



## **Fact Sheet for New Members**

### **What is a SILC?**

Each state and US territory is required to maintain a statewide independent living council (SILC). The Council and the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) within the state develop a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The SPIL identifies the needs and priorities of consumers, providers, and other stakeholders and sets forth goals and objectives to respond to them.

SILCs were established by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended to conduct the planning and coordination of planning for a state's IL program.

### **What are the duties and responsibilities of a SILC?**

Every Statewide Independent Council (SILC) functions as a partner with the Designated State Unit(s) (DSU(s)) to ensure the existence of appropriate planning and coordination of resources to meet the independent living needs of people with disabilities in the state

Under Title VII, Section 705 (c), the SILC must carry out the following five duties:

- Jointly develop and sign (in conjunction with the DSU) the SPIL.
- Monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL.
- Coordinate activities with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and other councils that address the needs of people with disabilities.
- Ensure that all regular SILC meetings are open to the public & advance notice is provided.
- Submit reports to (ACL) and keep records (& provide access to records) to verify the reports.

### **What is a SPIL?**

**A SPIL is a State Plan for Independent Living.** The SPIL is a strategic plan that includes Independent Living goals and objectives, outreach plans, funding priorities, a Resource Allocation plan (budget), CIL Network information, and collaboration and partnership activities as well as statutory compliance assurances.

In order to receive Independent Living funds under Title VII, Chapter 1 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, each state must develop a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

### **What are the requirements to be a member of Tennessee SILC?**

**As a Council member**, you've been given not only the responsibility for identifying the needs of the independent living community, but also the authority jointly with the designated state unit (DSE) to develop and monitor the SPIL and to respond to those needs. You are responsible for the following:

- Complete and Notarize the SILC application from the Governor's office.
- Knowledge of the Independent Living Philosophy and history as a social movement in the United States.
- A working knowledge of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title VII.
- Familiarity with the various pieces of disability rights legislation.
- To be committed to SILC's Mission, Vision, and Purpose.
- To be actively engaged in meetings, trainings, and other events.