies, a personnel manual, an operations plan, by-laws and

other documents relevant to the operation of a non-profit organization. These are being reviewed by the Executive Director and Executive Committee, and other committees as needed.

The SILC was established in 1988 through Executive Order of Governor William O'Neill. It operates as an independent 501c3 organization. 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 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 every two years, and the Chair may serve one additional term consecutively with the vote of the full Board of Directors. All CT-SILC board vacancies are filled by individuals nominated, approved by the SILC for recommendation to the Governor, and finally appointed by the Governor.

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): A minimum of 51% of the CILs (3 centers) are required to sign the SPIL.

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.
- 7.4. The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in 45 CFR 1329.14.
- 7.5. The DSE will not interfere with the business or operations of the SILC that include but are not limited to:
 1. Expenditure of federal funds
 2. Meeting schedules and agendas
 3. SILC board business
 4. Voting actions of the SILC board
 5. Personnel actions
 6. Allowable travel
 7. Trainings
- 7.6. The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff:
 1. If the SILC informs the DSE that the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff, the DSE assures that management of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC is the soleresponsibility 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:

Signature:

Date:

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

Molly Cole 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 849-0686 molly@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 individuals and organizations from 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, which 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 that the 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: Gretchen Knauff

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

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

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

5. Name and signature of CIL Director: Jaclyn Pinney, dependence Unlimited, 151 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106I

6. Name and Signature of CIL Director: Carmen Correa-Rios, Center for Disability Rights, 369 Highland St, West Haven, CT 06516

ⁱ Sec. 704(c).

ⁱⁱ 45 CFR 1329.17(g)