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# 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: FLORIDA

FISCAL YEARS: 2021 – 2023

Effective Date: October 1, 2020

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

## **Executive Summary:**

The Mission, goals, objectives, and action steps of the Florida 3-year Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for 2021 - 2023 are defined in Section 1 of the State Plan. The mission of the Florida IL Network, and the SPIL, is to promote independence, full access, and informed choice for people with disabilities.

The Florida IL Network held twenty-eight (28) SPIL workgroups, three (3) public hearings, four (4) public forums, and additional input from around the state was gathered on the FILC survey on the organization's website. The Florida IL Network had 87% or 13 out of 15 of the CILs sign the 2021-2023 SPIL. The two CILs that did not approve the presented SPIL provided verbal support of the work, however opposed the current funding formula.

The SPIL has outlined 4 goals to achieve progress toward the mission:

Improve the Independence and quality of life for all Floridians with disabilities, and during this three-year period the focus on improving the quality of life for youth with disabilities.

All Floridians with disabilities will have access to adequately funded Centers for Independent Living (CILs) as well as other resources that support IL.

The Florida Independent Living Council (FILC) will provide actionable feedback to the IL Network based on the IL Network's progress in achieving SPIL objectives and goals.

Disaster Preparedness/Response/Recovery Resulting in systemic change. People with disabilities will have equal access to the community resources as a result of disasters, natural (hurricane or pandemic), human-made (terrorism, civil unrest, or a mass shooting), or technological (chemical releases, power outages, or mass cybersecurity breach).

The SPIL contains objectives and action steps directed towards the achievement of these goals. The Florida IL Network will utilize SPIL workgroups comprised of CIL staff, SILC members, and disability organizations to work on action steps. This unique setup allows a truly integrated and community approach to support Independent Living.

The scope of services provided, outreach related to unserved and underserved populations, coordination of services and cooperation among programs and organizations to support inclusive community living are described in Section 2.

A detailed explanation of expansion of the network, minimum funding levels for CILs, and distribution of funds is included in Section 3.

Section 4 represents the Designated State Entity's (DSE) response to their administrative responsibilities related to the SPIL.

The Statewide Independent Living Council's (SILC) establishment, autonomy, resource plan, appointment process, and staffing are detailed in Section 5.

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

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

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

## **Section 1: Goals, Objectives, and Activities**

### *1.1 Mission:*

*Mission of the Independent Living (IL) Network and the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).*

The Florida IL Network promotes independence, full access, and informed choice for people with disabilities.

### *1.2 Goals:*

*Goals of the IL Network for the three-year period of the plan.*

- **Goal #1:** Improve the Independence and quality of life for all Floridian's with disabilities, and during this three-year period the focus on improving the quality of life for youth with disabilities.
- **Goal #2:** All Floridians with disabilities will have access to adequately funded Centers for Independent Living (CILs) as well as other resources that support IL.
- **Goal #3:** The Florida Independent Living Council (FILC) will provide actionable feedback to the IL Network based on the IL Networks progress in achieving SPIL objectives and goals.
- **Goal #4:** Disaster Preparedness/Response/Recovery Resulting in systemic change. People with disabilities will have equal access to the community resources as a result of disasters, natural (hurricane or pandemic), human-made (terrorism, civil unrest, or a mass shooting) or technological (chemical releases, power outages, or mass cybersecurity breach).

### 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** Improve the Independence and quality of life for all Floridian's with disabilities, and during this three-year period the focus on improving the quality of life for youth with disabilities.

**Objective 1.1:** Increase IL Network participation in the Florida Youth Leadership Forum(s) (YLF)

**Scope:** Statewide

**Target Date:** 9-30-2023

#### **Measurable Indicators:**

- Increase awareness of the Florida YLF in the IL Network through improved participation.
- The CILs will have responsibility for recruiting youth with disabilities for YLF.

#### **Activities for FY21-FY22:**

1.1a YLF participants, will include CILs and other disability organizations to introduce IL Philosophy.

1.1b FILC Youth Ad Hoc committee will collaborate with the YLF lead organization to review survey data to increase awareness of the YLF.

1.1c FILC Youth Ad Hoc committee will collaborate with lead organization and state partners to improve participation and promote YLF.

1.1d Each CIL will identify a minimum of 2 youth with disabilities, per fiscal year of this SPIL to complete

training provided by the Florida YLF(s).

**Reporting Requirements:** SPIL quarterly reports, VR monthly reporting, and PPR federal annual report.

**Lead Organizations:** Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living, Centers for Independent Living  
Potential Partners: Able Trust, Vocational Rehabilitation, Florida Independent Living Council

**Funding Source:** I & E fund

**Objective 1.2:** The IL Network will increase awareness and access to employment options and resources for Florida's youth with disabilities.

**Scope:** Statewide

**Target Date:** 9-30-2023

**Measurable Indicators:**

- By September 30, 2023 30% of youth with disabilities working with their CIL will create an Independent Living Plan with vocational goals.
- The Florida YLF lead organization pre and post surveys of participants will reflect increased awareness of employment options and resources.
- The CILs will establish a relationship with their local county Board of Education.

**Activities for FY21-22:**

1.2a Pre and Post survey YLF graduates.

1.2b FILC Youth Ad Hoc committee will collaborate with the YLF lead organization to review pre and post surveys data to increase awareness of the YLF.

1.2c Each CIL will collaborate with their local school system to provide advocacy options for students and parents.

**Activities for FY23:**

1.2d Each CIL will identify a minimum of 2 youth with disabilities, per fiscal year of this SPIL to complete training provided by the Florida YLF(s).

1.2e Each CIL will collaborate with their local school system to provide advocacy options for students and parents.

**Reporting Requirements:** SPIL quarterly reports, VR monthly reporting, and PPR federal annual report.

**Lead Organizations:** Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living, Centers for Independent Living,  
Potential Partners: Able Trust, Vocational Rehabilitation, Florida Independent Living Council

**Funding Source:** I & E fund

**Goal #2:** All Floridians with disabilities will have access to adequately funded Centers for Independent Living (CILs) as well as other resources that support Independent Living (IL).

**Objective 2.1:** The Florida IL Network has adequate resources to ensure all CILs have the capacity to provide the five federally required core services and other IL services identified as essential to the communities they serve.

**Scope:** Statewide

**Target Date:** 9-30-2023

**Measurable Indicators:**

- The IL Network will establish a workgroup to review the existing funding formula and base funding currently in place with 100% of participation input (known as CIL Funding Workgroup).

- The IL Network will create a funding methodology capturing current cost of living, geographic differentials, and other identified funding challenges.
- The workgroup will research and identify 2 additional funding opportunities to expand IL services, with an emphasis on groups that are currently underserved.
- The IL Network will present the findings of the agreed upon funding and base funding methodology to FILC and Designated State Entity (DSE).
- CILs will leverage federally assisted technology programs.

**Activities for FY21:**

- 2.1a The CILs will create a CIL Funding Workgroup that develops a new funding formula or base funding.
- 2.1b FILC will provide a communication platform for soliciting input in this process and include the findings and recommendations in SPIL reporting.
- 2.1c The CIL Funding Workgroup will present updates to the FILC at their quarterly meetings.
- 2.1d Findings of the CIL Funding Workgroup will be formally presented to FILC and DSE.
- 2.1e FILC will follow the SPIL Amendment process to reflect the finding of the CIL Funding Workgroup.

**Activities for FY21-23:**

- 2.1f The CILs Funding Workgroup will identify 2 new funding sources to expand IL services.
- 2.1g FILC will provide educational advocacy for the policy and funding priorities of the Florida CILs.

**Reporting Requirements:** SPIL quarterly reports, VR monthly reporting, and PPR federal annual report.

**Lead Organizations:** Centers for Independent Living, Florida Independent Living Council  
**Potential Partners:** Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living

**Funding Source:** I & E fund

**Objective 2.2:** Floridians will have a better understanding and value of CILs.

**Scope:** Statewide

**Target Date:** 9-30-2023

**Measurable Indicators:**

- The IL Network will increase the number of people who have learned about their local CIL through their PSA's by 25%. The FILC will increase a statewide understanding of the CILs through their PSA by 25%. The IL Network will increase the number of people who have learned about their local CILs through other promotional materials.

**Activities for FY21:**

- 2.2a Develop promotional materials about the Florida CILs and what makes them unique and sets them apart from other service providers.
- 2.2b IL Network will continue to develop the IL brand to increase recognition.
- 2.2c FILC will post a survey to the website in the efforts of creating awareness and at public forums collecting information on increased awareness of CILs.

**Activities for FY22-23:**

- 2.2d FILC will support awareness efforts by the IL Network through the continued development of a statewide Public Service Announcement (PSA) to communicate the value of the CILs to Floridians with disabilities.
- 2.2e FILC and the CILs will collaboratively develop effective strategies to communicate and educate elected officials and public policy officials on the SPIL with the goal of expanding and establishing an effective statewide network of IL services to Floridians with disabilities.

**Reporting Requirements:** SPIL quarterly reports, VR monthly reporting, and PPR federal annual report.

**Lead Organizations:** Centers for Independent Living, Florida Independent Living Council, Florida Association of Independent Living

**Funding Source:** I & E funds

**Goal #3:** FILC will provide actionable feedback to the IL Network based on the IL Network's progress in achieving SPIL Objectives and Goals.

**Objective 3.1:** The FILC will be an effective, coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating entity for the SPIL.

**Scope:** Statewide

**Target Date:** 9-30-2023

**Measurable Indicators:**

- Number of full council meetings held with a quorum: 4 times a year.
- Annual PPR/704 report completed and submitted to Administration of Community Living (ACL).
- Annual financial audit completed, and 990 forms filed fully accurately.
- FILC will establish workgroups as identified in the SPIL to move the SPIL activities forward.

**Activities for FY21-23:**

3.1a Review the SPIL quarterly reports completed by IL Network at FILC quarterly meetings.

3.1b Review ACL and DSE Site Review reports of CILs when available.

3.1c Annually review the federal Program Performance Reports from all Florida CILs listed in the SPIL at the end of each federal fiscal year.

3.1d FILC will develop a comprehensive communications strategy with the Governor's Office to ensure appointments are accepted in an effective manner.

3.1e FILC will evaluate the SPIL quarterly activity reports completed by both the CILs and FILC at FILC full Council quarterly meetings.

3.1f The FILC will annually review the CIL consumer satisfaction and public forum surveys collected.

3.1g Review SPIL at each FILC meeting through SPIL workgroup reports and evaluate whether timelines are being met.

**Lead Organizations:** Centers for Independent Living, Florida Independent Living Council

Potential Partners: Vocational Rehabilitation

**Funding Source:** I & E funds

**Goal # 4** Disaster Preparedness/Response/Recovery Resulting in Systemic Change. People with disabilities will have equal access to the community resources as a result of disasters, natural (hurricane or pandemic), human-made disaster (terrorism, civil unrest, or a mass shooting) or technological (chemical releases, power outages, or mass cybersecurity breach).

**Objective 4.1:** The IL Network will demonstrate its essential and unique role during a disaster, as defined in Goal #4.

**Scope:** Statewide

**Target Date:** 9-30-2023

**Measurable Indicators:**

- CILs will increase formal community partnerships by 50% with a county Emergency Management, Red Cross, Department of Health, Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs), or local county governments.
- CILs will provide at least 1 emergency preparedness training or activity for consumers per year.
- The IL Network will identify 1 new funding source for the additional work required during a disaster.

- CILs will identify 2 long term recovery organizations that result in a partnership.

**Activities for FY21- FY23:**

4.1a The IL Network will increase the knowledge of services provided by the CILs with state and local emergency officials by participating in IL Networks state or in county Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

4.1b The FILC will host a workgroup to identify perpetual issues for Floridians with disabilities forced into institutional care during a disaster.

4.1c FILC will work with the Governor’s Office to fill the State Emergency Management ex officio position to council.

4.1d FILC will host an IL Network meeting to review actions, barriers and opportunities after a disaster as defined in Goal #4.

4.1e CILs will advise emergency management, county officials and community partners on communications with consumers with disabilities. This includes explaining the need for interpreters and captioning for PSAs, accessible Websites (keyboard functionality, captions, work w/ screen readers), and accessibility of documents and PSAs for people who are blind or have low vision.

**Reporting Requirements:** SPIL quarterly reports, VR monthly reporting, and PPR federal annual report.

**Lead Organizations:** Centers for Independent Living, Florida Independent Living Council, State Emergency Management, Department of Health, Elder Affairs, Department of Children and Families, Disability Rights Florida, NCIL

**Funding Source:** I & E fund

1.4 Evaluation

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Goals (copy from section 1.2 above)</b>	<b>Objectives (copy from section 1.3 above)</b>	<b>Data to be collected (Activities)</b>	<b>Data collection method</b>	<b>Organization primarily responsible for data collection</b>
10/1/20-9/30/22	<b>Goal 1:</b> Improve the Independence and quality of life for all Floridian’s with disabilities, and during this three-year period the focus on improving the quality of life for youth with disabilities.	<b>Objective 1.1:</b> Increase IL Network participation in the Florida Youth Leadership Forum(s) (YLF)	1.1a YLF participants, will include CILs and other disability organizations to introduce IL Philosophy. 1.1b FILC Youth Ad Hoc committee will collaborate with the YLF lead organization to review survey data to increase awareness of the YLF. 1.1c FILC Youth Ad Hoc committee will collaborate with lead organization and state partners to improve participation and promote YLF.	Survey SPIL quarterly reports, VR monthly reporting and PPR federal annual report	FACIL CILs  Potential Partners: Able Trust DVR FILC

			1.1d Each CIL will identify a minimum of 2 youth with disabilities, per fiscal year of this SPIL to complete training provided by the Florida YLF(s).		
10/1/20-9/30/22	Same as above	<b>Objective 1.2:</b> The IL Network will increase awareness and access to employment options and resources for Florida's youth with disabilities.	1.2.a Pre and Post survey YLF graduates. 1.2b FILC Youth Ad Hoc committee will collaborate with the YLF lead organization to review pre and post surveys data to increase awareness of the YLF.	Survey	FACIL CILs  Potential Partners: Able Trust DVR FILC
10/1/22-9/30/23			1.2c Each CIL will identify a minimum of 2 youth with disabilities, per fiscal year of this SPIL to complete training provided by the Florida YLF(s).		
10/1/20-9/30/21	<b>Goal 2:</b> All Floridians with disabilities will have access to adequately funded Centers for Independent Living (CILs) as well as other resources that support Independent Living (IL).	<b>Objective 2.1:</b> The Florida IL Network has adequate resources to ensure all CILs have the capacity to provide the five federally required core services and other IL services identified as essential to the communities they serve.	2.1a The CILs will create a CIL Funding Workgroup that develops a new funding formula or base funding. 2.1b FILC will provide a communication platform for soliciting input in this process and include the findings and recommendations in SPIL reporting. 2.1c The CIL Funding Workgroup will present updates to the FILC at their quarterly meetings. 2.1d Findings of the CIL Funding Workgroup will be formally presented to FILC and DSE. 2.1.e FILC will follow the SPIL Amendment process to reflect the finding of	SPIL Quarterly Reporting, VR monthly reporting, and PPR federal annual report	CILs FILC  Potential Partners: FACIL

10/1/20-9/30/23			<p>the CIL Funding Workgroup.</p> <hr/> <p>2.1f The CILs Funding Workgroup will identify 2 new funding sources to expand IL services. 2.1g FILC will provide educational advocacy for the policy and funding priorities of the Florida CILs.</p>		
10/1/20-9/30/21	Same as above	<b>Objective 2.2:</b> Floridians will have a better understanding and value of CILs.	<p>2.2a Develop promotional materials about the Florida CILs and what makes them unique and sets them apart from other service providers. 2.2b IL Network will continue to develop the IL brand to increase recognition. 2.2c FILC will post a survey to the website and at public forums collecting information on increased awareness of CILs.</p> <hr/>	<p>Survey posted on FILC website</p> <p>Public Forums and any data collected by CILs.</p>	<p>CILs FILC</p> <p>Potential Partners: FACIL</p>
10/1/21-9/30/23			<hr/> <p>2.2d FILC will support awareness efforts by the IL Network through the continued development of a statewide Public Service Announcement (PSA) to communicate the value of the CILs to Floridians with disabilities. 2.2e FILC and the CILs will collaboratively develop effective strategies to communicate and educate elected officials and public policy</p>		

			officials on the SPIL with the goal of expanding and establishing an effective statewide network of IL services to Floridians with disabilities.		
10/1/20-9/30-23	<b>Goal 3:</b> FILC will provide actionable feedback to the IL Network based on the IL Network’s progress in achieving SPIL Objectives and Goals.	<b>Objective 3.1:</b> The FILC will be an effective, coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating entity for the SPIL.	<p>3.1a Review the SPIL quarterly reports completed by IL Network at FILC quarterly meetings.</p> <p>3.1b Review Administration of Community Living (ACL) and DSE Site Review reports of CILs when available.</p> <p>3.1c Annually review the federal Program Performance Reports from all Florida CILs listed in the SPIL at the end of each federal fiscal year.</p> <p>3.1d FILC will develop a comprehensive communications strategy with the Governor’s Office to ensure appointments are accepted in an effective manner.</p> <p>3.1e FILC will evaluate the SPIL quarterly activity reports completed by both the CILs and FILC at FILC full council quarterly meetings.</p> <p>3.1f The FILC will annually review the CIL consumer satisfaction and public forum surveys collected.</p> <p>3.1g Review SPIL at each FILC meeting through SPIL workgroup reports and evaluate whether timelines are being met.</p>	<p>SPIL Evaluation Committee</p> <p>Submitted reports</p> <p>Survey</p>	<p>CILs FILC</p> <p>Potential Partner: DVR</p>

10/1/20-9/30/23	<p>Goal 4: Disaster Preparedness/ Response/ Recovery Resulting in Systemic Change. People with disabilities will have equal access to the community resources as a result of disasters, natural (hurricane or pandemic), human-made disaster (terrorism, civil unrest, or a mass shooting) or technological (chemical releases, power outages, or mass cybersecurity breach).</p>	<p>The IL Network will demonstrate its essential and unique role during a disaster, as defined in Goal #4.</p>	<p>4.1a The IL Network will increase the knowledge of services provided by the CILs with state and local emergency officials by participating in IL Networks state or in county Emergency Operations Center (EOC).  4.1b The FILC will host a workgroup to identify perpetual issues for Floridians with disabilities forced into institutional care during a disaster.  4.1c FILC will work with the Governor’s Office to fill the State Emergency Management ex officio position to council.  4.1d FILC will host an IL Network meeting to review actions, barriers and opportunities after a disaster as defined in Goal #4.  4.1e CILs will advise emergency management, county officials and community partners on communications with consumers with disabilities. This includes explaining the need for interpreters and captioning for PSAs, accessible Websites (keyboard functionality, captions, work w/ screen readers), and accessibility of documents and PSAs for people who are blind or have low vision.</p>	<p>SPIL Reporting  SPIL Evaluation  IL Network Meetings</p>	<p>CILs  FILC  State Emergency Management  Department of Health  Elder Affairs  Department of Children and Families  Disability Rights  Florida NCIL</p>
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1.5 Financial Plan

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

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

<u>Sources</u>					
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
<b>Title VII Funds</b>					
Chapter 1, Part B (including state match)		127,282.00	1,153,203.00		
Chapter 1, Part C			4,704,972.00		
<b>Other Federal Funds/CARES Act</b>			4,547,856.00		
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	410,820.00				
Social Security Reimbursement			3,472,193.00		
Other					
<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>					
State Funds			1,232,004.00		
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>410,820.00</b>				

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

<u>Sources</u>					
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B

					funding)
<b>Title VII Funds</b>					
Chapter 1, Part B (including state match)		127,282.00	1,153,203.00		
Chapter 1, Part C			4,704,972.00		
<b>Other Federal Funds</b>					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	410,820.00				
Social Security Reimbursement			3,472,193.00		
Other					
<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>					
State Funds			1,232,004.00		
Other					
Total	<b>410,820.00</b>				

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

<u>Sources</u>					
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
<b>Title VII Funds</b>					
Chapter 1, Part B (including state match)		127,282.00	1,153,203.00		
Chapter 1, Part C			4,704,972.00		
<b>Other Federal Funds</b>					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act	410,820.00				

(Innovation and Expansion)					
Social Security Reimbursement			3,472,193.00		
Other					
<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>					
State Funds			1,232,004.00		
Other					
<b>Total</b>		<b>410,820.00</b>			

For 2020-2021 Florida will maximize its funding resources to support the State Plan for Independent Living by using the following resources:

For 2021-2023, the Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. will be funded from one source - Title I, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Innovation and Expansion). The funds are to be used to support the Council duties as outlined in Section 705, Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and to complete the assigned State Plan for Independent Living objectives.

For 2021-2023, Centers for Independent Living will be funded from four sources - These include Title VII, Part B; Title VII, Part C; Social Security Reimbursements; and State General Revenue. Funds provided to the Centers through contracts with the DSE may be used to complete their assigned State Plan for Independent Living Objectives. All funds provided by contract through the DSE are to be used to support the provision of independent living services for Floridians with significant disabilities.

FILC's contract amount with DOE/DVR provides \$410,820.00 of which the Council and DVR have agreed to the sum of \$395, 820.00 paid in twelve equal monthly installments. The remaining \$15,000.00 will be made available to the Council as accrued compensated leave, as necessary.

All the Florida CILs were awarded CARES ACT Funding to assist in the COVID-19 Pandemic. The supplemental funds are part of a one-time appropriation from Congress to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and only impacts FY 2021. CARES Act funding must be obligated by September 30, 2021 and liquidated within 90 days (December 31, 2021).

The FILC, NOC hosted weekly Florida IL Network calls in partnership with the Florida CILS, DSE and the Association (FACIL) during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The IL Network calls allowed the Florida CILs to work through challenges and discuss ideas and possible opportunities. Both the SILC and CILs have participated in every opportunity presented by ILRU. Many of the CILs are working through their budgets and involving their Board of Directors. Some of the discussion of activities that will be pursued relating to COVID- 19 are:

1. Technology: Examples of items identified include but not limited to laptops, VoIP Phone System & Portable printers/scanners
2. COVID-19 Related Supplies – PPE for staff and consumers
3. Salaries, Wages, and Leave (related to provision of COVID-19 service provision)
4. Durable Medical Equipment sanitation device and equipment replacement due to COVID and in preparation of the upcoming hurricane season.

**Program Activities:**

Funding will support direct services and activities that help people with disabilities stay connected to or reconnect with the services and supports they need to stay safely in their homes.

Home Modifications-durable medical equipment to prevent institutionalization

Appropriate areas of emphasis include:

- Service coordination during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Services and activities that assist individuals with disabilities who are at risk of being institutionalized to remain in their communities.
- Services and activities that assist individuals with disabilities to move from an institutional setting to a home in a community-based setting.
- Services and activities that address the shortage of accessible housing.
- Partnerships with local agencies that address food insecurity
- Systems advocacy to ensure health equity in medical settings.

**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 state wideeness.*

<b>Table 2.1A: Independent living services</b>	<b>Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)</b>	<b>Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)</b>	<b>Provided by (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)</b>
Core Independent Living Services, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information and referral</li> <li>- IL skills training</li> <li>- Peer counseling</li> <li>- Individual and systems advocacy</li> <li>- Transition services including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transition from nursing homes &amp; other institutions</li> <li>▪ Diversion from institutions</li> <li>▪ Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	✓	✓	CIL
	✓	✓	CIL
	✓	✓	CIL
	✓	✓	CIL

<b>Table 2.1A: Independent living services</b>	<b>Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)</b>	<b>Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)</b>	<b>Provided by (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)</b>
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	✓	✓	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.	✓	✓	CIL
Rehabilitation technology	✓	✓	CIL
Mobility training	✓	✓	CIL
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	✓	✓	CIL
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	✓	✓	CIL
Surveys, directories, and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation, and other support services	✓	✓	CIL
Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and IL services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act	✓	✓	CIL
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	✓	✓	CIL
Supported living	✓	✓	CIL
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	✓	✓	CIL

<b>Table 2.1A: Independent living services</b>	<b>Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)</b>	<b>Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)</b>	<b>Provided by (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)</b>
Physical rehabilitation	✓	✓	CIL
Therapeutic treatment	✓	✓	CIL
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	✓	✓	CIL
Individual and group social and recreational services	✓	✓	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	✓	✓	CIL
Services for children	✓	✓	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	✓	✓	CIL
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	✓	✓	CIL
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	✓	✓	CIL
Such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act	✓	✓	CIL

## 2.2 Outreach

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

Florida is the third most populated state in the country at 21,646,155 and includes both dense urban populations and suburban areas. It ranks eighth most densely populated state in the country

with a population density of 384.3 people per sq. mile. It includes forests, beaches, swamp lands, rivers, canals, islands, bays, farmland, small towns, large cities, and Native American reservations. The state is a north-south peninsula and bordering both the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Different racial and ethnic groups are found in many parts of the state.

There are 67 counties in the state and all are assigned geographically to a CIL; however a lack of resources significantly limits the amount of outreach and service that can be provided and limits the availability of office locations resulting in large population segments in the State to be underserved. Throughout the state, from county to county, there are varying levels of underserved groups of individuals with significant disabilities. Many times, these individuals are introduced to a CIL during a natural disaster; most recently the COVID-19 Pandemic and for the last 3 years major Hurricanes, Irma, Michael, Dorian, that have impacted Florida.

The Florida Independent Living Council will continue to work with Centers for Independent Living to analyze data to determine strengths and needs for the State Plan. The underserved populations of persons with disabilities that are a priority the 2021-23 SPIL are: youth, individuals with disabilities who identify themselves as belonging to the LGBTQ community, Veterans, low income minorities and those living in rural areas. Challenges include being able to serve both rural areas, and in densely populated ethnically diverse urban areas. The lack of cultural integration of CIL staff creates obstacles for servicing diverse populations.

Centers for Independent Living have the primary responsibility for outreach to individuals with significant disabilities. Centers depend upon the needs of their local community. CILs consider strategies for outreach that include the following:

- Make brochures and other information available in English, alternate formats and high-concentration foreign languages such as Spanish and Creole to consumers directly and through county officials, disability organizations, refugee assistance organizations and other local contacts in underserved counties or areas with other underserved groups.
- Communicate and provide culturally appropriate services for underserved groups.
- Advertise in publications serving ethnic cultural, immigrant and other communities identified by the Center as underserved.
- Work with community organizations serving those identified by the agency as underserved.
- Develop programs, advocacy efforts and outreach that will target people identified as underserved for advocacy efforts.
- Partner with other organizations for office space or meeting space or open and support an office in an underserved area to coordinate work with consumers and others in that area.
- Recruit Board and staff members from identified underserved communities.

- Recruit and develop leadership by youth and other people with disabilities representing underserved groups within the Center.
- Track veteran status for consumers served.
- Develop services for veterans, people living in healthcare facilities and people with significant mental/emotional disability, especially when funding is available for providing those services
- Conduct outreach activities in nursing homes or other institutions serving individuals with significant disabilities.

At the state level, FILC will identify the best outreach strategies within the IL community and collaborate with respect to the various strategies and practices in identifying underserved groups and planning to meet their needs.

The FILC has made a commitment to diversity. FILC shows this commitment by its efforts to recruit individuals from all areas of the State, with all types of disabilities and from all significant minority populations within the State and support them for membership on the council and staff. FILC supports these through nomination and recommendation to the governor for FILC representatives.

Provision of materials in alternate formats and effort to accomplish activities in an accessible setting that meet standards of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended are examples of how the FILC and CILs make effort to reach and serve individuals with significant disabilities that remain unserved.

### 2.3 Coordination

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

The FILC and CILs will continue to pursue and develop partnerships and collaborations with other providers of IL or closely related services at the Federal, State, county, municipal and public/private sector levels.

Service provision priorities included in the State Plan for Independent Living include:

- Improve the Independence and quality of life for all Floridian's with disabilities, and during this three-year SPIL period, the focus on improving the quality of life for youth with disabilities.
- Floridians with disabilities will have access to adequately funded Centers for Independent Living (CILs) as well as other resources that support IL.
- The Florida Independent Living Council (FILC) will provide actionable feedback to the IL Network based on the IL Networks progress in achieving SPIL objectives and goals.
- Disaster Preparedness/Response/Recovery Resulting in systemic change. People with disabilities will have equal access to the community resources as a result of disasters, natural

(hurricane or pandemic), human-made (terrorism, civil unrest, or a mass shooting) or technological (chemical releases, power outages, or mass cybersecurity breach). As the DSE Vocational Rehabilitation requests staff to attend all FILC quarterly meetings, which are held at local CILs, as introduction and to assist in communication. The FILC also holds a seat on the Florida Rehabilitation Council, The Florida Rehabilitation Council of the Blind, and the Florida Assistive Technology Program. Participation on the other State Councils provides increase collaboration and sharing of information for the IL programs across the state. FILC also reviews SPIL updates with the Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living, and the DD Council, Department of Health and Access to Vote, Florida Chapter of Rev-up Campaign.

### 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 (e.g., Part B, Part C, state funds, etc.) and oversight entity.

#### Florida Centers for Independent Living

Legal Name	Counties Served	Oversight Process	Funding	Oversight Entity	SPIL Signatory Y or N
Center for Independent Living of North Florida, Inc. (Ability1st)	Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State & Local Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from Individuals; Investment Income/Endowment; Fees for Service; Other Resources; Pass Through Funds, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Center for Independent Living of Broward, Inc.	Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State Government; Fees for Service; Other Resources, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida, Inc.	Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	

		quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Individuals; Investment Income/Endowment; Fees for Service; Other Resources, CARES Act	(DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc.	Martin, Okeechobee Palm Beach, St. Lucie	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State & Local Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from Individuals; Membership Fees; Investment Income/Endowment; Fees for Service; Other Resources, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Disability Resource Center Inc.	Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Washington	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from Individuals; Fees for Service; Other Resources, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Caring & Sharing Center for Independent Living dba Disability Achievement Center	Pasco, Pinellas	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from Individuals; Investment Income/Endowment; Fees for Service; Other Resources, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Space Coast Center for Independent Living, Inc. dba Resource Center for Disability Solutions	Brevard, Indian River	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from Individuals; Investment Income/Endowment; Fees for Service; Other Resources, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Suncoast Center for Independent Living, Inc.	Manatee, Sarasota	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and	Federal Part B, Part C, & Ch. 2; State & Local Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	

		quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Individuals; Fees for Service; Other Resources, CARES Act	(DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Center for Independent Living of South Florida, Inc.	Miami-Dade	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State & Local Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from Individuals; Fees for Service, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Center for Independent Living of Broward, Inc.	Broward	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State & Local Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Investment Income/Endowment; Fees for Service; Other Resources, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Center for Independent Living in Central Florida, Inc. – (Main Office)	Orange, Osceola, Seminole	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State & Local Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from Individuals; Investment Income/Endowment; Fees for Service; Other Resources, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Center for Independent Living in Central Florida, Inc. – (Satellite Office)	Polk, Hardee, Highlands, DeSoto	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from Individuals; Fees for Service; Other Resources, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida	Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette,	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State & Local Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from Individuals; Investment Income/Endowment; Fees for Service; Other	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	

	Lake, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Sumter, Suwannee, Union		Resources; Pass Through Funds, CARES Act		
Opportunity Development, Inc. dba CIL Jacksonville	Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from Individuals; Fees for Service; Other Resources, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Keys Advocacy Center, Inc. dba Center of Independent Living of the Keys	Monroe	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Investment Income/Endowment; Other Resources, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Self-Reliance, Inc.	Hillsborough	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; State & Local Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from Individuals; Investment Income/Endowment; Fees for Service, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	
Disability Solutions for Independent Living, Inc.	Volusia, Flagler	CIL submits annual PPR to ACL through the DSE and comply with monthly and quarterly activities report submitted to the DSE.	Federal Part B & Part C; Other Federal; State Government; Foundations, Corporations, or Trust Grants; Donations from Individuals; Investment Income/Endowment; Fees for Service; Other Resources, CARES Act	Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and ACL/OILP	

### 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 state wideness of Network.

Objective #1 of Goal #2 provides the Florida IL Network priority has adequate resources to ensure all CILs have the capacity to provide the five federally required core services and other IL services identified as essential to the communities they serve. All 67 counties in Florida are currently served by Centers.

**Minimum funding level for a Center and formula/plan for distribution of funds to bring each Center to the minimum. Exceptions must be explained with sufficient detail.**

Funding for the CILs will be distributed in accordance with the SPIL in effect on the first day of the federal fiscal year unless an alternative is provided in the annual state General Appropriations Act.

**Definitions:**

Base Funding: The state and federal funds distributed during the 2016-2017 state fiscal year (minus the adjustment for the CIL of the Keys).

Base Funding Level State General Revenue: \$1,232,004.00

Base Funding Level Social Security Reimbursement: \$3,472,193.00

Base Funding Level Title VII, Part B: \$842,955.00

Minimum Funding Level: Effective July 1, 2017, the minimum funding level for CILs is \$570,000 is comprised of three funding sources defined above.

As of June 30, 2020 the amount of additional funds required to bring all CILs to the minimum is \$1,218,408.00.

**Existing Process for Distributing Funds Above the Base Funding Level**

As a result of the amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, brought about by WIOA, CILs were required to select one agency to administer all Part B funds and to serve as DSE for Florida. Through a vote and as required by WIOA CILs chose the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) as the State's DSE. Until the amendments the Division of Blind Services shared administrative duties with VR and a portion of Florida's Part B funds. As a result of the full amount of Part B being administered by VR CILs were engaged by the DSE for direction on how the additional funding would be distributed to CILs.

According to the 2017-19 SPIL any additional funds above the base would be distributed as "negotiated between the Network of Centers and the Designated State Entity, in consultation with the Council". VR requested CILs discuss and come to an agreement as to how the additional funds would be distributed. The decision: seven small CILs would split any additional funds based on a percentage of how much additional funding it would take for each of the smaller CILs to reach the agreed upon \$570,000.00 minimum funding level adopted in the 2017-2019 SPIL. This methodology is presently utilized to distribute additional funds added to the above based funding levels and will remain in effect until CILs establish and adopt an

alternative funding methodology or CILs reach the minimum funding level.

The 2021-2023 SPIL has established a workgroup in Goal 2 to review the existing funding methodology and make recommendations for possible amendments.

**Revised Base Funding:** The state and federal funding distribution point at which all Florida CILs have achieved the minimum funding level unless otherwise directed by state budget proviso.

State General Revenue, Part B funds and Social Security Reimbursement funds over the base funding amount will be distributed as follows:

Until the Revised Base Funding level is achieved, any decrease in funding from the above funding sources will be divided equally among all CILs regardless of the Minimum Funding Level.

Part C COLA increases will not be included in the calculation of the Minimum Funding Level.

**Action/process for distribution of funds relinquished or removed from a Center and/or if a Center closes. Plan/formula for adjusting distribution of funds when cut/reduced. Plan for changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels to accommodate expansion and/or adjustment of the Network.**

The DSE in conjunction with the IL Network will develop an analysis of the impact closing a CIL will have on the community the CIL was serving. The DSE will ensure that any State-awarded Title VII, Part B, Social Security Reimbursement and state general funds that are unspent at the time of the CIL closure will be utilized to serve persons with significant disabilities from the community the CIL served, to the maximum extent possible. The DSE will coordinate with the IL Network to ensure the continued availability of IL services to the community. The IL Network and the DSE will identify and utilize the most efficient process allowed under the State and Federal guidelines to ensure the continuation of services in the affected community. The DSE will, after input from the FILC and the CILs, distribute funds available for IL services to the affected geographic area. Should the CIL close without any State awarded funds available, the DSE in conjunction with the Federal Administrator will solicit IL Network recommendations and identify the community as currently unserved by an existing CIL. The DSE will identify and utilize the most efficient process allowed under the State guidelines to ensure the continuation of services in the affected community. The IL network will refer any consumers to the most appropriate service provider. The most appropriate service provider is not assumed to be the nearest provider. Should any Title VII, Part B funds allotted for IL services for fiscal years covered by this SPIL not be fully expended for any reason, the FILC and the Florida CILs will provide input on an optimal use of those funds for established goals and objectives of the IL Network and/or the SPIL. Any other funds available to the DSE for IL services shall be used to continue the establishment of the statewide network of IL services provided by the Florida CILs.

## **Plan for one-time funding and/or temporary changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels.**

New federal Part B funds distributed to the Florida DSE not anticipated in the description above will be divided among the existing Centers as negotiated between the Network of Centers and the Designated State Entity, in consultation with the Council. A description of the funding methodology can be found at [www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL) (Description of CIL Funding Methodologies).

### **Section 4: Designated State Entity**

          Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation           will serve as the entity in Florida 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. (*Sec. 704(c)*)

#### **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**

Grant processes, policies, and procedures to be followed by the DSE in the awarding of grants of Part B funds. The Florida Vocational Rehabilitation Division will follow the State of Florida's processes for grants and any rules, procedures and guidance provided by the federal administrator.

#### **4.3 Oversight Process for Part B Funds**

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE. The Florida Vocational Rehabilitation Division monitors monthly financial reports as well as monthly, quarterly, and annual individual program performance reports submitted by all CILs receiving funding through Florida's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation CIL and SILC contracts are evaluated yearly based on federal and state requirements. Each IL contract has a monitoring plan developed as a result of a calculated risk assessment with corresponding desk audits scheduled based on the contractor's risk assessment score.

Additionally, the Florida Department of Education's Office of Inspector General consults with Vocational Rehabilitation yearly on recommendations for audits for Independent Living Program contracts.

#### **4.4 Administration and Staffing**

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE. The DSE does not utilize any Part B funds to support VR staffing of the Independent Living Program. DSE employees do not serve as staff to the SILC. However, the Independent Living Program Manager provides extensive technical assistance to the SILC and the IL Network as directed by federal statute.

#### **4.5 State Imposed Requirements**

##### State-Imposed Requirements

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

The Centers and the Council shall comply with the applicable provisions of:

- Section 215.97, Florida Statutes - This section of statute is the Florida Single Audit Act. The purpose of the act is to promote sound financial management, including effective internal controls, with respect to state financial assistance administered by non-state entities by establishing uniform state audit requirements for state financial assistance provided by state agencies to non-state entities to carry out state projects.
- Section 112.061, Florida Statutes - This section establishes rates for travel reimbursement using funds that flow through the State Treasury.
- Florida Department of Financial Services Reference Guide for State Expenditures - The Reference Guide for State Expenditures provides comprehensive information about appropriate expenditures using funds that flow through the State Treasury.
- Section 286.011, Florida Statutes - This section of statute is the Government in the Sunshine Act. It establishes open meeting and public records requirements for certain entities operating using state funding to carry out a public purpose, including the Centers and the Council.
- Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, providing for public access to certain documents generated by the Council and through the DSE, documents generated by the Centers.
- Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, governing appointment and conditions of terms of appointed public officials, code of ethics and removal from office.
- Chapters 413 and 435, Florida Statutes, related to background screening of certain independent living services providers, board members, executives and volunteers.

Notwithstanding the representations and citations in the above assurances, Florida's SILC assures that the SPIL was created and approved in compliance with Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 701, et seq.), as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Pub. L. 113-128).

#### **4.6 722 vs. 723 State**

Check one:

- 722 (if checked, will move to Section 5)  
 723 (if checked, will move to Section 4.7)

#### **4.7 723 States**

Order of priorities for allocating funds amounts to Centers, agreed upon by the SILC and Centers, and any differences from 45 CFR 1329.21 & 1329.22.

How state policies, practices, and procedures governing the awarding of grants to Centers and oversight of the Centers are consistent with 45 CFR 1329.5, 1329.6, & 1329.22.

## **Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

### **5.1 Establishment of SILC**

How the SILC is established, and SILC autonomy is assured.

The Florida Independent Living Council is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) corporation, established in 1999 pursuant to Chapter 413, Florida Statutes. The State Independent Living Council is not established as an entity within any State agency and is independent of the Designated State Entity and all other State agencies. The State Independent Living Council and the Designated State Entity work together to manage their contractual relationship. This relationship is formalized contractually between the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Council. The Florida Independent Living Council is responsible to select and supervise the organizations Executive Director, establish, and manage its budget and set and carryout priorities and activities

### **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.

The FILC resource plans include:

\$ 410,820.00 Innovation and Expansion Funds for FFY 2021

\$ 410,820.00 Innovation and Expansion Funds for FFY 2022

\$ 410,820.00 Innovation and Expansion Funds for FFY 2023

The Council is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) corporation, established in 1999 pursuant to Chapter 413, Florida Statutes. The State Independent Living Council is not established as an entity within any State agency and is independent of the Designated State Entity and all other State agencies.

The State Independent Living Council and the Designated State Entity work together to manage their contractual relationship ensuring the autonomy of the State Independent Living Council. This relationship is formalized contractually between the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Council.

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

The resource plan outlined above identifies the federal and state funds provided by the DSE for the operation and management of the FILC in accordance with its federally designated duties and authorities.

The Resource plan supports management and operation of the FILC, including but not limited to, staff, maintaining not for profit 501© 3 status, contractual responsibilities necessary to meet the designated duties and authorities of a SILC, board training and development, and travel costs and

reasonable accommodations for members and staff. The FILC is autonomous and is responsible to manage its budget.

**Process used to develop the Resource Plan.**

The DSE provides support for the Council and the Resource Plan through Innovation and Expansion funds authority under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act.

**Process for disbursement of funds to facilitate effective operations of FILC.**

The Council will be responsible for the proper expenditure of funds and the use of resources it receives under the Council Resource Plan. No conditions or requirements are included in the Council Resource Plan that will compromise the independence of the Council.

As an independent and autonomous organization, FILC is responsible for management of its budget and any expenditures. As a grantee with the DSE, the FILC agrees, as follows all requirements of the Florida Independent Living Council, Inc., with regard to expectations and expenditure of funds will be outlined in the contract between the DSE and the Council.

The Council is responsible for the proper expenditure of funds under this resource plan. The funds will be used to carry out the State Plan for Independent Living, funding staff, meeting and travel expenses and other costs associated with Council operations, including its office expenses.

- Non-inclusion of conditions or requirements in the resource plan that may compromise the independence of the FILC.
- The FILC's responsibility for the proper expenditure of funds and use of resources that it receives under the resource plan.

In addition, the FILC has in place policies and procedures which address internal controls, safe-guarding assets and compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. ILRU policy examples are utilized by the FILC to ensure new indicators have been adopted.

The resource plan will support Councils activities, including personnel, operating and the following designated duties and authorities:

- (1) Duties. – The Council shall
  - (A) develop the State plan as provided in section 704(a)(2);
  - (B) monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State plan;
  - (C) meet regularly, and ensure that such meetings of the Council are open to the public and sufficient advance notice of such meetings is provided;
  - (D) submit to the Administrator such periodic reports as the Administrator may reasonably request, and keep such records, and afford such access to such records, as the Administrator finds necessary to verify the information in such reports; and
  - (E) as appropriate, coordinate activities with other entities in the State that provide services similar to or complimentary to independent living services, such as entities that facilitate the provision of or provide long-term community-based services and supports.
  
- (2) Authorities. – The Council may, consistent with the State plan described in section 704, unless prohibited by State law –

(A) improve services provided to individuals with disabilities, work with Centers for Independent Living to coordinate services with public and private entities; FILC leadership, in collaboration with all Florida CILs and other entities whose standard operating practices actively support the IL philosophy, will provide education and awareness to public officials and public employees regarding the needs, priorities and emerging issues of CILs and Floridians with disabilities who need and use their services. This education and awareness can be achieved via public forums, electronic information sharing, and direct presentations at the local and state level.

(B) conduct resource development activities to support the activities described in this subsection or to collaborate and support the provision of Independent Living services by Centers for Independent Living; FILC will create a specific committee, subcommittee or workgroup who will address the identification of potential new and varied revenue and funding sources for the FILC. These new sources may be achieved through grantsmanship, partnerships or other fund development measures.

(C) perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of this chapter and comparable to other functions described in this subsection, as the Council determines to be appropriate. (3) Limitation. – The Council shall not provide independent living services directly to individuals with significant disabilities or manage such services.

### **5.3 Maintenance of SILC**

How State will maintain SILC over the course of the SPIL.<sup>1</sup>

Membership Eligibility: All residents of the State of Florida shall be eligible to apply for appointment to the Florida Independent Living Council by submitting a FILC Membership Applications.

The application for membership is available on the FILC website, from the FILC office and will be available whenever requested from the general public. The application for membership shall be available in the necessary formats to insure full access. Individual residents of Florida may submit applications for appointment to the Council to the FILC office. Applicants must also elect to apply directly through the Governor's Office of Appointments online at <https://www.flgov.com/appointments>. All applicants will be asked to complete an attributes survey before selection is completed.

The review of applicants is charged to the Executive Committee. A letter of recommendation is sent to the Governor for applicants who meet the composition and qualification requirements. The FILC executive director works with the Governor's staff to answer questions, provide information, and to facilitate the appointment process. The governor's office makes final appointments to the FILC.

The Florida Independent Living Council is responsible to select and supervise the Executive Director, establish and manage its budget and set and carryout priorities and activities. The FILC by-laws provides authority and guidance along with adopted policies and procedures. The

Executive Director shall attend all Standing Committee and Council Meetings and is responsible for monitoring staff performance and providing annual evaluations.

## **Section 6: Legal Basis and Certifications**

### 6.1 Designated State Entity (DSE)

The state entity/agency designated to receive and distribute funding, as directed by the SPIL, under Title VII, Part B of the Act is Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.  
Authorized representative of the DSE Allison Flanagan Title Division Director.

### 6.2 Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

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

Center for Independent Living of North Florida, Inc. (Ability1st)

Center for Independent Living of Broward, Inc. and of the Gulf Coast

Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida, Inc.

Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc.

Disability Resource Center Inc.

Caring & Sharing Center for Independent Living dba Disability Achievement Center

Space Coast Center for Independent Living, Inc. dba Resource Center for Disability Solutions

Suncoast Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Center for Independent Living of South Florida, Inc.

Center for Independent Living in Central Florida, Inc.

Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida

Opportunity Development, Inc. dba CIL Jacksonville

Keys Advocacy Center, Inc. dba Center of Independent Living of the Keys

Self-Reliance, Inc.

Disability Solutions for Independent Living, Inc.

### 6.4 Authorizations

6.4.a. The SILC is authorized to submit the SPIL to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for 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**

Allison Flanagan, Division Director acting on behalf of the Department of Education -Division of Vocational Rehabilitation located at 4070 Esplanade Way-Room 280 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-7016 /850-245-3285 /allison.flanagan@vr.fldoe.org 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 Part B for administrative expenses;<sup>1</sup>
- 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 SILC's 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 SILC's 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.<sup>1</sup>

Allison Flanagan, Director - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
 Name and Title of DSE director/authorized representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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

### 8.1 Assurances

Whitney Harris acting on behalf of the SILC Florida Independent Living Council located at 1882 Capital Circle NE, Suite 202 Tallahassee, Florida 32308/ [beth@floridasilc.org](mailto:beth@floridasilc.org) 850-488562. *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;<sup>1</sup>
- (3) The SILC terms of appointment adhere to the Act;<sup>1</sup>
- (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.<sup>1</sup>
- (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.<sup>1</sup>

## 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) 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 timeline for advance notice to the public for SILC “Executive Session” meetings, that are closed to the public, that follow applicable federal and State laws;
    - i. “Executive Session” meetings should be rare and only take place to discuss confidential SILC issues such as but not limited to staffing.
    - ii. Agendas for “Executive Session” meetings must be made available to the public, although personal identifiable information regarding SILC staff shall not be included;
  - f. A process and timelines for the public to request reasonable accommodations to participate during a public Council meeting;
  - g. A method for developing, seeking and incorporating public input into, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating implementation of the State Plan as required in 45 CFR 1329.17; and
  - h. A process to verify centers for independent living are eligible to sign the State Plan in compliance with 45 CFR 1329.17(d)(2)(iii).
- (2) The SILC maintains regular communication with the appointing authority to ensure efficiency and timeliness of the appointment process.
- (3) The SILC maintains individual training plans for members that adhere to the SILC Training and Technical Assistance Center’s SILC training curriculum.

- (4) The SILC receives public input into the development of the State Plan for Independent Living in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.17(f) ensuring:
- a. Adequate documentation of the State Plan development process, including but not limited to, a written process setting forth how input will be gathered from the state's centers for independent living and individuals with disabilities throughout the state, and the process for how the information collected is considered.
  - b. All meetings regarding State Plan development and review are open to the public and provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i)-(ii);
  - c. Meetings seeking public input regarding the State Plan provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws, and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i);
  - d. Public meeting locations, where public input is being taken, are accessible to all people with disabilities, including, but not limited to:
    - i. proximity to public transportation,
    - ii. physical accessibility, and
    - iii. effective communication and accommodations that include auxiliary aids and services, necessary to make the meeting accessible to all people with disabilities.
  - e. Materials available electronically must be 508 compliant and, upon request, available in alternative and accessible format including other commonly spoken languages.
- (5) The SILC monitors, reviews and evaluates the State Plan in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(2) ensuring:
- a. Timely identification of revisions needed due to any material change in State law, state organization, policy or agency operations that affect the administration of the State Plan approved by the Administration for Community Living.
- (6) The SILC State Plan resource plan includes:
- a. Sufficient funds received from:
    - i. Title VII, Part B funds;
      1. 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;
    - 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.