

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: Tennessee

FISCAL YEARS: 2025-2027

Effective Date: 10/01/2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The independent living network in Tennessee has the following mission: "To promote independent living in Tennessee and support the independent living philosophy, its practices, and its values to all citizens." This State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for 2025-2027 is centered on increasing the Network of CIL's' capacity for service in line with its stated objective. The IL Network will be able to promote independent living in Tennessee to a greater extent because of this Plan's expanded teamwork and technology. Some goals have been created with a particular emphasis on the following:

- Increased awareness of CILs and what they do.
- Increased availability of resources in Tennessee.
- Increased opportunities for input from consumers and partner organizations.

Efforts to accomplish these objectives will be directed at people with disabilities, community and partner organizations, and emergency management agencies.

- Increase cooperation between CIL's and SILC to reach Tennesseans with disabilities.
- Maximize opportunities to share the IL Philosophy.
- Increase emergency awareness for Tennesseans with disabilities.
- Strengthen or start relationships with Emergency Management Agencies.

Section 1: Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Activities

1.1 - MISSION

Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL

To promote independent living in Tennessee and support the independent living philosophy, its practices, and its values to all citizens.

1.2 - GOALS

Goals of the SPIL

Goal #1: Tennesseans with disabilities have access to the community-based resources they need to live independently in the community.

Goal #2: Independent Living Services Network builds capacity.

Goal #3: Tennesseans with disabilities will be educated about emergency preparedness.

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: Tennesseans with disabilities have access to the community-based resources they need to live independently in the community.

Objective #1.1: CIL's will provide outreach to community groups and partner organizations to promote access to community-based services for Tennesseans with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.1.1: Report from centers in the appropriate Spreadsheet format for the reporting timeframe of the hours spent in outreach to community groups and partners about IL.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #1.1.1: CIL's will provide outreach to community/partner organizations about IL provided by CIL's. CIL's will report the hours spent in outreach to community groups and partners about IL for the reporting timeframe.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #1.2: The SILC will provide outreach to community and partner organizations about the Independent Living Philosophy.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.2.1: Report from SILC1st for the reporting timeframe of the hours spent providing outreach to community groups and partners about core services.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #1.2.1: The SILC will provide outreach to community/partner organizations about the Independent Living Philosophy. The SILC will report the hours spent providing outreach to community groups and partners about the Independent Living Philosophy for the reporting timeframe.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #1.3: Tennesseans with disabilities will receive services to live in their community, thus diverting from or transitioning out of an institution.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.3.1: Report from centers in appropriate Spreadsheet format, indicating the number of consumers diverted from or transitioning out of an institution recorded as preventative services.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #1.3.1: CIL's will provide preventative services to consumers. CIL's will report the number of consumers diverted from or transitioning out of an institution recorded as preventative services.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #2: Independent Living Services Network builds capacity.

Objective #2.1: To encourage IL relationships and sharing of best practices between SILC and CIL's through one annual remote meeting. All sessions will be held virtually.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.1.1: One annual virtual meeting is organized between SILC and CIL's.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #2.1.1: There will be one-annual virtual meeting between SILC and CIL's. Encourage IL relationships and sharing of best practices during the meetings.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #2.2: To encourage discussion of additional funding and sharing of best practices between SILC and CIL's directors through one virtual or in-person annual meeting.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.2.1: One annual meeting is organized between the SILC and CIL directors. This meeting can be virtual or in person.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #2.2.1: SILC will plan, execute, and implement one annual meeting between SILC and CIL directors. Encourage relationships and sharing of best practices during the meetings. Formal Request for additional funding.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #3: Tennesseans with disabilities will be educated about emergency preparedness.

Objective #3.1: The SILC will attend training with Emergency Management Agencies at the local, State, and federal levels to gain knowledge of emergency preparedness for Tennesseans with disabilities. The SILC will then pass on the information to the Independent Living (IL) Network.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.1.1: Hours of participation recorded. Information provided to CIL's.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #3.1.1: Opportunities to meet with EMA will be pursued, and meetings will be scheduled as appropriate.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #3.2: CIL's will inform Tennesseans with disabilities about emergency preparedness by providing at least one emergency preparedness training or activity by each CIL annually.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.2.1: Report from centers in appropriate Spreadsheet format for the reporting timeframe of the hours spent in emergency preparedness training.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #3.2.1: Hold a yearly emergency preparedness training or activity.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

1.4 - EVALUATION

- The SILC will use the quarterly SPIL Tool to evaluate the effectiveness of the SPIL, including timelines and evaluation of satisfaction of individuals with disabilities.
- All data will be collected and analyzed quarterly, starting at the inception of the SPIL. The state plan's formulation and implementation will have measurable objectives, indicators, target performance levels, and target dates that will track any progress made.
- Additionally, the CIL's will send to the SILC quarterly all necessary reports as determined by the SPIL. This will allow the SILC to assess the consumers' and consumers' satisfaction and progress concerning the state plan.

1.4 - EVALUATION

Goal #1: Tennesseans with disabilities have access to the community-based resources they need to live independently in the community.

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
Throughout the 3 years	CIL's will provide outreach to community groups and partner organizations to promote access to community-based services for Tennesseans with disabilities.	* Hours spent by CIL's in outreach to community groups and partners about IL. * Aggregate report on the number of hours and community/partner organizations contacted.	* CIL's will provide outreach to community/partner organizations about IL provided by CIL's. * CIL's will report the hours spent in outreach to community groups and partners about IL for the reporting timeframe In CIL 1st	CIL

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
Throughout the 3 years	The SILC will provide outreach to community and partner organizations about the Independent Living Philosophy.	* Hours spent by the SILC in providing outreach to community groups and partners about the Independent Living Philosophy. * Aggregate report on the number of community/partner organizations contacted.	SILC First	SILC
Throughout the 3 years	Tennesseans with disabilities will receive services to live in their community, thus diverting from or transitioning out of an institution.	The number of consumers diverted from or transitioning out of an institution recorded as preventative services.	CILs First	CIL

Goal #2: Independent Living Services Network builds capacity.

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
Throughout the 3 years	To encourage IL relationships and sharing of best practices between SILC and CIL's through one annual remote meeting. All sessions will be held virtually.	Meeting schedule and attendance list	SILC 1st	SILC
Throughout the 3 years	To encourage discussion of additional funding and sharing of best practices between SILC and CIL's directors through one virtual or in-person annual meeting.	Meeting schedule and attendance list	SILC 1st	SILC

Goal #3: Tennesseans with disabilities will be educated about emergency preparedness.

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
Throughout the 3 years	The SILC will attend training with Emergency Management Agencies at the local, State, and federal levels to gain knowledge of emergency preparedness for Tennesseans with disabilities. The SILC will then pass on the information to the Independent Living (IL) Network.	SILC Hours of meetings with EMA	SILC 1st	SILC
Throughout the 3 years	CIL's will inform Tennesseans with disabilities about emergency preparedness by providing at least one emergency preparedness training or activity by each CIL annually.	Recorded as a Community Activities event	Cil's 1st	CIL

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	\$200000	\$206354	\$0	\$0	\$21387	\$427741
Chapter 1, Part C	\$0	\$0	\$1345972	\$0		\$1345972
						\$1773713
Other Federal Funds						
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0

Social Security Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
						\$0
Non-Federal Funds						
Part B State Match	\$0	\$0	\$42774	\$0	\$0	\$42774
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
						\$42774
TOTAL	\$200000	\$206354	\$1388746	\$0	\$21387	\$1816487

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.

The above Financial Table was developed with amounts obtained by the 2024 Independent Living Services Grant (ILSG) Notice of Award (NoA) and 2024 CIL Awards. Changes to the ILSG NoA and CIL Awards can directly change the amount Year by Year. There is no accurate method to determine what changes may occur in the annual ILSG NoA and CIL Awards. The Tennessee SPIL Committee will hold an annual meeting to select the correct dollar amounts for this graph and submit it to DSE for yearly contracts. This process will not require an amendment.

The TN CIL's and the TN SILC coordinate the minimum amount of funds received to meet the needs of over 1,000,000 Tennesseans with disabilities. Out of the 95 counties in TN the CIL's serve 35 counties with their Part C funding, 60 counties need access to a CIL. The unmet need far exceeds the available resources.

Part B funding will be used to provide independent living services to people with significant disabilities and to support activities in the SPIL objectives. Tennessee receives \$384,967 in Title VII, Part B funding plus the 10% (\$42,774.11) state match minus DSE retention of 5% (\$21,387.05) for a total of \$ 406,354.06 per the 2024 ILSG NoA (These numbers will fluctuate annually). This Part B funding will be granted to the SPIL participating TN CIL's and SILC by the DSE for the provision of independent living services to people with significant disabilities. It has been determined by the Council that only Centers participating in the SPIL will be eligible for Part B funding. Meeting all of the following indicators is necessary to be considered a participant in the SPIL, as defined and agreed upon by the SPIL Development Committee:

For a Center to be eligible to receive funding

- CIL meets the requirements and are eligible to receive a signed DSE contract.
- CIL Directors attend at least 3 of 4 SILC quarterly meetings annually.
- CIL's will submit all required state and federal reports by the established timeline.
- Center Directors provide quarterly updates during public comment time of current events or information from their CIL during quarterly SILC meetings.
- The Centers must also be actively working towards the goals and objectives of the SPIL, participating with the Network, and producing outcomes consistent with the agreed-upon framework by the CIL's documented in quarterly SPIL reports.

Part B dollars fund the SILC Resource Plan for \$200,000 each Year (FY 25-27). The SILC receives Part B dollars to conduct daily operations, hold meetings, and provide travel for the council members and the CIL directors per the SILC bylaws. The SILC explores resource development striving for sustainable expansion of independent living programs throughout the State.

Advances for the SILC can be requested and received from the DSE. The SILC can receive an advancement from the DSE (DSR) and pay it back incrementally before the end of the contract year. The remaining Part B funds (after SILC Resource) will be distributed to SPIL Participating CIL's (as defined above).

- Disability Connection Midsouth will receive \$ 41,270.81 for FY 2025-2027.
- Jackson Center for Independent Living will receive \$ 41,270.81 for FY 2025-2027.
- TARP Center for Independent Living will receive \$ 41,270.81 for FY 2025-2027.
- Empower Tennessee will receive \$ 41,270.81 for FY 2025-2027.
- disABILITY Resource Center will receive \$ 41,270.81 for FY 2025-2027.

Again, these numbers are based on the 2024 ILSG NoA and are subject to change with upcoming ILSG NoA and Part C amounts (minimum CIL funding is determined to be \$560,000).

The funds are to be used per Title I and Title VII of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 2014 (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act), and work within the scope of the FY 2025-2027 State Plan for Independent Living, the five (5) core independent living services (Information and Referral, Independent Living Skills Training, Peer Support, Individual and Systems Advocacy, and Transition). This funding will be used to increase the IL Network capacity and provide IL services in Tennessee.

The Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB), CIL's, and VR have consumers who are blind with everyday service needs. These programs intend to collaborate to meet the needs of this population. However, those programs' funding streams are separate.

Should any Part B funds allotted for IL Services for fiscal years covered by this SPIL not be fully expended for any reason, the funds should be carried over in accordance with 29 U.S. Code 716 for the provision of IL Services as established by the SPIL. The DSE should add carry-over funds to the following Year's contract per individual entity.

Funds not eligible for carry-over (such as year two monies), by August 15th that have not been allocated by the SILC/CIL will be eligible for equal redistribution to CILS receiving Part B money. These need to be investigated by the DSE and IL Network by June 1.

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	CIL

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	CIL

Core Independent Living Services: Peer counseling

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

Transition Services: Transition from nursing homes & other institutions

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

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	CIL

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	CIL

Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services

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

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?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL

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?	Yes
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?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes

Provided By	CIL
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Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation and training in the use of public transportation vehicles and systems

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

Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices

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

Individual and group social and recreational services

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

Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL

Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with disabilities for similar services in the future

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

Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities

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

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

2.1 - OPTIONAL MAP ATTACHMENT

Uploaded Document Name: State Of TN Served Counties By Centers For Independent Living vs Unserved counties .pdf

2.2 - OUTREACH TO UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

Description of Underserved and Unserved:

- The Tennessee State Independent Living Council and the Network of Centers for Independent Living recognize that all counties and areas currently served by a Center for Independent Living are underserved. Despite the number of Centers for Independent Living in Tennessee, the Independent Living needs in their service areas are more significant than the resources and capacity available to them. Federal and State funding for the Tennessee Network has remained relatively stagnant despite increased mandates and additional requirements. The Centers for Independent Living have worked to diversify and secure private funding sources. Still, most Centers for Independent Living rely on federal and State authorities for their base funding. The Network must secure additional funding to meet the needs and serve the counties and populations within their current service areas and priorities. The fact remains that as long as the Network continues to be underfunded, the existing Network's service areas and populations will also continue to be underserved.

Underserved populations

- The Tennessee State Independent Living Council and the Network of Centers for

Independent Living recognize that all counties and areas currently served by a Center for Independent Living are underserved. There are 35 out of 95 Tennessee counties receive the Independent Living core services but are considered to be underserved. Underserved counties are counties within a Center's service area where Independent Living services are provided but not to all Tennesseans with disabilities residing in the service area. There are a variety of reasons the counties remain underserved. Examples include the inability to reach all Tennesseans with disabilities in the county or limited resources and funding.

Unserved Counties:

- There are 60 out of 95 Tennessee counties that are not covered by a Center for Independent Living to provide the Independent Living core services. The Centers remain aware of the unmet needs of those areas because they receive requests for additional assistance. It should be noted that Centers for Independent Living provide Information and Referral services to individuals in unserved counties at their request.

Outreach Strategy:

- The Independent Living Network strives to assist all Tennesseans with disabilities to live independently. While each Center for Independent Living has tailored individual outreach plans and strategies to meet the needs of its respective community, the State Plan for Independent Living provides an overall framework for Independent Living services and those outreach plans and strategies.

With the goals established for this SPIL, "statewideness" was the target. Utilizing the following methods CIL's and SILC can outreach to unserved and underserved populations with SPIL goals:

- Resources can be shared statewide through I and Rs, community partners, and other organizations.
- SILC meetings and workshops for CIL staff to add to the ability to increase participation and engagement statewide.

The SILC and CIL's' outreach efforts include but are not limited to presentations, agency contacts, websites, public service announcements, exhibits/displays, conferences, social media, printed materials, community events, virtual meetings and workshops, and peer support groups.

The SILC and CIL's will use targeted outreach materials explicitly designed to meet the criteria of

- Unserved/ Underserved.
- Rural Populations
- Urban Populations
- Minority Groups

These outreach materials can be shared within the IL Network to show best practices and develop effective statewide outreach.

2.3 - COORDINATION

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

The SILC of TN, The CIL's, and the DSE (TN Department of Human Services) have formed a strong partnership with frequent communication and meetings to plan, strategize, and coordinate statewide efforts.

IL Network communicates with several organizations within Tennessee, such as

- The Tennessee Council of Developmental Disabilities.
- The Tennessee Disability Coalition.
- Tennessee Disability Pathfinder.
- Disability Rights Tennessee.
- The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD).
- Developmental Disabilities Network.
- The Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing (T.C.D.D.B.H.H.).

These communications and partnerships lead to a better understanding of the Independent Living Philosophy and open resource possibilities for Tennesseans with disabilities.

The TN SILC Executive Director or designee representing the SILC is a member of the following statewide councils (these are appointed agency representatives):

- Tennessee Technology Access Program, Statewide Advisory Council
- State Rehabilitation Council
- TN Family Support Council

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

disABILITY Resource Center

Counties Served: Knox

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: The entity for Part B funds is (TN Department of Human Services).

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: The oversight entity for Part C funds is ACL/ HHS (Administration for Community Living/ Health and Human Services),

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, ACL/OILP

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Knox (Full Services)

Empower Tennessee

Counties Served: Cheatham, Davidson, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, Wilson

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: The entity for Part B funds is (TN Department of Human Services).

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: The oversight entity for Part C funds is ACL/ HHS (Administration for Community Living/ Health and Human Services),

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Cheatham (Full Services)

Davidson (Full Services)

Robertson (Full Services)

Rutherford (Full Services)

Sumner (Full Services)

Williamson (Full Services)

Wilson (Full Services)

Jackson Center for Independent Living

Counties Served: Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Gibson, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Madison

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: The entity that oversees Part B funds is (TN Department of Human Services).

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: The oversight entity for Part C funds is ACL/ HHS (Administration for Community Living/ Health and Human Services) for which the CILPPR is turned.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Carroll (Full Services)

Chester (Full Services)

Crockett (Full Services)

Gibson (Full Services)

Hardeman (Full Services)

Haywood (Full Services)

Henderson (Full Services)

Madison (Full Services)

Memphis Center for Independent Living

Counties Served: Shelby

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: The entity for Part B funds is (TN Department of Human Services).

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: The oversight entity for Part C funds is ACL/ HHS (Administration for Community Living/ Health and Human Services),

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Shelby (Full Services)

TARP, Inc

Counties Served: Benton, Dickson, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Stewart, Weakley

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: The oversight entity for Part B funds is (TN Department of Human Services).

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: The oversight entity for Part C funds is ACL/ HHS (Administration for Community Living/ Health and Human Services) for which the CILPPR is turned.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Benton (Full Services)

Dickson (Full Services)

Henry (Full Services)

Houston (Full Services)

Humphreys (Full Services)

Montgomery (Full Services)

Stewart (Full Services)

Weakley (Full Services)

TRAC - Tri - State Resource & Advocacy Corp.

Counties Served: Bedford, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: The oversight entity for Part C funds is ACL/ HHS (Administration for Community

Living/ Health and Human Services) for which the CILPPR is turned.

Oversight Entity: ACL/OILP

SPIL Signatory: No

County Services

Bedford (Full Services)

Bradley (Full Services)

Grundy (Full Services)

Hamilton (Full Services)

Marion (Full Services)

McMinn (Full Services)

Meigs (Full Services)

Polk (Full Services)

Rhea (Full Services)

Sequatchie (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 Disability Connection Midsouth (D.C.M.) in Memphis, TN, serves Shelby County. This is the Southwest part of Tennessee. Disability Connection Midsouth is a SPIL signatory. Disability Connection Midsouth has the following funding: Part C, Part B, and Resource Development unrestricted funds. For D.C.M., the oversight entity for Part C funds is ACL/ HHS (Administration for Community Living/ Health and Human Services), and the oversight entity for Part B funds is (TN Department of Human Services).

Jackson Center for Independent Living (JCIL) in Jackson, TN, serves eight counties (Madison, Carroll, Crockett, Gibson, Henderson, Chester, Hardeman, and Haywood). This is in West Tennessee. Jackson Center for Independent Living is a SPIL signatory. Jackson Center for Independent Living receives the following funding: Part C, Part B, Program Income, and Resource Development unrestricted funds. For JCIL, the oversight entity for Part C funds is ACL/ HHS (Administration for Community Living/ Health and Human Services), for which the CIL PPR. is turned in, and the oversight entity for Part B funds is (TN Department of Human Services).

Empower Tennessee in Nashville, TN, serves seven counties (Davidson, Cheatham, Wilson, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, and Williamson). Empower Tennessee is in middle Tennessee. Empower Tennessee is a SPIL signatory. Empower Tennessee receives the following funding: Part C, Part B, Program Income, and Resource Development unrestricted funds. For the IL Network in Tennessee, the oversight entity for Part C funds is ACL/ HHS (Administration for Community Living/ Health and Human Services), for which the CIL PPR. is turned in, and the oversight entity for Part B funds is (TN Department of Human Services).

Training, Advocacy, Referrals, and Peer Support Center for Independent Living (TARP) in Paris, TN, serves eight counties (Benton, Dickson, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Stewart, and Weakley). TARP is in Northwest and Middle Tennessee. TARP Center for Independent Living is a SPIL signatory. TARP has the following funding: Part C, Part B, Program Income, and Resource Development unrestricted funds. For TARP, the oversight entity for Part C funds is ACL/ HHS (Administration for Community Living/ Health and Human Services), for which the CIL PPR. is turned in, and the oversight entity for Part B funds is (TN Department of Human Services).

disABILITY Resource Center (dRC) in Knoxville, TN, serves Knox County. disABILITY Resource Center is in East Tennessee. disABILITY Resource Center is a SPIL signatory. disABILITY Resource Center has the following funding: Part C, Part B Program Income, and Resource Development unrestricted funds. For dRC, the oversight entity for Part C funds is ACL/ HHS (Administration for

Community Living/ Health and Human Services), for which the CIL PPR. is turned in, and the oversight entity for Part B funds is (TN Department of Human Services).

Tri-State Resource and Advocacy Center serves ten counties (Bledsoe Bradley Grundy Hamilton Marion McMinn Meigs Polk Rhea Sequatchie). Tri-State and Advocacy Center is in the Southeast part of Tennessee. Tri-State and Advocacy Center is not a SPIL signatory. Tri-State Advocacy Center funding: Part C, and Resource Development unrestricted funds. They do not receive Part B funds.

For the IL Network in Tennessee, the oversight entity for Part C funds is ACL/ HHS (Administration for Community Living/ Health and Human Services), for which the CIL PPR. is turned in.

CIL Service areas are outlined in the above narrative of Existing Centers.

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.

It is a Tennessee priority to support the needs of existing centers in their efforts to establish an effective statewide network of IL services. Should new, long-term, ongoing additional Part C federal Funding become available during this three-year Plan, the funds will be distributed according to the following:

a) Long-term funds would be distributed equally among existing federally funded CIL's participating with the SPIL in Tennessee that meet the federal definition of a Center for Independent Living until a center meets the minimum funding amount of \$560,000.00. Once a center reaches minimum funding, they would continue at that level until all of the Tennessee centers are funded at a minimum of \$560,000.00.

b) Long-term ongoing funds greater than the amount needed for each center to reach minimum funding of \$560,000.00 could support expanded services within a Tennessee CIL or CIL's . When additional funding is available the SILC will inform the CIL's and initiate a collaborative process, including a needs assessment and application process. This ensures that the expanded services of a CIL or CIL's interested in pursuing federal funding will further the goals of establishing a statewide network of IL services in Tennessee.

c) Long-term ongoing funds greater than the amount needed for each center to reach minimum funding and more than \$560,000.00 additional funds could be used to establish a new CIL. When additional funding meeting this criterion is available the SILC will inform the CILS and initiate a collaborative process, including a needs assessment and application process. The SILC, DSE and CIL's will work together to ensure a new CIL is situated in a community of need, that it is in compliance with provision of the SPIL and meets the duties required as defined in the Rehab Act.

Additional Part B Funding

It is a Tennessee priority to support the needs of existing centers in their efforts to establish an effective statewide network of IL services. Should new, long-term, ongoing additional Part B federal Funding become available during this three-year Plan, the funds will be distributed according to the following:

a) Long-term funds would be distributed equally among existing federally funded CIL's participating with the SPIL in Tennessee that meet the federal definition of a Center for Independent Living until a center meets the minimum funding amount of \$560,000.00. Once a center reaches minimum funding they would continue at that funding level until all of the Tennessee centers are funded at a minimum of \$560,000.00.

b) Long-term ongoing funds greater than the amount needed for each center to reach minimum

funding of \$560,000.00 could support expanded services within a Tennessee CIL or CIL's . When additional funding is available the SILC will inform the CIL's and initiate a collaborative process, including a needs assessment and application process. This ensures that the expanded services of a CIL or CIL's interested in pursuing federal funding will further the goals of establishing a statewide network of IL services in Tennessee.

c) Long-term ongoing funds greater than the amount needed for each center to reach minimum funding and more than \$560,000.00 could be used to establish a new CIL. When additional funding meeting this criterion is available the SILC will inform the CILS and initiate a collaborative process, including a needs assessment and application process. The SILC, DSE and CIL's will work together to ensure a new CIL is situated in a community of need, that it is in compliance with the provision of the SPIL, and meets the duties required as defined in the Rehab Act.

Any one-time or short-term Part B funds that are not restricted would be equally distributed to all Tennessee Part B CIL's participating in the SPIL. When additional funding is notified, the SILC will inform the CIL's and initiate a collaborative process between the CIL's , the SILC, and the DSE to distribute the funds and discuss any additional requirements.

Any additional long-term, ongoing funding, such as general state funding (if available), will be carried out, like Part C and Part B funding.

The minimum funding level for a Center and formula/plan for distributing funds to bring each Center to the minimum. Exceptions must be explained with sufficient detail.

The minimum funding level for a Center is \$560,000. If a SPIL participating Center is below the \$560,000 funding minimum from Part C funding, the CIL will receive Part B funds to bring them to the funding minimum of \$560,000. This will come from the IL Services funding from Table 1.4 A. The remaining funds will be distributed among the SPIL participating centers equally. Part C funding needs to be reviewed annually to ensure all SPIL participating centers have the minimum funding and that all the Part B funds are appropriately distributed.

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

Should a Part C-funded CIL either relinquish or have its award terminated, and after discussion with the Administration on Community Living, the priority will be to guarantee the continuation of services covering the service area vacated by the Part C CIL that relinquished or had its federal award terminated.

Until the R.F.P. process has taken place, in the interim, the remaining funding dollars could go to all interested, established Part C CIL's participating with the SPIL to continue IL Services in the area covered by the Part C CIL whose funds were relinquished or removed and/or closed.

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

If Part B funding via the ILSG NoA is reduced IL Services funds will be equally distributed to all SPIL participating Part C centers in Tennessee. The minimum funding of a CIL at \$560,000 still needs to be determined first. Should the reduction be more than \$100,000, the SILC Resource plan may need to be reconsidered.

If Part C funding is reduced and drops below \$560,000 for a SPIL participating CIL, the Part B funds could bring the CIL up to the minimum funding. Should Part C funding for many/all CIL's drop below the \$560,000 funding minimum, a special meeting of the SPIL committee will be called to determine funding strategies.

Plan for changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels to accommodate the Network's expansion and/or adjustment.

Should a minimum funding level of \$560,000 in ongoing, long-term operating funds be established from Part C or Part B funding, the priority for a new CIL with a minimum funding of \$560,000, is Northeast Tennessee, including the following counties: Sullivan, Johnson, Carter, Washington, Unicoi, Greene, and Hawkins.

Should long-term, ongoing funding of more than \$100,000 but less than \$560,000 become available from Part C or Part B funding; the following would be how established Part C CIL's would like to

expand.

Potential Expanded Service Areas for each Center:

- Disability Connection Midsouth would like to expand into Tipton, Lauderdale, and Fayette Counties.
- Jackson Center for Independent Living would like to expand into Dyer County and, if funding permits, McNary County.
- TARP Center for Independent Living would like to expand into Obion and Decatur County.
- Empower Tennessee would like to expand into Bedford, Maury, Marshall, Smith, Trousdale, and Macon Counties.
- disABILITY Resource Center would like to expand into Blount, Anderson, Loudon, and Sevier Counties.
- Tri-State Resource and Advocacy Center would like to expand into Monroe, Coffee, Franklin, and Cumberland.

Plan for one-time funding and/or temporary changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels. SPIL objectives will be furthered using one-time Part C or Part B funds or any other unanticipated one-time funding by enhancing the ongoing funding stream to CIL's to continue providing IL services established in Tennessee. Should one-time funding be enough to warrant changes to a Center's service area, the SPIL committee and individual SPIL participating CIL's will establish priorities.

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

Long-term funds would be distributed equally among existing federally funded CIL's participating with the SPIL in Tennessee that meet the federal definition of a Center for Independent Living until a center meets the minimum funding amount of \$560,000.00. Once a center reaches minimum funding, they would continue at that level until all of the Tennessee centers are funded at a minimum of \$560,000.00.

Priorities for establishment of new CIL(s).

Long-term ongoing funds greater than the amount needed for each center to reach minimum funding of \$560,000.00 could support expanded services within a Tennessee CIL or CIL's . When additional funding is available the SILC will inform the CIL's and initiate a collaborative process, including a needs assessment and application process. This ensures that the expanded services of a CIL or CIL's interested in pursuing federal funding will further the goals of establishing a statewide network of IL services in Tennessee.

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

Should a Part C-funded CIL either relinquish or have its award terminated, and after discussion with the Administration on Community Living, the priority will be to guarantee the continuation of services covering the service area vacated by the Part C CIL that relinquished or had its federal award terminated.

Until the R.F.P. process has taken place, in the interim, the remaining funding dollars could go to all interested, established Part C CIL's participating with the SPIL to continue IL Services in the area covered by the Part C CIL whose funds were relinquished or removed and/or closed.

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

Long-term ongoing funds greater than the amount needed for each center to reach minimum funding and more than \$560,000.00 could be used to establish a new CIL. When additional funding meets this criterion, the SILC will inform the CILs and initiate a collaborative process, including a needs assessment and application process. The SILC, DSE and CIL's will work together to ensure a new CIL is situated in a community of need, that it is in compliance with provision of the SPIL and meets the duties required as defined in the Rehab Act.

Any on-time or short-term Part B funds that are not restricted would be equally distributed to all Tennessee Part B CIL's participating the SPIL. When additional funding is notified, the SILC will inform the CIL's and initiate a collaborative process between the CIL's , the SILC and the DSE to distribute the funds and discuss any additional requirements.

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

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

If Part B funding via the ILSG NoA is reduced IL Services funds will be equally distributed to all SPIL participating Part C centers in Tennessee. The minimum funding of a CIL at \$560,000 still needs to be determined first. Should the reduction be more than \$100,000, the SILC Resource plan may need to be reconsidered.

If Part C funding is reduced and drops below \$560,000 for a SPIL participating CIL, the Part B funds could bring the CIL up to the minimum funding. Should Part C funding for many/all CIL's drop below the \$560,000 funding minimum, a special meeting of the SPIL committee will be called to determine funding strategies.

Plan for changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels to accommodate the Network's expansion and/or adjustment.

Should a minimum funding level of \$560,000 in ongoing, long-term operating funds be established from Part C or Part B funding, the priority for a new CIL with a minimum funding of \$560,000, is Northeast Tennessee, including the following counties: Sullivan, Johnson, Carter, Washington, Unicoi, Greene, and Hawkins.

Should long-term, ongoing funding of more than \$100,000 but less than \$560,000 become available from Part C or Part B funding; the following would be how established Part C CIL's would like to expand.

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.

Potential Expanded Service Areas for each Center:

- Disability Connection Midsouth would like to expand into Tipton, Lauderdale, and Fayette Counties.
- Jackson Center for Independent Living would like to expand into Dyer County and, if funding permits, McNary County.
- TARP Center for Independent Living would like to expand into Obion and Decatur County.
- Empower Tennessee would like to expand into Bedford, Maury, Marshall, Smith, Trousdale, and Macon Counties.
- disABILITY Resource Center would like to expand into Blount, Anderson, Loudon, and Sevier Counties.
- Tri-State Resource and Advocacy Center would like to expand into Monroe, Coffee, Franklin, and Cumberland.

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

Temporary Changes (if applicable) Other (if applicable)

Plan for one-time funding and/or temporary changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels. SPIL objectives will be furthered using one-time Part C or Part B funds or any other unanticipated one-time funding by enhancing the ongoing funding stream to CIL's to continue providing IL services established in Tennessee. Should one-time funding be enough to warrant changes to a Center's service area, the SPIL committee and individual SPIL participating CIL's will establish priorities.

Section 4: Designated State Entity

4.0 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

Tennessee Department of Human Services will serve as the entity in Tennessee 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 provides no staff support to the SILC. As a non-profit corporation, and as required by Section 705 (e)(2) of the Act and 45 CFR 1329.15 (e), the SILC hires, supervises, and evaluates its staff. Therefore, no conflict of interest exists.
- The SILC Resource Plan includes personnel costs as well as ongoing expenses such as rent, utilities, telephones, Internet service, etc. The DSE will continue to provide technical assistance as needed.
- The DSE will retain no more than 5% of the Part B grant award for the administration of the grant only and will not provide staff directly allocated to the SILC thereby maintaining separation of duties between the SILC and DSE. The DSE will utilize expenditure reports and timesheets to monitor administrative cost allocations.

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
- There are no state-imposed requirements on IL.

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

Current Centers eligible for funding will receive contracts in amounts in accordance with the funding distribution outlined in Section 3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network and consistent with the relevant portions of the resource plan. If in partnership with the SILC, a sustainable, long-term expansion award or a new grant were to be allocated to serve an unserved area, a competitive process would be utilized as appropriate. The DSE will establish a facilitated review committee in partnership with the SILC. The DSE will draft the initial request for proposals to serve areas in need and receive input from the SILC before soliciting responses from organizations in the community.

Disbursement and Administration

Part B and State funds will be allocated through the DSE's annual contracting process. Before the start of the grant year, Centers will be notified of their award amount. The Centers will then prepare the budget in accordance with the DSE standard contracting practices for approval. Once approved, the DSE will issue a contract to the Center. As part of the response, the Center will submit additional proof of compliance as a Center for Independent Living as required in the Act.

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 SPIL directs part B oversight by DSE:

TN Department of Human Services monitors monthly financial reports as well as quarterly and annual individual program performance reports submitted by all CIL's receiving funding through DRS and the SILC. Additionally, DRS also requires submission of auditing reports by all CIL's and the SILC.

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 Statewide Independent Living Council of Tennessee (SILC of TN) is federally mandated and funded under the Rehabilitation Act, 1992 Amendment, Title VII. Furthermore, it is a 501(c)3 non-

profit established on 1/11/1996.

The SILC is not established as an entity within any State agency, including the DSE, and is independent of the DSE and all other State agencies.

Following is a brief description of the legal status and placement of the SILC:

- The Statewide Independent Living Council of Tennessee, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 status, non-profit agency whose mailing address is 23 Federal Drive Jackson, TN 38305.
- It is independent of the DSE. The SILC's current operational functions are delegated to a paid executive Director.

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."

- Staff/personnel costs;

includes the resources for the Executive Director, additional staff, and fringe costs associated to maintaining the operations of the SILC

- Operating expenses;

includes but is not limited to administrative costs, rent, utilities, office supplies and equipment, telephone and Internet services, accounting fees, insurance, dues and subscriptions, and other necessary operating and contractual expenses.

- Council compensation and expenses;

includes but is not limited to conducting quarterly meetings and providing travel for the council members and the CIL directors per the SILC bylaws.

- Meeting expenses

includes but is not limited to the cost of public hearing expenses, such as meeting space, alternate formats, interpreters, and other accommodations.

- Resources to attend and/or secure training for staff and Council members; and

This includes the cost of members and staff attending training both in and out of state, conferences, travel, per diem, attendant care, lodging, and the services of experts to provide training.

- (Other costs as appropriate.)

includes advocacy training, legislative education, and a comprehensive assessment to develop the necessary tools to further Tennessee's Independent Living Philosophy, programs, and services.

SILC Authorities

The SILC Resource plan also provides for engagement in the SILC Authorities.

- The SILC will conduct resource development to facilitate the implementation of the activities mentioned in this subsection, cooperate with and assist in the delivery of Independent Living services by Centers for Independent Living, and actively contribute to the goals and objectives specified in the Plan to provide support to both the SILC and the Centers for Independent Living.
- Perform such other functions as the Council decides are appropriate, consistent with the SPIL, and comparable to other functions mentioned in this subsection.
- This includes, but is not limited to, Taking part in systemic advocacy work, forming alliances, cultivating leadership development, and pursuing other areas as required to fulfill the SPIL's mission, goals, and objectives.

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

The TN SILC Resource plan was developed by the TN SPIL committee, which consists of the SILC Director, SILC Executive Council Members, and CIL Directors.

The TN SILC resource plan includes the following:

- \$200,000 Part B funds.

The Statewide Independent Living Council of Tennessee (SILC of TN) was established as a non-profit corporation to coordinate the functions related to the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) and other authorities as described in Section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The SILC of TN will maintain staff and an office proportional to the efforts necessary to carry out the Council's work.

The resource plan outlined above identifies the state funds provided by the DSE (DRS) for the operation and management of the SILC of TN per its federally designated duties and authorities. The Resource Plan supports the management and operation of the SILC of TN, including but not limited to staff, an office space, maintaining not-for-profit 501(c)3 status, contractual services 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 SILC of TN is autonomous and responsible for managing its budget.

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

The SILC of TN can request and receive an advance of up to \$20,000 from the DSE (DRS) and pay it back incrementally before the end of the contract year.

The SILC will send expense receipts monthly to the DSE for monthly reimbursements.

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

Refer to the detailed description of all types of resources to be included in the SILC Resource Plan, including:

The SILCTN resource plan has been established to adhere to both state and federal rules as well as meet the specific requirements of Tennessee. To ensure the SILCTN maintains the collaborative efforts of the SPIL and carries out the responsibilities and powers outlined in Section 705 of the ACT, the SILCTN resource plan must allocate more than 30% of the Part B monies (including State Match).

Because of the expanded SILC duties and authorities, ongoing expenses related to SPIL development and workgroup activities, and the running costs of SILCTN, the current allocation of 30% of the minimum funding level for Part B financing in Tennessee is insufficient to sustain the SILCTN resource plan. Thus the need for the allotment of 200,000 is needed at Minimum.

The five centers in the IL network have agreed to the distribution split for the SILCTN, and this was the historic funding level previously.

Last but not least, the Executive Director is an individual with a significant disability and requires reasonable accommodations as outlined under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This includes, but is not limited to, staff in order to carry out all duties and obligations as Executive Director and fulfill all goals and subsections as outlined in the state plan.

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

Autonomy

- The SILC Council hires, supervises, and removes the Executive Director. The Executive Director is responsible for hiring, evaluating, and supervising other staff (if additional staff is deemed necessary with Council approval) and managing the day-to-day operations, including carrying out the SILC's policies and goals. Those responsibilities are detailed in the Executive Director's position description.

Appointments are made in a timely manner to keep the SILC in compliance with the Act

- The SILC shall recruit appropriate members through its Membership Committee. Three applicants will be submitted to the DSE (four months before vacancy) for every seat necessary to be appointed.
- Article IV of the Council's bylaws addresses the council members' qualifications, the Council's composition, appointment terms, and the governor's appointment of the SILC members.
- Annual elections are held to determine the Executive Council, which consists of a Chair, Vicechair, Treasurer, and Secretary. These members of the SILC have been on the SILC Council for at least one year and can only serve in a position for two consecutive terms of one Year.

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

Refer to section 5.1 Establishment of SILC

The Statewide Independent Living Council of Tennessee (SILC of TN) is federally mandated and funded under the Rehabilitation Act, 1992 Amendment, Title VII. Furthermore, it is a 501(c)3 non-profit established on 1/11/1996.

The SILC is not established as an entity within any State agency, including the DSE, and is independent of the DSE and all other State agencies.

Following is a brief description of the legal status and placement of the SILC:

- The Statewide Independent Living Council of Tennessee, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 status, non-profit agency whose mailing address is 23 Federal Drive, Jackson, TN 38305.
- It is independent of the DSE. The SILC's current operational functions are delegated to a paid SILC Executive Director.

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

Autonomy

The SILC Council hires, supervises, and removes the Executive Director. The Executive Director is responsible for hiring, evaluating, and supervising other staff (if additional staff is deemed necessary with Council approval) and managing the day-to-day operations, including carrying out the SILC's policies and goals. Those responsibilities are detailed in the Executive Director's position description.

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

Refer to Section 5.2 SILC Resource Plan

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 Tennessee Department of Human Services.

Authorized representative of the DSE Kevin R. Wright. Title: Assistant Commissioner.

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 Tennessee 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:

disABILITY Resource Center

Empower Tennessee

Jackson Center for Independent Living

Memphis Center for Independent Living

TARP, Inc

TRAC - Tri - State Resource & Advocacy Corp.

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

Kevin R. Wright acting on behalf of the DSE Tennessee Department of Human Services located at:
Street: James K. Polk Bldg. 15th Floor 505 Deaderick St.

City: Nashville

State: TN

Zip Code: 38305

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

Kevin R. Wright

Name of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Assistant Commissioner

Title of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Kevin Wright

Electronic Signature

06/27/2024

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

Lee Brown acting on behalf of the SILC Tennessee Statewide Independent Living Council located at:
Street: 23 Federal Drive

City: Jackson

State: TN

Zip Code: 38305

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:

Lee Brown

Name of SILC Chair

Lee Brown

Electronic Signature

06/18/2024

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 Tennessee 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

Lee Brown
 Name of SILC Chair
 Lee Brown
 Electronic Signature
 06/18/2024
 Date
 I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

CIL SIGNATURE SECTION

Jackson Center for Independent Living
 Name of Center for Independent Living
 Beth James
 Name of CIL Director
 Beth James
 Electronic Signature
 06/20/2024
 Date

The Memphis Center for Independent Living Name of Center for Independent Living Sandi Klink Name of CIL Director Sandi Klink Electronic Signature 06/20/2024 Date
disABILITY Resource Center Name of Center for Independent Living Katherine Moore Name of CIL Director Katherine Moore Electronic Signature 06/20/2024 Date
Empower Tennessee Name of Center for Independent Living Gina Lynette Name of CIL Director Gina Lynette Electronic Signature 06/20/2024 Date
TARP Name of Center for Independent Living Denise Wardle Name of CIL Director Denise Wardle Electronic Signature 06/24/2024 Date