

State Plan For Independent Living (SPIL)

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

Part B - INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

Part C - Centers for Independent Living State: District of

Columbia FISCAL YEARS: 2025-2027

Effective Date: 10/01/2024

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number (ON0985-0044). 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

A major goal and objective for the 2025-2027 SPIL is to continue the reorganization of the SILC in collaboration with the CIL and DSE. An Executive Director for the SILC was selected by a panel composed of SILC and the DCCIL. The first goal of the new SILC Executive Director will be to establish the SILC as an independent legal entity and pursue 501(c) (3) status and work toward financial independence for this newly established entity. Initially, the DSE will pay the Executive Director via a sub-grant. This grant will be issued effective October 1, 2024, for FY 2025. This grant will require an annual evaluation to be conducted by the SILC, and due by July 1 each year.

The SILC will continue to establish public and private partners to ensure the information regarding the independent living's 5 core services for residents are easily accessible. The SILC will also ensure meetings are publicized and open to the public for input. Public forums will be available both virtually and in person, to ensure full inclusion of participants. The District of Columbia Statewide Independent Living Council will continue to lead in obtaining information from hearings, forums, trainings, and presentations regarding needed services that will improve the lives of people with disabilities in the District. The SILC will have reinstated its website and updated links with the DSE, CIL and other District of Columbia public and private community partners ensuring that information about the 5 Core services for residents are readily located.

Scheduling District of Columbia open to the public "Virtual Meetings" will no longer be a challenge as the SILC will obtain virtual meeting platforms, similar to ZOOM and Webex that will help in facilitating meetings.

The District of Columbia Statewide Independent Living Council (DCSILC) took the lead in convening the necessary public hearings, forums, trainings and presentations toward the completion of the 2025-2027 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), the completion

process proved to be a valuable learning experience. In compliance with the SPIL's mandatory involvement of District of Columbia Center for Independent Living, Incorporated (DC CIL) and the DC Department on Disability Services (DDS) which is the District of Columbia's Designated State Entity

(DSE) in accordance with the SILC's request the collaboration necessary to prepare the SPIL required each of the entities (SILC, CIL and DSE) to realize their specific responsibilities in synchronizing successful Independent Living (IL) service provision, policy development and advocacy for legislative implementation for and on behalf of individuals with disabilities residing in the District of Columbia and across the nation.

Other major agreement among all the SPIL entities was the importance of promoting outreach; relocating service providers to the community neighborhoods; partnering with public and private stakeholders for expanded service delivery; promote resource availability through shared websites, web links, newsletters. Each entity expressed the urgency of identifying resource availability by brochure distribution, workshops, public forums and community meetings.

Section 1: Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Activities

1.1 - MISSION

- Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL:

The Mission of the District of Columbia Statewide Independent Council (DC SILC) shall (in accordance with Section 701 of the Rehabilitation Act) 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.

DC SILC shall conduct itself in a manner as to maximize leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity while fostering the integration and full inclusion of all persons with disabilities into mainstream American Society by promoting activities implemented on behalf of all individual with disabilities.

1.2 - GOALS

- Goals of the SPIL:

Goal #1: Promote autonomy of the SILC - The Goal of the District of Columbia's Independent Living Network is to promote the autonomy of the SILC through the employment of a SILC Executive Director, and establishment of a SILC legal entity as a 501(c)(3); update SPIL, SILC, CIL and DSE Training to increase individual roles and responsibilities; provide more community advocacy, information and referral to enhance outreach among public and private stakeholders; SILC and CIL will establish a virtual meeting protocol for general public meetings.

Goal #2: Establish SILC Virtual Meeting setup with public access. The DSE has purchased 10 computers to make available for SILC members to participate remotely in meetings.

Goal #3: Education - The DSE, the SILC, and the CIL will provide collaborative efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities in the District of Columbia are aware of the resources, services and benefits available for them to take next steps in education, training, community involvement and gainful employment among others. Establish "educational workshops" to provide public knowledge of available resources for and on behalf of persons with disabilities. Provide outreach to identify opportunities and resources at various community venues for people with disabilities.

Goal #4: Housing - The DCCIL in collaboration with the SILC will identify Housing Services providers to work collaboratively and promote an easy understanding of local housing requirements

for people with significant disabilities seeking affordable and accessible places to live. Provide resources and assistance to homeless or individuals transitioning from institutions and seeking to be integrated in the community.

Goal #5: Outreach - The SILC, DSE and DCCIL will collaborate to ensure that persons with disabilities are aware of the resources, services and benefits available for them. Establish "educational workshops" to provide public knowledge of available resources for and on behalf of persons with disabilities. Monitor the implementation of planned programming resulting from the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) completed in FY 2024. Ensure that the findings from CSNA continue to address un-served and underserved populations.

Goal #6: Transition - The SILC and CIL will provide meaningful and informative community-based workshops enabling youth with disabilities to be successful in school or training and in preparation for future employment. A wide variety of information such as access to social services, benefits and resources or opportunities for employment are available; but also, the implementation and education to support and campaign to improve transition skill planning and development.

Goal #7: Advocacy - Provide active support for the equal opportunity, self-determination, and self-respect for people living with disabilities ensuring they have the greatest possible degree of independence in the District of Columbia.

1.3 - OBJECTIVES

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

Goal #1: Promote autonomy of the SILC - The Goal of the District of Columbia's Independent Living Network is to promote the autonomy of the SILC through the employment of a SILC Executive Director, and establishment of a SILC legal entity as a 501(c)(3); update SPIL, SILC, CIL and DSE Training to increase individual roles and responsibilities; provide more community advocacy, information and referral to enhance outreach among public and private stakeholders; SILC and CIL will establish a virtual meeting protocol for general public meetings.

Objective #1.1: The DSE will establish a grant in order to begin payments to the newly identified Executive Director.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.1.1: The SILC Executive Committee will establish a performance plan for the SILC Executive Director and provide an annual review by July 1, 2025.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #1.2: The Executive Director will establish the SILC as a legal entity with 501(c)(3) status.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.2.1: The Executive Director will identify pro-bono legal assistance to establish the SILC as a legal entity and apply for 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status by July 2025.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #1.3: Support and strengthen the agencies' organizational structure to provide an effective IL service delivery system for DC residents with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.3.1: The DSE and DCCIL will work together to develop and distribute client satisfaction surveys.

Indicator #1.3.2: The DSE will identify additional IL service providers, particularly for IL skills training.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #2: Establish SILC Virtual Meeting setup with public access. The DSE has purchased 10 computers to make available for SILC members to participate remotely in meetings.

Objective #2.1: Have regularly scheduled SILC meetings that allow for in-person or virtual attendance

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.1.1: The DSE has purchased equipment to allow SILC members to participate remotely in meetings. In FY 2025, the SILC will include in its resource plan a Zoom subscription to allow all meetings to be conducted remotely.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #3: Education - The DSE, the SILC, and the CIL will provide collaborative efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities in the District of Columbia are aware of the resources, services and benefits available for them to take next steps in education, training, community involvement and gainful employment among others. Establish "educational workshops" to provide public knowledge of available resources for and on behalf of persons with disabilities. Provide outreach to identify opportunities and resources at various community venues for people with disabilities.

Objective #3.1: The SILC will work with the DCCIL and DSE to provide for an annual Consumer Forum and Youth Summit

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.1.1: The Forum will provide education to youth and adults with disabilities on topics of interest identified by the SILC; and will provide information about IL services available in the community.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #3.2: Support computer literacy for emerging populations with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.2.1: The SILC and DSE will support the DCCIL's ongoing program providing basic computer skills and utilization of various search engines.

Indicator #3.2.2: DCCIL and SILC will develop and distribute a service regarding access to technology and broadband. Technology questionnaire will be provided to DCCIL consumers and others on internet connectivity, devices, assistive technology and utilization.

Indicator #3.2.3: In collaboration with DC Assistive Technology Program and DCSILC, DCCIL will coordinate a community education program on suggested Apps and related demonstrations for the blind and visually impaired.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional): Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #3.3: DCCIL will provide peer support and education groups

Measurable Indicators: Indicator #3.3.1: DCCIL will evaluate existing peer groups and ensure they are in line with the needs of the disability community.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #4: Housing - The DCCIL in collaboration with the SILC will identify Housing Services providers to work collaboratively and promote an easy understanding of local housing requirements for people with significant disabilities seeking affordable and accessible places to live. Provide resources and assistance to homeless or individuals transitioning from institutions and seeking to be integrated in the community.

Objective #4.1: The SILC and CIL will advocate for improved housing opportunities for people with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.1.1: The SILC and DCCIL will provide testimony regarding the housing needs of people with disabilities in DC at public forums hosted by the Mayor and DC Council hearings.

Indicator #4.1.2: The SILC will prioritize identifying city stakeholders that can work to assist persons with disabilities find affordable/accessible housing.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #5: Outreach - The SILC, DSE and DCCIL will collaborate to ensure that persons with disabilities are aware of the resources, services and benefits available for them. Establish "educational workshops" to provide public knowledge of available resources for and on behalf of persons with disabilities. Monitor the implementation of planned programming resulting from the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) completed in FY 2024. Ensure that the findings from CSNA continue to address un-served and underserved populations.

Objective #5.1: Create new outreach brochures

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.1.1: The DSE SILC and the CIL will create new outreach brochures for community distribution in various languages and accessible formats.

Indicator #5.1.2: The SILC will monitor and advise the DSE and CIL on the brochure creation to ensure they are written in person-centered language and that they effectively address the IL needs of District residents with disabilities.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #5.2: Assist in the development of the 2026 Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.2.1: Engage DCCIL and SILC with identifying participants to complete questionnaires and surveys and participate in focus groups to ensure that the CSNA correctly identifies unserved and underserved communities of people in need of IL services in DC.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #5.3: DCCIL, DCRSA and DCSILC will co-locate in multiple wards throughout the city, specifically NW, NE and SE

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.3.1: Working with our realtor and community partners to establish co-location sites in the aforementioned areas in order to increase DCCIL's presence and outreach to the disability community in the designated areas

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #5.4: DCCIL will establish a Consumer Ambassador Program comprised of people with disabilities with a focus on outreach to people with disabilities in their own communities & a view towards educating them for services available to them and how to access these services.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.4.1: The program is successful when an identified person with a disability connects with services that are provided by DCCIL.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #5.5: Provide services to specific underserved communities of people with disabilities in DC.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.5.1: Effectively outreach to the Latino community; establish a Latino Outreach team with a view towards more effectively identifying Latino's with disabilities and provide the 5-core service in a more culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

Indicator #5.5.2: Effectively outreach to the Ethiopian community; effectively identifying Ethiopian's/Eritrean's with disabilities and provide the 5-core service in a more culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

Indicator #5.5.3: Effectively outreach to the Asian-Pacific community; effectively identifying Asian-Pacific's with disabilities and provide the 5-core service in a more culturally and linguistically appropriate manner

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #6: Transition - The SILC and CIL will provide meaningful and informative community-based workshops enabling youth with disabilities to be successful in school or training and in preparation for future employment. A wide variety of information such as access to social services, benefits and resources or opportunities for employment are available; but also, the implementation and education to support and campaign to improve transition skill planning and development.

Objective #6.1: Improve transition planning for people on track for discharge from institutional settings.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #6.1.1: The SILC will monitor development of such planning to ensure that it operates within a person-centered thinking context.

Indicator #6.1.2: The SILC will prioritize identifying city stakeholders that can work to assist persons with disabilities find affordable/accessible housing.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #6.2: Provide independent living skills and advocacy to youth in transition

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #6.2.1: DCRSA will utilize their existing partnership with DCPS and DCPCS to collaborate with DCCIL and DCSILC to facilitate more effective outreach and increase awareness of services (eg. IL Skills training)

Indicator #6.2.2: DCCIL, collaborating with DCSILC, will provide advocacy training for youth.

Indicator #6.2.3: In collaboration with DCPS and DCPCS, DCCIL will implement the Y.E.S (Youth Empowered to Succeed) Program to students through the special education department.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #6.3: DCCIL, in collaboration with DCSILC and DCRSA, will plan a Youth Summit organized and run by the youth with a purpose of focusing on the issue that are significant to them.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #6.3.1: A successful completion of the summit with action items to advance address issues identified as most pressing to youth with disabilities community along with the distribution and return of consumer satisfaction surveys.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #7: Advocacy - Provide active support for the equal opportunity, self-determination, and self-respect for people living with disabilities ensuring they have the greatest possible degree of independence in the District of Columbia.

Objective #7.1: Support the access to assistive technology for people with disabilities in DC

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #7.1.1: The DSE and SILC Advocacy Committee will identify representatives to participate in the Assistive Technology Advisory Committee at the Assistive Technology Center at University Legal Services.

Indicator #7.1.2:

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional): Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #7.2: DCCIL will provide each consumer with a Consumer Satisfaction Survey's upon completing a goal. The surveys will be submitted in accessible formats contingent upon a consumers' disability.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #7.2.1: The objective will be considered successful when at least 60% surveys are distributed surveys are returned.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional): Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #7.2: Raise awareness about issues related to safety in the community for people with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #7.2.1: The SILC will raise awareness and advocate for the creation of an outreach and education campaign on maintaining safety in the community, including advocacy regarding bike lanes and their impact on the safety of people with disabilities.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #7.3: The SILC will advocate to the Mayor to ensure that persons with disabilities are considered in all aspects of emergency planning in DC.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #7.3.1: The SILC and DCCIL will ensure that they are included in all emergency planning for DC, to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are considered.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #7.4: The SILC will ensure that it elicits public input regarding the development of the SPIL and the provision and quality of IL services in the District.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #7.4.1: The SILC, with support from the DSE and CIL, will host at least four public meetings and an annual youth forum and summit.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

1.4 - EVALUATION

The SILC will use various means of evaluation of its progress in implementing and the effectiveness of the SPIL. The SILC will schedule public meetings bi-monthly, to ensure that it holds at least four, up to six meetings per year. Each meeting will include as part of the agenda a time for public comment, to hear from community members about their concerns regarding the needs of people with disabilities and their experience with the service network in place to meet those needs.

-The SILC has established active committees that meet at least monthly, including:

- The Service Needs/Monitoring and Evaluation Committee will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of outreach and education activities under the SPIL.
- The Advocacy Committee will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of advocacy activities under the SPIL.
- The State Plan Committee will be responsible for developing the state plan and overseeing its implementation.
- The Finance committee will be responsible for assisting in the development of and overseeing the implementation of the SILC Resource Plan.

The SILC will work with the DSE to develop the solicitation for the 2026 CSNA, which will evaluate the effectiveness of services the quality-of-service delivery and effectiveness of the collaboration between service providers.

The DSE has external monitors who evaluate the quality of services provided by contract agencies. These monitors visit each agency at least quarterly to ensure compliance with the provisions in the agency's contract. The monitors have developed a monitoring tool that tracks the requirements outlined in the Human Care Agreement with a provider to determine the extent to which the agency is meeting the requirements of these agreements. Based on the results of these reviews, the DSE has a variety of interventions if performance concerns exist, including providing technical assistance to the agency, suspending referrals for services to allow the agency to correct deficiencies or referring to the DDS Office of Contracts and Procurement with a recommendation for formal action to be taken regarding the contract, either suspending or termination for failure to comply.

The DSE and the CIL in collaboration with the SILC will develop and distribute consumer satisfaction surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of information and referral services, effectiveness of outreach campaigns for housing, service availability, and transition services. Consumer surveys are distributed via US mail to individuals after case closure, along with a stamped return envelope. The Quality Assurance Unit collects the results and analyzes them.

1.5 - PART I: FINANCIAL PLAN

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

Fiscal Year(s): 2025 - 2027

October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2027

Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses					
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Admin. Costs	TOTAL
Title VII Funds						
Chapter 1, Part B	\$107300	\$212417	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$319717
Chapter 1, Part C	\$0	\$0	\$973814	\$0		\$973814
						\$1293531
Other Federal Funds						
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$20000	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$20000
Social Security Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
						\$20000
Non-Federal Funds						
Part B State Match	\$20000	\$20000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40000
Other State Match for Funds in SPIL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
						\$40000
TOTAL	\$147300	\$232417	\$973814	\$0	\$0	\$1353531

1.5.2 - PART II: FINANCIAL PLANNING NARRATIVE

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

Goal 1 - Promote the Autonomy of the SILC - The SILC has identified an Executive Director. The DSE will utilize Part B funds from the Resource Plan to establish a grant to pay the Executive Director (ED) as a contractor in year one of the plan. The SILC Executive Committee will establish a performance plan and provide an annual review to the DSE, to confirm the ED's progress and continued employment. The DCCIL will provide in-kind support in the form of administrative support to the ED. The resource plan also includes Part B funds for office supplies to support the SILC. The DSE will support the SILC ED to

identify a pro-bono attorney to assist with establishing the SILC as a legal entity and applying for 501(c)(3) tax exempt legal status.

The DSE Quality Assurance and Performance Management Administration will conduct oversight of the provision of IL services provided via human care agreements, contracts, and grants. The grantees are identified in the SPIL. The contract and human care agreement providers are identified through the provider qualification process in the Operations Division at the DSE.

The DCCIL, SILC and DSE will work together to develop consumer satisfaction surveys, which will be sent to clients after completion of IL services. The cost of these mailings will be covered as in-kind support from the DSE.

Goal 2 - Establish SILC virtual meetings and public access - the cost of Zoom licenses will be paid by Part B funds, included in the resource plan. Other costs associated with the virtual meetings, such as interpreters will be provided as in-kind support by the DSE.

Goal 3 - The DSE, SILC and DCCIL will collaborate to provide education to ensure that people with disabilities in DC are aware of resources, services and benefits available to them. The DCCIL, DSE and SILC will jointly host an annual Consumer Forum and Youth Summit. Each party will provide a... of the funding for this event. The SILC and DSE's share of the costs will be paid utilizing Part B funds and the DCCIL will utilize Part C funds. The DCCIL will provide peer support and education groups utilizing Part C funding.

Goal 4 - Housing - The SILC and DCCIL will provide advocacy and education regarding housing. The SILC will utilize funding included in its resource plan, to the extent the advocacy is done by the SILC ED. The DCCIL will utilize Part C funds.

Goal 5 - Outreach - The DSE and DCCIL will utilize Part B and Part C funds to create new outreach brochures.

In developing the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, the DSE will utilize Section 101(a)(18) innovation and expansion funds for the IL portion of the cost of the completion of this plan (app. 10%) of the cost will be included in the IL Resource Plan, funded with I&E funds.

Goal 6 - Transition - The DCCIL utilizes Part C funds to provide peer support and education to youth with disabilities.

The annual youth summit, as indicated above, is paid for utilizing Part B and Part C funds.

Goal 7 - Advocacy - The DSE will utilize staff funded through local funds to participate on the AT Advisory Committee; The SILC will have a volunteer also participating on this committee. To the extent necessary Resource Plan funds, from Part B will be available to support this individual volunteer.

The DCCIL and SILC provide advocacy on safety. The DCCIL utilized Part C funds to provide education and technical assistance to the DC Department of Transportation on safety issues, particularly on issues related to bike lanes and their impact on people with disabilities.

The SILC will ensure representation on the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Administration's emergency planning council. The SILC participant will receive support through the Resource Plan, to the extent necessary.

As indicated above, the costs of the Annual Consumer Forum and Youth Summit will be paid utilizing Part C and Part B funding.

The Resource plan includes \$1000 in Part B funds for any necessary meeting expenses for the regular SILC meetings.

Section 2: Scope, Extent and Arrangements of Services

2.1 - SERVICES

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

Core Independent Living Services: Information and referral

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? Yes	
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By Blind from DSE, utilizes Part B funds)	CIL DSE Other (Grant to Columbia Lighthouse for the

Core Independent Living Services: IL skills training

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? Yes	
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By the Blind from DSE, utilizes Part B funds)	CIL DSE Other (Grant to Columbia Lighthouse for

Core Independent Living Services: Peer counseling

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

Core Independent Living Services: Individual and systems advocacy

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

Transition Services: Transition from nursing homes & other institutions

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

Transition Services: Diversion from institutions

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rehabilitation technology

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

Mobility training

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By the Blind from DSE, utilizes Part B funds)	CIL DSE Other (Grant to Columbia Lighthouse for

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

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By the Blind from DSE, utilizes Part B funds)	CIL DSE Other (Grant to Columbia Lighthouse for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Services for children

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

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

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

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

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

2.1 - OPTIONAL MAP ATTACHMENT

Uploaded Document Name:

2.2 - OUTREACH TO UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

The DSE defines underserved as groups that are underrepresented in people served by the agency, based on the triannual CSNA. This assessment utilizes local data from the American Community Survey of the US Census to determine the number of people of various communities in the city. This data is then compared with DSE and CIL data regarding demographics of people receiving services. To the extent that the number served is significantly lower, these are identified as underserved.

Unservd communities would be those that are non-existent within our service population but are present in the community. We then develop an outreach plan to increase awareness within these communities of the availability of IL services.

Our current CSNA will be completed by September 30, 2024. The groups identified in the most recent CSNA as underserved were Latinos and Ethiopians.

The District includes only urban populations.

The outreach includes development of brochures by the DCCIL and DSE. The DSE has an outreach supervisor who attends events in the community throughout the year where these materials are share

2.3 - COORDINATION

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

Coordination of activities between the SILC, the CIL and the DSE will be increased by meeting bi-monthly and establishing sub-committees to focus on SPIL goals and objectives. The Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) established the vetting process to expedite new SILC members as requested by the SILC Executive Board. The SILC requires members who are District of Columbia residents that have the time to devote to accomplishing the goals of the SILC. There is currently a small core of dedicated members who accomplish the primary work of the SPIL. The SILC continuously works with MOTA in order to have new members appointed, once they have been identified.

The SILC will work with the CIL and its Board to redefine strategies, curriculum and communication regarding persons with disabilities and the ever-pressing affordable and accessible housing issues via meetings, brown bag lunch forums, neighborhood community meetings and conferences.

The DC SILC worked with the DSE and the State Rehabilitation Council in the development of the scope of work for the current Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment for 2023, although due to a variety of contractual issues, this CSNA will not be completed until the end of FY 2024. The subsequent CSNA will be conducted in 2026. The SILC ensures that the scope of work included identification of local communities with un-served or underserved.

Service provision of independent living services was reviewed.

The DCSILC will work with the SRC to establish a "feedback loop" for the RSA from the community so that RSA is kept abreast of community suggestions and concerns and includes the community members when developing solutions.

The DCSILC and the CIL will advocate for the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in city-wide evacuation emergency planning for the District of Columbia.

With the passing of the Disability Protection Rights Act of 2006, which established the Office of Disability Rights, the SILC and CIL assist in planning and implementation of the Olmstead Act as knowledgeable stakeholders advocating on behalf of DC persons with disabilities to ensure full inclusion in the housing market.

The SILC and CIL will continue to advocate with community residents regarding transportation improvements and compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, Title

VI. SILC and CIL members work with numerous stakeholders such as Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments - Access for all Committee and Transportation Policy Board; The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) -Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) and the DC Department of For-Hire-Vehicles. DC Transport same day Para - Transit type transportation by accessible taxi cabs and is contracted through the District of Columbia Government. Providing copayments with persons with disabilities that utilize the services.

Provide information and referral services about DSE, DCSILC and DCCIL and available independent living services to persons with disabilities at community exhibits providing outreach, education and referral services at community events.

Partner with other community agencies and stakeholders to promote additional transition to work and/or independent living activities for youth with disabilities.

The SILC, CIL and the Department on Disability Services (DSE) will continue to work with established partners successfully as follows: DC Housing Authority, DC Housing Finance Agency, DC Housing and Community Development, National Council on Independent Living, DC Share (a DCCIL expansion partner), University Legal Services - Housing and Advocacy Unit, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and Council of Governments (Transportation Division), Office of Human Rights - specifically the Language Access Coalition, Office of Latino Affairs, Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs and the DC Board of Elections to promote accessible voting processes to expedite information, referral and advocacy on behalf of person with disabilities.

The SILC has bi-monthly public meetings throughout the year. The DSE has a Quality Assurance and Compliance Unit with monitors on staff, who make scheduled and unscheduled visits to IL service providers to facilitate a positive outcome for clients.

The DSE maintains a cross-referral system with the CIL and One Stop Centers in the District. The Department of Employment Services One Stop Centers (American Jobs Centers) personnel are trained to identify persons with significant disabilities who may benefit from vocational Rehabilitation (VR) or independent living (IL) services.

Satisfaction and assessment surveys are conducted regularly; information gathered from these surveys serves to close any gaps in services that are identified. If disparities are recognized in any of the program areas, subsequent objectives and specific goals are developed, implemented and services provided.

The DSE will actively coordinate with the CIL to alleviate replication of program services to IL, Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) and VR consumers in the following areas;

- **Special Education:** The DSE has specialized counseling units that work closely with DC Public Schools and DC Public Charter Schools to provide pre-employment transition services to students with disabilities, and to ensure that students are referred for vocational rehabilitation, independent living and developmental disability support services, as appropriate. The CIL coordinates with DCPS, DCPCS and the DSE to provide peer mentoring to transition aged youth. These services are provided both in schools and at the CIL or the DSE offices.
- **Vocational Education:** The CIL has developed a computer literacy program for emerging populations with disabilities in the District that emphasizes basic keyboarding skills, understanding of WORD, and the various search engines for research. Referred clients attend sessions free of charge as necessary.
- **Developmental Disabilities Services** The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is an administration under the Department on Disability Services (DSE) along with the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Therefore, interagency consumer referrals for VR and IL services are regularly exchanged between the two administrations. In addition, the Department on Disability Services (DSE) has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Child and Family Services Agency that specifically identifies the process for referral and transition from the foster care to the DDA, IL or VR System.
- **Public Health:** The DSE IL specialist refers IL clients as appropriate, consumers to CIL nutrition classes for people with disabilities.
- **Mental Health:** The Department of Behavioral Health, DSE have collaborated with the CIL, and have developed a support group for Families with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The DSE is part of the Human Services cluster of agencies, as is the Department of Behavioral Health. The coordination occurs at the Deputy Mayor's level to ensure that necessary coordination of services between human service agencies occurs.
- The DCCIL has developed a number of peer support groups, including: YES Peer Group • Cross Disability Peer Group
- AHEAD (A Hispanic Empowerment and Diversity Group) The Anacostia Peer Group • TBI Peer Group (ACIL)

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Peer Group
- Women who are Blind and Visually Impaired Peer Group Men who are Blind and Visually Impaired Peer Group The Men's Cross-Disability Peer Group
- The Women's Cross-Disability Peer Group A Family "Benefits Impact" Peer Group
- EPIC (Empowering-Promoting- Independence-Confidence) Peer Group Advocacy Peer Groups
- The CIL will continue to build partnerships with DCPS, DCPCS and community partners which will include but is not limited to outreach to create awareness about CIL services and integrating the CIL's Youth Peer-Support Groups at DC Public Schools and DC Public Charter Schools.
- Housing: The CIL has organized a peer housing advocacy group to speak to the issues around the lack of affordable and accessible housing in the District.
- Transportation: The DSE coordinates and contracts with the CIL to utilize their transportation services in assisting IL and ILOB consumers on an individual case basis.
- Veterans Services: The CIL and the SILC partner and participate in cross disability community meetings, boards and commissions that promote empowerment, independence, and self- sufficiency through independent living services availability. The DC Office of Veterans Affairs is a new peer group that began through collaboration with the DSE.
- Programs under XVIII of the Social Security Act - In providing IL services, a counselor first conducts an assessment and then gathers information from the client regarding types of insurance he or she receives or may be eligible for. The IL counselor considers all federal and state programs that may be used to support the individual (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare) before utilizing Part B IL program funding.

Section 3: Network of Centers

3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

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

3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

Anacostia Center for Independent Living Counties Served: District of Columbia All Sources of Funding:

Oversight Entity: ACL/OILP SPIL Signatory: No

County Services

District of Columbia (Limited Services) DC Center for Independent Living Counties Served: District of Columbia All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: The DSE provides the DCCIL Part B grant funds to provide IL services. The DSE monitors the provision of the services available through this grant through its Quality Assurance and Performance Management Administration. The DSE visits the DCCIL site regularly and tracks the provision of services quarterly.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: The Administration for Community Living at HHS provides oversight of the Part C services provided by the DCCIL.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

District of Columbia (Full Services)

3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

CIL Network

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

The District of Columbia, DHHS/ACL and DDS recognizes one Center for Independent Living despite other CIL staff located throughout different sectors of the city with and without other service provider stakeholders.

Currently, Mr. Richard A. Simms occupies the one District of Columbia Executive Director position. All other CIL are supervised and paid by him.

However, several years ago the CIL Director had requested that another of its fully staffed locations within the District of Columbia be recognized as a separate independent center as well. However, the then USDE/RSA which provided oversight, responded that that location did not fit the criteria needed to be considered another CIL.

Subsequently, locations that are not physically shared by the one Executive Director are referred to as satellite locations.

The one DC CIL is also a registered 501(c)(3) facility and funding received supports staff and volunteers that carry out the functions of the CIL although they may be co-located at other service provider facilities.

District of Columbia Center for Independent Living, Inc. 90IL016102 o Funding Source: IL Part C

- Geographic Area Served: DCCIL serves the NW, NE, SW & parts of the SE sector of the city. • Priority Population: All ages, all disabilities in the District of Columbia

- District of Columbia Center for Independent Living, Inc. 90IL019302 o Funding Source: IL Part C

- Priority Population: Traumatic brain injured & all other ages and disabilities in the District of Columbia

DCCIL has two locations:

- The Main located at 2600 12th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018
- The Anacostia office staff are currently operating out of the NE Office location.

3.2 - EXPANSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF NETWORK

Plan and priorities for use of funds, by funding source, including Part B funds, Part C funds, State funds, and other funds, whether current, increased, or one-time funding, and methodology for distribution of funds. Use of funds to build capacity of existing Centers, establish new Centers, and/or increase the statewide reach of the Network. (Follow the instructions in Title VII, Part C of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.)

Definition of served, unserved, and underserved.

The DCCIL, in collaboration with the SILC and DSE, established the need to identify an additional office located in NW to serve increasingly unserved and underserved multicultural and other emerging populations with disabilities in that city sector.

The current CSNA continued to identify specific needs to provide more outreach in providing VR and IL services to the Latino population in the District. The Northwest office shared with the Greater Washington Urban League co-supported by the DCCIL Part C funds and 501 C-3 funding. Additional funding from DDS contracts for miscellaneous short-term contracts to provide independent living skills training. The continued existence and support identified in the previous SPIL will only continue if the DCCIL collaborates and plans with the other IL stakeholders like DDS.

DCCIL recognizes underserved and un-served boundaries with West to 16th street, to North of Military Road/Missouri Avenue and East to North Capitol to South of H street.

The concentration of Hispanic, Ethiopians, Caribbean Islanders, Africans who live in part of Ward I and Ward 2, also DCCIL recognizes their presence in North of Riggs Road to West of North Capitol to East of Eastern Avenue; these areas cover Wards 4, 5 and 6.

The DCCIL serves the entire District of Columbia.

The prior SPIL had identified an area of the District, which had a high concentration of Hispanics as an area that was underserved. The finding that this group was underserved continues to be an issue, consistent with the findings in the 2020 CSNA.

Officially the entire District is covered under the two current grants, but the NW sector of the city is underserved.

Part C funding above COLA will be used to maintain all current locations including the NW sector location; the percentage of any additional funds should be allocated proportionately.

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

The District has only one Center. Given the size of the District this one Center is sufficient to meet the jurisdiction's needs.

Priorities for establishment of new CIL(s).

There is no plan for establishing new CILs. The District has only one Center. Given the size of the District this one Center is sufficient to meet the jurisdiction's needs.

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

There is only one Center in the District. If this Center's funds were relinquished or removed there would not be another qualified Part C entity to receive those funds.

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

Currently DCCIL is located at 2600 12th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018. Due to circumstances

beyond our control (ownership of the building wanting the space for other purposes), the ACIL (Anacostia Center for Independent Living) office at 840 Chesapeake St, SE, Washington, DC 20032 no longer exists as of March 2024. DCCIL continues to provide dedicated services in that area by co-locating at various organizations throughout Anacostia. Our real estate broker, Ed Flenner of Transwestern, is feverishly looking for a suitable location. It is anticipated that a location will be secured by January 1, 2025.

As we plan for a new location, it should be clear that ACIL has been insufficiently funded since its existence. More specifically, it is understood that funding for Centers for Independent Living is based on population, however certain populations have greater needs than other populations and require more resources to help those communities live independently in their homes and communities. It should be amplified that Wards 7 and 8, which ACIL serves, are predominately Black, poor, underemployed, and undereducated. Therefore, more resources are required for this population and should the level of funding continue to be calculated in the same fashion, it is all but guaranteed that this population will continue to be underserved.

DCCIL continues to do a significant amount of outreach in areas of the District with a high concentration of Hispanics in order to reach this unserved population. To address the ever-increasing need to provide services to the Hispanic community, DCCIL hired an additional bilingual Independent Living Specialist with extensive connections to the Hispanic community.

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

If additional funds were available, DCCIL would distribute the funds proportionately to its existing locations (NE and SE) and if the funds were significant enough, increase the capacity of the ACIL site and establish a new satellite in the NW sector of the city to serve the Hispanic and other emerging populations, such as the Ethiopian community.

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

If the current DCCIL grant were terminated, we would recommend that there be one Main/DCCIL grant to cover the entire District of Columbia and establish other community-partnered locations identified as critical service areas to meet the needs of minorities and other emerging populations with disabilities throughout the District of Columbia.

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

At the current level of funding, there are no plans for expansion or adjustments. Temporary Changes (if applicable) Other (if applicable)

N/A

Section 4: Designated State Entity

4.0 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

Department on Disability Service/Administrator of the District of Columbia Vocational Rehabilitation will serve as the entity in District of Columbia designated to receive, administer, and account for funds made available to the state under Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Act on behalf of the State.

4.1 - DSE RESPONSIBILITIES

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

4.2 - ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING: DSE ASSURANCES

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE.

The DSE does not utilize any portion of the Part B funding for administrative costs. The DSE has no employees currently serving as staff to the SILC.

The IL Program at the DSE is located within the Sensory Unit of the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Although IL services may be provided by any one of the forty-five VR specialists in the DSE, there are staff specifically dedicated to provision of IL and ILOB services, as well as VR services to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

The RSA Sensory Unit Supervisor is responsible for the administrative oversight of the IL program. The unit will have the following employees during the 2025-2027 period of this SPIL: one orientation and mobility specialist, one blind rehabilitation specialist, one IL/ILOB Specialist, two VR Specialists, one rehabilitation assistant, and the unit supervisor.

Additionally, DDS has established a comprehensive Human Care Agreement format that must address the five core IL service components for all community providers with DDS contracts that provide IL services to consumers. External reviews through the SILC and DDS Office of Quality Assurance and Compliance are conducted quarterly on all IL HCA providers to ensure that full compliance and client satisfaction with services being provided is well documented.

Consistent with the 2017 SPIL, the agency provides grants to two providers to provide IL services to people through the IL and ILOB grants. These agencies were identified by the SILC and included through the SPIL development process as two entities that could directly receive referrals, complete assessments, develop plans and provide IL services.

4.3 - STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS

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

- State law, regulation, rule, or policy relating to the DSE's administration, funding, or operation of IL programs and/or establishment, funding, and operations of the SILC
- Rule or policy implementing any Federal law, regulation, or guideline that is beyond what would be

required to comply with 45 CFR 1329

- That limits, expands, or alters requirements for the SPIL

In accordance with the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, D.C. Official Code Section 2-1401.01 et seq., (Act) the District of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of actual or

perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, disability, source of income, or place of residence or business.

Fiscal Accountability - The Administration has systems in place and qualified staff that control the disbursement of funds and prepare fiscal reports. Records are available for audits upon request.

Eligibility - All individuals with a significant disability in need of independent living services are evaluated and provided services. The DSU currently maintains both electronic and hard copy case records. However, during FY 2014, the DSU will transition to exclusively electronic case records. The Non-Discrimination Act applies, as well as the District's Language Access Act, ensuring availability of services to non-English and Limited English speakers in their native language.

Independent Living Plans - IL Plans are developed with the client utilizing informed choice. The case documentation contains goals, objectives, provider of services and timeframes for completion. The client receives a signed copy of the IL plan, which also contains the client's rights and responsibilities.

Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information - Policies and Procedures are in place to safeguard all client information as required by 34 CFR 364.56(a)

4.4 - GRANT PROCESS & DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

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

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

Process for soliciting proposals

The DSE pays for services utilizing grants and human care agreements. The process for receiving a human care agreement is that a provider must submit an application indicating an interest in providing services, and then must demonstrate that they are able to meet the required qualifications to provide services. These human care agreements are overseen by an agency contract administrator who ensures that services are provided consistent with the agreement, prior to approving payment for services; and provides an annual assessment of performance. In addition, the DSE Quality Assurance Administration assigns a monitor to visit the provider quarterly to conduct quality assurance monitoring, which includes monitoring of client records, review of consumer satisfaction surveys, and interviews of service recipients.

Beginning in FY 2017, in developing the SPIL, the SILC, DSE and CIL made a determination to allow IL funds to be directly allocated to the DCCIL and a DSE IL provider, the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind. These entities were selected because of a determination that they had the ability to receive direct referrals for IL services, conduct assessments, develop plans and deliver services.

These grants receive the same oversight from the DSE as the human care agreements, in that the Quality Assurance Administration monitors the provision of services and a contract administrator within the Operations division oversees the grants management, ensuring tracking of service provision,

payment for services provided and annual assessment.

Development of format for proposals

Process for reviewing proposals and who reviewers will be Process for evaluating performance and compliance of grantees

4.5 - OVERSIGHT PROCESS FOR PART B FUNDS

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

The DSE's Quality Assurance and Performance Management Administration conducts monitoring visits of all IL service providers. These visits occur quarterly. The monitors review records, interview clients served and staff, and review customer satisfaction surveys. The QA staff coordinate with the DSE Operations Division, which assigns a contract administrator to oversee the provision of any services provided via contract or grant. The CA is responsible for approving a provider as qualified to provide services, based on the terms of the grant or human care agreement, and ensures that services are provided consistent with these agreements prior to approving payment for any services. In addition, the CA completes an annual evaluation of each provider, based on their review of the services and coordination with the QA monitors.

4.6 - 722 VS. 723 STATE

722 State

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 - ESTABLISHMENT OF SILC

How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.

The SILC was established via Mayor's Order. Volunteers to serve on the SILC are recruited by the SILC, the DCCIL and the DSE. They are officially appointed to the SILC by Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, for terms up to three years. The autonomy of the SILC has been an ongoing issue for a number of years. The SILC has historically functioned as a fully volunteer entity, with a chairperson who receives staff support from the DSE. In order to address the concerns regarding autonomy, the SILC included in its Resource Plan a goal of hiring an executive director and establishing the SILC as a separate legal entity. The Executive Director has been identified. The DSE will begin to pay this person in FY 2025 through a grant. Her performance will be overseen by the Executive Committee of the SILC. Her first requirement will be to identify legal support to establish the SILC as a legal entity and apply for 501(c)(3) tax exempt legal status.

5.2 - SILC RESOURCE PLAN

Resources (including necessary and sufficient funding, staff/administrative support, and in-kind), by

funding source and amount, for SILC to fulfill all duties and authorities.

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

DRAFT

The first priority of the new SILC Executive Director will be to establish a legal entity into which funds can be transferred from the DSE to support to the resource plan. In the interim, the DSE will continue to pay for these expenses directly, including the costs related to the Executive Director's salary, which will be paid via grant. The SILC will have the following annual expenses:

110,000 SILC Executive Director 500 office expenses

150 NCIL Organizational Dues - Annual

1000 meeting expenses (this includes a stipend to attend SILC meetings, for members who are not employed, this does not apply to virtual meetings)

600 NCIL Conference Virtual Registration (2 members) 1,500 SILC Training

2,000 website maintenance

1500 SILC Congress

\$400 Zoom account

10,000 Consumer Forum and Youth Summit (SILC, CIL, DSE each pays 1/3 of total cost) Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

The Resource Plan was developed by the SILC State Plan Committee. This plan was then approved by the SILC, CIL and DSE. The information was also shared at a community meeting, at which we received no comments or concerns.

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

Payments for expenses included in the SILC Resource Plan are paid either through a direct payment, a credit card payment or via grant.

The Executive Director salary will be paid via grant, assuming that the candidate selected is able to receive payments via the District's integrated financial system (DIFS). Once enrolled in DIFS, payments will be made monthly.

Expenditures for purchase of most goods under \$5000 and most services under \$2500 can be paid via credit card. Some expenditures, e.g., food, would require approval from the Office of Contracts and Procurement before the purchase can be made. In those instances, a memo is prepared well in advance, if we know that these goods will be needed and is submitted for approval, so that when the purchase is made, there is not delay.

For other purchases, a direct pay or reimbursement could be made. The request for direct pay or reimbursement would be submitted to operations for processing. The full process takes approximately two weeks,

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

Part B funding for the Resource Plan currently constitutes 33.5% of the total grant. Although this is higher than 30%, we believe this is justified for two reasons. First, we include \$10,000 in SILC Resource Funds allocated to the Community Forum and Youth Summit. While this is included in the Resource Plan, this should also be considered direct service, as this is included as education and outreach in our plan. Subtracting this amount from the resource plan, the percentage would be slightly over 30%, i.e., 30.4%.

In addition, it has been a long-standing goal to establish the SILC as a legal entity and hire an Executive Director. The rate of pay for a position at this level in the District of Columbia is high, even in the Non-Profit sector.

5.3 - MAINTENANCE OF SILC

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

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

Describe how the State will ensure that: (all of the following are required) The SILC is established and operating

SILC members are appointed by the Mayor. Within the Mayor's office, the Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) has responsibility for making these appointments. The DCCIL, the SILC and the DSE are responsible for identifying and recruiting new members who are then referred to MOTA for appointment.

The SILC is established via Mayor's Order, which outlines the membership requirements for the organization.

The staffing of the SILC includes only an Executive Director. Administrative support is provided by the DCCIL, as an in-kind contribution. The Executive Director was selected through a process including the SILC and the DCCIL. The SILC Executive Committee will be responsible for establishing a performance plan and preparing an evaluation, to be due in July of each calendar year. Based on the results of the evaluation and input from the SILC Executive Committee, the DSE will make payments to the Executive Director. Once the SILC is established as a separate legal entity, this entity will work with the DSE to establish the system for oversight of the SILC ED. Appointments are made in a timely manner to keep the SILC in compliance with the Act

The SILC and the DSE will work closely with the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments to ensure timely appointment of new members, once identified by the SILC, CIL or DSE.

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

The first goal of the new Executive Director of the SILC will be to establish the SILC as a separate legal entity, organized as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

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

As indicated above, the SILC will establish a separate legal entity, which will have its own separate legal status, ability to manage its own funds and staff. It will co-locate with the DCCIL and will benefit from in-kind donation of administrative support from the DCCIL.

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

The SILC Resource Plan includes approximately 30% of the Part B grant funds to carry out the functions of the SILC. In addition, \$20,000 of the local match will be devoted toward Resource Plan funds.

Section 6: Legal Basis & Certifications

6.1 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

The state entity/agency designated to receive and distribute funding, as directed by the SPIL, under Title VII, Part B of the Act is Department on Disability Service/Administrator of the District of Columbia Vocational Rehabilitation.

Authorized representative of the DSE Andrew Reese. Title: Director, DDS; Acting Director RSA/DDS.

6.2 - STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

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

6.3 - CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CILS)

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

Anacostia Center for Independent Living DC Center for Independent Living

6.4.A

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

Yes

6.4.B

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

6.4.C

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

Section 7: DSE Assurances

DSE ASSURANCES

Andrew Reese acting on behalf of the DSE Department on Disability Service/Administrator of the District of Columbia Vocational Rehabilitation located at:

Street: 250 E Street SW City: Washington

State: DC

Zip Code: 20024

7.1

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

7.2

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

7.3

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

7.4

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

7.5

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

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

7.6

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

1. If the SILC informs the DSE that the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff, the DSE assures that management

of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC is the sole responsibility of the SILC in accordance with Sec. 705(e)(3) of the Act (Sec. 705(e)(3), 29 U.S.C.796d(e)(3)).

7.7

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

7.8

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

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

1693-1693r).

DSE SIGNATURE SECTION

Andrew Reese

Name of DSE Director/Authorized Representative Director - DDS/Acting Deputy Director of RSA Title of DSE Director/Authorized Representative Andrew P Reese

Electronic Signature 09/16/2024

Date

I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

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

8.1 - SILC ASSURANCES

Yvonne Smith acting on behalf of the SILC District of Columbia Statewide Independent Living Council located at:

Street: 721 Brandywine St SE # 204 City: Washington

State: DC

Zip Code: 200

45 CFR 1329.14 assures that:

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

8.2 - INDICATORS OF MINIMUM COMPLIANCE

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

(a) STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL INDICATORS -

1. SILC written policies and procedures must include:
 - a. A method for recruiting members, reviewing applications, and regularly providing recommendations for eligible appointments to the appointing authority;
 - b. A method for identifying and resolving actual or potential disputes and conflicts of interest that are in compliance with State and federal law;
 - c. A process to hold public meetings and meet regularly as prescribed in 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
 - d. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
 - e. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
 - i. "Executive Session" meetings should be rare and only take place to discuss confidential SILC issues such as but not limited to staffing.
 - ii. Agendas for "Executive Session" meetings must be made available to the public, although personal identifiable information regarding SILC staff shall not be included;
 - f. A process and timelines for the public to request reasonable accommodations to participate during a public Council meeting;
 - g. A method for developing, seeking and incorporating public input into, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating implementation of the State Plan as required in 45 CFR 1329.17; and

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

SILC SIGNATURE SECTION

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

Yvonne Smith Name of SILC Chair Yvonne Smith

Electronic Signature 09/16/2024

Date

I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

Section 9: Signatures

SIGNATURES

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

SILC SIGNATURE SECTION

Yvonne Smith
Name of SILC Chair
Yvonne Smith
Electronic Signature
09/16/2024
Date
I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

CIL SIGNATURE SECTION

DC Center for Independent Living
Name of Center for Independent Living
Richard Simms
Name of CIL Director
Richard A. Simms
Electronic Signature
09/23/2024
Date