

State Plan for Independent Living Instrument - 2013 Extension
State: Texas

State Plan for Independent Living

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

State Independent Living Services (SILS) Program
Part B

Centers for Independent Living (CIL) Program
Part C

FISCAL YEARS 2017-2019

Effective Date: October 1, 2016

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Table of Contents

PART I: Assurances 3

 Section 1: Legal Basis and Certifications 3

 Section 2: State Plan for Independent Living Development 3

 Section 3: Independent Living Services 5

 Section 4: Eligibility..... 5

 Section 5: Staffing Requirements..... 5

 Section 6: Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting 6

 Section 7: Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting 6

 Section 8: Protection, Use, and Release of Personal Information..... 7

 Section 9: Signatures 7

Part II: Narrative 8

 Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities 8

 Goal 1—Advocacy: Texans with disabilities receive necessary supports and services to become more independent..... 8

 Goal 2—Network Capacity and Sustainability: The Independent Living Network operates effectively, is adequately funded, and has the capacity to expand..... 12

 Goal 3—Community Integration: Individuals with Disabilities receive the community integration and community-based living supports needed to be more independent. 17

 Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services 33

 Section 3: Design for the Statewide Network of Centers..... 37

 Section 4: Designated State Unit (DSU) 52

 Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)..... 53

 Section 6: Service Provider Requirements..... 58

 Section 7: Evaluation 65

 Section 8: State-Imposed Requirements 65

 APPENDIX A: Signatures of CIL Directors..... 67

 APPENDIX B: Texas State Independent Living Council Composition 68

 APPENDIX C: Texas Center for Independent Living Coverage Map 69

 APPENDIX D: Center for Independent Living Expansion Map 70

PART I: Assurances

State of Texas

Section 1: Legal Basis and Certifications

- 1.1 The designated State unit (DSU) eligible to submit the State Plan for Independent Living (State Plan for Independent Living or the plan) and authorized under State law to perform the functions of the State under the State Independent Living Services (SILS) and Centers for Independent Living (CIL) programs is the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. *34 CFR 76.104(a)(1) and (2); 34 CFR 364.22(a)*
- 1.2 The separate State agency eligible to submit the plan and authorized under State law to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to individuals who are blind is N/A (insert name of separate State agency). Indicate N/A if not applicable. *34 CFR 76.104(a)(1) and (2); 34 CFR 364.20(d) and 364.22(c)*
- 1.3 The Statewide Independent Living Council 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 the Texas State Independent Living Council. *34 CFR 364.21(a)*
- 1.4 The DSU and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, and the State Independent Living Council are authorized to jointly develop, sign and submit this State Plan for Independent Living on behalf of the State, and have adopted or otherwise formally approved the State Plan for Independent Living. *34 CFR 76.104(a)(7); 34 CFR 364.20(c) and (d)*
- 1.5 The DSU, and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, may legally carry out each provision of the plan and will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the three-year period it receives funding under the State Plan for Independent Living. *34 CFR 76.104; 34 CFR 80.11(c)*
- 1.6 The State Plan for Independent Living is the basis for State operation and administration of the program. All provisions of the State Plan for Independent Living are consistent with State law. *34 CFR 76.104(a)(4) and (8)*
- 1.7 The representative of the DSU and, if applicable, of the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, who has the authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the State Plan for Independent Living and to submit the State Plan for Independent Living jointly with the State Independent Living Council chairperson, Jimmy Batchelor, and Charles Smith, Executive Commissioner, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, and _(Name, title of separate State agency director, if applicable). *34 CFR 76.104(a)(5) and (6)*

Section 2: State Plan for Independent Living Development

- 2.1 The plan shall be reviewed and revised not less than once every three years, to ensure the existence of appropriate planning, financial support and coordination, and other assistance to appropriately address, on a statewide and comprehensive basis, the needs in the State for:
- The provision of State Independent Living Services;
 - The development and support of a statewide network of Centers for Independent Living; and
 - Working relationships between programs providing Independent Living Services and independent living centers, the vocational rehabilitation program established under title I, and other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities. *34 CFR 364.20(f)*
- 2.2 The DSU and State Independent Living Council conduct public meetings to provide all segments of the public, including interested groups, organizations and individuals, an opportunity to comment on the State plan prior to its submission to the Commissioner and on any revisions to the approved State plan. *34 CFR 364.20(g)(1)*
- 2.3 The DSU and State Independent Living Council establish and maintain a written description of procedures for conducting public meetings in accordance with the following requirements. The DSU and State Independent Living Council shall provide:
- appropriate and sufficient notice of the public meetings (that is, at least 30 days prior to the public meeting through various media available to the general public, such as newspapers and public service announcements, and through specific contacts with appropriate constituency groups and organizations identified by the DSU and State Independent Living Council);
 - reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication in the conduct of the public meetings, including providing sign language interpreters and audio-loops; and
 - public meeting notices, written material provided prior to or at the public meetings, and the approved State plan in accessible formats for individuals who rely on alternative modes of communication. *34 CFR 364.20(g)(2)*
- 2.4 At the public meetings to develop the State plan, the DSU and State Independent Living Council identify those provisions in the State Plan for Independent Living that are State-imposed requirements beyond what would be required to comply with the regulations in 34 CFR parts 364, 365, 366, and 367. *34 CFR 364.20(h)*
- 2.5 The DSU will seek to incorporate into, and describe in, the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of Independent Living Services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under a project funded under chapter 2 of title VII of the Act and that the DSU determines to be effective. *34 CFR 364.28*
- 2.6 The DSU and Texas State Independent Living Council actively consult, as appropriate, in the development of the State plan with the director of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) authorized under section 112 of the Act. *34 CFR 364.20(e)*

Section 3: Independent Living Services

- 3.1 The State, directly or through grants or contracts, will provide Independent Living Services with Federal, State, or other funds. *34 CFR 364.43(b)*
- 3.2 Independent Living Services shall be provided to individuals with significant disabilities in accordance with an Independent Living Plan mutually agreed upon by an appropriate staff member of the service provider and the individual, unless the individual signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary. *34 CFR 364.43(c)*
- 3.3 All service providers will use formats that are accessible to notify individuals seeking or receiving Independent Living Services under chapter 1 of title VII about:
 - the availability of the CAP authorized by section 112 of the Act;
 - the purposes of the services provided under the CAP; and
 - how to contact the CAP. *34 CFR 364.30*
- 3.4 Participating service providers meet all applicable State licensure or certification requirements. *34 CFR 365.31(c)*

Section 4: Eligibility

- 4.1 Any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), is eligible for Independent Living Services under the SILS and CIL programs authorized under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act. Any individual may seek information about Independent Living Services under these programs and request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities, as appropriate. The determination of an individual's eligibility for Independent Living Services under the SILS and Center for Independent Living programs meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51. *34 CFR 364.40(a), (b) and (c)*
- 4.2 Service providers apply eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion or type of significant disability of the individual applying for Independent Living Services. *34 CFR 364.41(a)*
- 4.3 Service providers do not impose any State or local residence requirement that excludes any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for Independent Living Services from receiving Independent Living Services. *34 CFR 364.41(b)*

Section 5: Staffing Requirements

- 5.1 Service provider staff includes personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of Independent Living Services and in the development and support of centers. *34 CFR 364.23(a)*
- 5.2 To the maximum extent feasible, a service provider makes available personnel able to communicate:

- with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille or audio tapes, and who apply for or receive Independent Living Services under title VII of the Act; and
- in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive Independent Living Services under title VII of the Act. *34 CFR 364.23(b)*

5.3 Service providers establish and maintain a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing Independent Living Services and, if appropriate, in administering the Center for Independent Living program. The staff development programs emphasize improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of Independent Living Services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy. *34 CFR 364.24*

5.4 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act. *34 CFR 364.31*

Section 6: Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

6.1 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will comply with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements and will adopt those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for those funds. *34 CFR 364.34*

Section 7: Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

7.1 In addition to complying with applicable EDGAR recordkeeping requirements, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will maintain records that fully disclose and document:

- the amount and disposition by the recipient of that financial assistance;
- The total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which the financial assistance is given or used;
- the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources;
- compliance with the requirements of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act and Part 364 of the regulations; and
- other information that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit. *34 CFR 364.35(a) and (b)*

7.2 With respect to the records that are required by *34 CFR 364.35*, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will submit reports that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate. *34 CFR 364.36*

7.3 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will provide access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, to the records listed in 34 CFR 364.37 for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews. *34 CFR 364.37*

Section 8: Protection, Use, and Release of Personal Information

8.1 Each service provider will adopt and implement policies and procedures to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names in accordance with the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a)(1-6). *34 CFR 364.56(a)*

Section 9: Signatures

After having carefully reviewed all of the assurances in sections 1 - 8 of this State Plan for Independent Living, the undersigned hereby affirm that the State of Texas is in compliance and will remain in compliance with the aforementioned assurances during FY 17-19.

The effective date of this State Plan for Independent Living is October 1, 2016.

SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON DATE

Jimmy Batchelor

NAME OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

SIGNATURE OF DSU DIRECTOR DATE

Charles Smith, Executive Commissioner, Texas Health and Human Services Commission

NAME AND TITLE OF DSU DIRECTOR

N/A

SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR OF THE SEPARATE STATE AGENCY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND DATE

N/A

NAME AND TITLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE SEPARATE STATE AGENCY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND

State of: TEXAS

Part II: Narrative

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

1.1 Goals and Mission – 34 CFR 364.42(b)(1)

Describe the overall goals and mission of the State's IL programs and services. The State Plan for Independent Living must address the goals and mission of both the State Independent Living Services and the Center for Independent Living programs, including those of the State agency for individuals who are blind as they relate to the parts of the State Plan for Independent Living administered by that agency.

Mission: “To empower Texans with disabilities to live as independently as they choose.”

Goal 1—Advocacy: Texans with disabilities receive necessary supports and services to become more independent.

Goal 2—Network Capacity and Sustainability: The Independent Living Network operates effectively, is adequately funded, and has the capacity to expand.

Goal 3—Community Integration: Individuals with disabilities receive the community integration and community-based living supports needed to be more independent.

1.2 Objectives – 34 CFR 364.42(a)(1) and (d); 34 CFR 364.32; 34 CFR 364.33

1.2A Specify the objectives to be achieved and the time frame for achieving them.

The indicators and target progress levels set for each objective are totals to be achieved on a statewide basis and are collective of all activities to be achieved during the specified time period and by the identified organization(s) and partners.

Goal 1—Advocacy: Texans with disabilities receive necessary supports and services to become more independent.

Objective 1.1—Systems Change: Individuals with disabilities are represented on boards, commissions, advisory committees, and other planning bodies with jurisdiction over services that impact individuals with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of presentations given on an annual basis; participation rate by Centers
- Number of outreach toolkits for boards/commissions
- Number of outreach toolkits/trainings for advocates

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2019: Boards/Commissions are identified; advocate and board toolkits created and utilized

Target Progress for FY17-19:

- FY17: Boards and commissions that have disabilities represented are identified; Boards and Commissions targeted for outreach are identified
- FY18: Centers for Independent Living/Texas State Independent Living Council create board outreach toolkit; utilize toolkit
- FY19: Centers for Independent Living/Texas State Independent Living Council create advocate toolkits; utilize toolkit

Activities:

- Identify the boards and commissions that have disabilities represented
- Encourage boards and commissions to place individuals with disabilities on their boards
 - Presentations to Council of Governments, education boards, etc. and their staff by Centers for Independent Living
- Create an outreach toolkit for boards/commissions to bring awareness to disability types and their influence
- Create an outreach toolkit and training protocol for advocates
- Bring awareness of accessibility issues of public meetings

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Texas State Independent Living Council, Disability Rights of Texas, The Arc of Texas, Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, ADAPT of Texas

Funding Sources: State General Revenue; SSA-VR; Title VII Part B; Title VII Part C; Program Funds; Unrestricted Funds

Objective 1.2—Personal Care Attendants: Individuals with disabilities have access to a strong network of quality Personal Care Attendants to assist them in gaining and retaining as much independence as they choose.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of advocacy activities on personal care attendant issues
- Number of toolkits created for consumer support for personal care attendant issues
- Number of activities to increase awareness of consumer directed services to consumers

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2019: 150 advocacy activities on personal care attendant issues over 3 years; 150 activities on increasing awareness of consumer directed services for consumers; consumer support toolkit created and disseminated to 300 consumers.

Target Progress for FY17-19:

- **FY17:** 25 advocacy activities on personal care attendant issues; create consumer support toolkit; 25 activities to increase awareness of consumer directed services for consumers
- **FY18:** 50 advocacy activities on personal care attendant issues; distribute 150 consumer support toolkits; 50 activities to increase awareness of consumer directed services for consumers
- **FY19:** 75 advocacy activities on personal care attendant issues; distribute 150 consumer support toolkits; 75 activities to increase awareness of consumer directed services for consumers

Activities:

- Increase awareness of consumer directed services to consumers
- Advocate for retention activities, strategies including increasing wages for Personal Care Attendants
- Support the consumer in addressing issues with their personal care attendant; creation of a toolkit

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living, Texas State Independent Living Council

Potential Partners: ADAPT of Texas, Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Area Health Education Centers

Funding Sources: State General Revenue; SSA-VR; Title VII Part B; Title VII Part C; Program Funds; Unrestricted Funds

Objective 1.3—Emergency Preparedness: State and local emergency officials include individuals with disabilities and their unique needs in their emergency planning processes.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of advocacy activities at the state level
- Number of advocacy activities at the local level; percent of Center for Independent Living engagement
- Number of activities to increase awareness in the disability community
- Feedback submitted on Texas Health and Human Services Commission plan

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2019: (Over the State Plan for Independent Living cycle) 15 advocacy activities at the state level; 60 advocacy activities at the local level; 60 advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community.

Target Progress for FY17-19:

- **FY17:** 5 advocacy activities at the state level; 20 advocacy activities at the local level; 20 advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community.
- **FY18:** 5 advocacy activities at the state level; 20 advocacy activities at the local level; 20 advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community.
- **FY19:** 5 advocacy activities at the state level; 20 advocacy activities at the local level; 20 advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community.

Activities:

- Increase awareness in the disability community of emergency preparedness; foster opportunities for tools and techniques for communicating with individuals with disabilities before and during disasters/emergencies
- Advocate at the state level to require individuals with disabilities to be included in disability planning
- Encourage participation of individuals with disabilities and Centers for Independent Living at the local level

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living, Texas State Independent Living Council

Potential Partners: 211; Association of County Governments; Council of Governments; Area Agencies on Aging; Federal Emergency Management Agency; Red Cross; Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management, Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities, local Offices of Emergency Management, Voluntary Organization Active in Disasters

Funding Sources: State General Revenue; SSA-VR; Title VII Part B; Title VII Part C; Program Funds; Unrestricted Funds

Objective 1.4—Transportation: Individuals with disabilities advocate for and utilize accessible public and private transportation.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of advocacy activities with the Texas Legislature on policy changes
- Number of people trained as advocates for accessible transportation
- Number of advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation
- Number of transportation summits held

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2019: (Over State Plan for Independent Living cycle) 25 advocacy activities with Texas Legislature on policy changes; 30 advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation; 250 people trained as advocates for accessible transportation; 3 transportation summits held.

Target Progress for FY17-19:

- **FY17:** 5 advocacy activities with the Texas Legislature on policy changes; 10 advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation; 100 people trained as advocates for accessible transportation; 1 transportation summit held.
- **FY18:** 5 advocacy activities with the Texas Legislature on policy changes; 10 advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation; 50 people trained as advocates for accessible transportation; 1 transportation summit held.
- **FY19:** 5 advocacy activities with the Texas Legislature on policy changes; 10 advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation; 100 people trained as advocates for accessible transportation; 1 transportation summit held.

Activities:

- Advocate for accessible transportation with the Texas Legislature on specific recommendations for policy changes
- Train consumers/general public to be transportation advocates
- Advocate for expansion of accessible transportation
- Advocate for additional Center for Independent Living activities with local transportation planning commissions, boards
- Host an annual Transportation Summit (Texas State Independent Living Council)

Lead Organizations: Texas State Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities; Texas Department of Transportation; Regional Transportation Planning Commissions; ADAPT of Texas; National Federation of the Blind; American Council of the Blind

Funding Sources: State General Revenue; SSA-VR; Title VII Part B; Title VII Part C; Program Funds; Unrestricted Funds; Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities grant funds

Objective 1.5—Housing: Individuals with disabilities have access to integrated, affordable, and accessible housing within the community of their choice.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of advocacy activities for accessible housing

- Number of universal design and universal communication access awareness activities provided to businesses, housing providers, and developers
- Number of housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities

Scope: Statewide; Local

Target Performance Levels for 2019: 150 advocacy activities for accessible housing; 45 universal design and universal communication access awareness and visitability activities provided to businesses, housing providers, developers, associations, and local governments; 15 housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Target Progress for FY17-19:

- **FY17:** 50 advocacy activities for accessible housing; 15 universal design and universal communication access awareness and visitability activities provided to businesses, housing providers, developers, associations, and local governments; 5 housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- **FY18:** 50 advocacy activities for accessible housing; 15 universal design and universal communication access awareness and visitability activities provided to businesses, housing providers, developers, associations, and local governments; 5 housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- **FY19:** 50 advocacy activities for accessible housing; 15 universal design and universal communication access awareness and visitability activities provided to businesses, housing providers, developers, associations, and local governments; 5 housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Activities:

- Advocate for accessible housing
- Create awareness of housing accessibility issues to businesses, housing providers, developers, etc.
- Create additional housing coalitions that work toward increasing housing opportunities

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Texas State Independent Living Council; Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; Veterans Administration; Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services; Aging and Disability Resource Centers; Area Agencies on Aging; Texas Workforce Commission (Fair Housing), local housing coalitions; Texas Veterans Commission; Texas Association of Builders; Rural Rental Housing Association of Texas, Texas Apartment Association; Accessible Housing Austin!; Easter Seals of Texas, Disability of Rights Texas; Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation, local governments

Funding Sources: State General Revenue; SSA-VR; Title VII Part B; Title VII Part C; Program Funds; Unrestricted Funds

Goal 2—Network Capacity and Sustainability: The Independent Living Network operates effectively, is adequately funded, and has the capacity to expand.

Objective 2.1—IL Transition: The network of Centers for Independent Living have adequate resources and capacity to provide Independent Living Services for Texans with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of private funding sources secured to help provide Independent Living Services in the community
- Number of teleconferences/meetings for Center for Independent Living peer support during the Independent Living Services transition period
- Technical assistance requested and provided to appropriate parties
- Number of community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2019: 15 new private funding sources secured to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; 9 teleconference/meetings for Center for Independent Living peer support during the Independent Living Services transition period; technical assistance provided to appropriate parties; 90 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.

Target Progress for FY17-19:

- **FY17:** 5 new private funding sources secured to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; 3 teleconference/meetings for Center for Independent Living peer support during the Independent Living Services transition period; technical assistance provided to appropriate parties; 30 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.
- **FY18:** 5 new private funding sources secured to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; 3 teleconference/meetings for Center for Independent Living peer support during the Independent Living Services transition period; technical assistance provided to appropriate parties; 30 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.
- **FY19:** 5 new private funding sources secured to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; 3 teleconference/meetings for Center for Independent Living peer support during the Independent Living Services transition period; technical assistance provided to appropriate parties; 30 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.

Activities:

- Encourage Centers for Independent Living to utilize private funding to support their efforts to provide Independent Living Services in their communities
- Create opportunities for Center for Independent Living peer support during IL transition issues
- Coordinate appropriate technical assistance for the Independent Living Services program outsourcing process
- Encourage community awareness of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services and philosophy of choice/consumer direction

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living, Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Potential Partners: Texas State Independent Living Council, Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Rehab Association

Funding Sources: State General Revenue; SSA-VR; Title VII Part B; Title VII Part C; Program Funds; Unrestricted Funds

Objective 2.2—Coordinating Funding for the Network: The network of Centers for Independent Living receives funding to provide current, additional, and expanded services to underserved and unserved areas of Texas.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of mobile/virtual services provided by Centers for Independent Living
- Number of community partners/funders assisting the Center for Independent Living to provide mobile or virtual services to consumers
- Number of requests/contacts to utilize community space or partner with other entity to use space to provide services
- Number of activities to obtain feedback from individuals with disabilities on the use of Part B dollars in Texas by surveying consumers through public forums, townhalls, public comment sessions, workshops, etc.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2019: 45 advocacy activities targeted to the Texas Legislature or Texas Health and Human Services Commission to include secure state-funded Center for Independent Living funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills; 30 activities conducted in an effort to increase mobile/remote/virtual service options for Centers; 30 outreach contacts to community partners to use office space or locations on a regular basis; 12 activities in obtaining feedback from individuals with disabilities on the use of Part B dollars in Texas by surveying consumers through public forums, townhalls, public comment sessions, workshops, etc.

Target Progress for FY17-19:

- **FY17:** 15 advocacy activities targeted to the Texas Legislature or Texas Health and Human Services Commission to include secure state-funded Center for Independent Living funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills; 10 activities conducted in an effort to increase mobile/remote/virtual service options for Centers; 10 outreach contacts to community partners to use office space or locations on a regular basis; 4 activities in obtaining feedback from individuals with disabilities on the use of Part B dollars in Texas by surveying consumers through public forums, townhalls, public comment sessions, workshops, etc.
- **FY18:** 15 advocacy activities targeted to the Texas Legislature or Texas Health and Human Services Commission to include secure state-funded Center for Independent Living funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills; 10 activities conducted in an effort to increase mobile/remote/virtual service options for Centers; 10 outreach contacts to community partners to use office space or locations on a regular basis; 4 activities in obtaining feedback from individuals with disabilities on the use of Part B dollars in Texas by surveying consumers through public forums, townhalls, public comment sessions, workshops, etc.
- **FY19:** 15 advocacy activities targeted to the Texas Legislature or Texas Health and Human Services Commission to include secure state-funded Center for Independent Living funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills; 10 activities conducted in an effort to increase mobile/remote/virtual service options for Centers; 10 outreach contacts to community partners to use office space or locations on a regular basis; 4 activities in

obtaining feedback from individuals with disabilities on the use of Part B dollars in Texas by surveying consumers through public forums, townhalls, public comment sessions, workshops, etc.

Activities:

- Advocate for more secure funding stream at the state level by including Center for Independent Living base funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills
- Encourage mobile services for Centers or other virtual ways of providing services (mobile outreach station)
- Outreach to community partners to use office space, locations on a regular basis
- Obtain feedback from individuals with disabilities on the use of Part B dollars in Texas by surveying consumers through public forums, townhalls, public comment sessions, workshops, etc.

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Texas State Independent Living Council, Agrilife Extension; Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services; Texas Health and Human Services Commission; Workforce Centers; other available public facilities

Funding Sources: State General Revenue; SSA-VR; Title VII Part B; Title VII Part C; Program Funds; Unrestricted Funds

Objective 2.3—Reporting Consistency/Information Shared to Policymakers: The Independent Living Network reports accurate and consistent outcomes-based information to policymakers, grantors, and decision-makers.

Measurable Indicators:

- Annual State Plan for Independent Living evaluation summary posted
- Number of success stories/impact of State Plan for Independent Living outcomes publicly shared
- Percent of Centers for Independent Living reporting on outcomes based framework
- Percent of Centers for Independent Living adhering to federal reporting guidelines
- Number of advocacy activities to use a single reporting tool and process for federal and state funded Centers for Independent Living

Scope: Statewide Network of Centers for Independent Living

Target Performance Levels for 2019:

- **FY19:** Provide annual State Plan for Independent Living evaluation summary on website; 90 highlights of success stories and impacts of State Plan for Independent Living outcomes by Centers for Independent Living and the Texas State Independent Living Council; 30 outreach activities to the Texas Legislature on the success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services; 80 percent of Centers for Independent Living reporting on outcomes based framework as agreed to in the FY14-16 State Plan for Independent Living Goal 4 project; 100 percent providing annual 704 performance reports (or other federally required reports) to the Texas State Independent Living Council; 6 advocacy activities to have a single reporting tool and process for federal and state funded Centers.

Target Progress for FY17-19:

- **FY17:** Provide annual State Plan for Independent Living evaluation summary on website; 30 highlights of success stories and impacts of State Plan for Independent Living outcomes by Centers for Independent Living and the Texas State Independent Living Council; 10 outreach activities to the Texas Legislature on the success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services; 80 percent of Centers for Independent Living reporting on outcomes based framework as agreed to in the FY14-16 State Plan for Independent Living Goal 4 project; 100 percent providing annual 704 performance reports (or other federally required reports) to the Texas State Independent Living Council; 2 advocacy activities to have a single reporting tool and process for federal and state funded Centers.
- **FY18:** Provide annual State Plan for Independent Living evaluation summary on website; 30 highlights of success stories and impacts of State Plan for Independent Living outcomes by Centers for Independent Living and the Texas State Independent Living Council; 10 outreach activities to the Texas Legislature on the success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services; 80 percent of Centers for Independent Living reporting on outcomes based framework as agreed to in the FY14-16 State Plan for Independent Living Goal 4 project; 100 percent providing annual 704 performance reports (or other federally required reports) to the Texas State Independent Living Council; 2 advocacy activities to have a single reporting tool and process for federal and state funded Centers.
- **FY19:** Provide annual State Plan for Independent Living evaluation summary on website; 30 highlights of success stories and impacts of State Plan for Independent Living outcomes by Centers for Independent Living and the Texas State Independent Living Council; 10 outreach activities to the Texas Legislature on the success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services; 80 percent of Centers for Independent Living reporting on outcomes based framework as agreed to in the FY14-16 State Plan for Independent Living Goal 4 project; 100 percent providing annual 704 performance reports (or other federally required reports) to the Texas State Independent Living Council; 2 advocacy activities to have a single reporting tool and process for federal and state funded Centers.

Activities:

- Provide State Plan for Independent Living evaluation summaries on the website
- Highlight and share success stories from Center for Independent Living’s/agency programs and highlight specific impacts of outcomes on a regular basis—newsletters, Texas State Independent Living Council website, social media push
- Provide outreach to Texas Legislature on success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services on a regular basis
- Report outcomes as agreed to in the FY14-16 State Plan for Independent Living Goal 4 project
- Advocate for a single reporting tool and process for federal and state funded Centers for Independent Living

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living, Texas State Independent Living Council

Potential Partners: Centers for Independent Living, Texas State Independent Living Council, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, Texas Workforce Commission

Funding Sources: State General Revenue; SSA-VR; Title VII Part B; Title VII Part C; Program Funds; Unrestricted Funds

Goal 3—Community Integration: Individuals with Disabilities receive the community integration and community-based living supports needed to be more independent.

Objective 3.1—Youth Transition: Youth with disabilities access and utilize transition services provided by Centers for Independent Living and other providers.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of outreach points to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living participation in Admission, Review and Dismissal meetings or outreach to education service centers
- Number of outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races
- Increase in youth consumers served by Centers as well as youth that might not be consumers that are receiving other services or information/resources from a Center

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2019: 75 outreach points to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living participation in Admission, Review and Dismissal meetings or outreach to education service centers; 150 outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races; 3 percent increase in youth consumers served by Centers.

Target Progress for FY17-19:

- **FY17:** 25 outreach points to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living participation in Admission, Review and Dismissal meetings or outreach to education service centers; 50 outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races; 1 percent annual increase in youth consumers served by Centers.
- **FY18:** 25 outreach points to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living participation in Admission, Review and Dismissal meetings or outreach to education service centers; 50 outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races; 1 percent annual increase in youth consumers served by Centers.
- **FY19:** 25 outreach points to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living participation in Admission, Review and Dismissal meetings or outreach to education service centers; 50 outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races; 1 percent annual increase in youth consumers served by Centers.

Activities:

- Reach out to school systems regarding participating in Admission, Review and Dismissal meetings , reach out to education service centers
- Attend Transition fairs
- Make connections with transition specialists at region education service centers and at local schools
- Target outreach activities to youth with disabilities in underserved counties, populations, races
- Seek data on youth with disabilities preparing for transition for activity and outreach planning purposes

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Texas State Independent Living Council, Texas Education Agency, local school districts, Education Service Centers, Texas Workforce Commission, the Arc of Texas, Special Olympics, Texas School for the Deaf, Texas School for the Blind, Partners Resource Network, Disability Rights Texas, Texas Parent to Parent, Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Funding Sources: State General Revenue; SSA-VR; Title VII Part B; Title VII Part C; Program Funds; Unrestricted Funds

Objective 3.2—Relocation: Individuals with disabilities residing in institutions or nursing homes are aware of and access relocation services provided by Centers for Independent Living.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of outreach and/or resources to nursing facilities, institutions (jails, rehab facilities)
- Number of individuals provided with resources regarding relocation services
- Number of advocacy activities for Centers for Independent Living to obtain contracts or subcontracts to provide relocation services as mandated by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- Number of coordination efforts with outside entities such as the Ombudsman, managed care organization, etc.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2019: 150 outreach activities to nursing facilities, institutions; 30 advocacy activities to increase number of Centers for Independent Living obtaining contracts or subcontract to provide relocation services; 90 coordination efforts with outside entities on relocation issues.

Target Progress for FY17-19:

- **FY17:** 50 outreach activities to nursing facilities, institutions; 10 advocacy activities to increase number of Centers for Independent Living obtaining contracts or subcontract to provide relocation services; 30 coordination efforts with outside entities on relocation issues.
- **FY18:** 50 outreach activities to nursing facilities, institutions; 10 advocacy activities to increase number of Centers for Independent Living obtaining contracts or subcontract to provide relocation services; 30 coordination efforts with outside entities on relocation issues.
- **FY19:** 50 outreach activities to nursing facilities, institutions; 10 advocacy activities to increase number of Centers for Independent Living obtaining contracts or subcontract to provide relocation services; 30 coordination efforts with outside entities on relocation issues.

Activities:

- Conduct outreach/resources activities to nursing facilities, institutions
- Coordinate efforts with the ombudsman
- Report on relocation contract activities
- Work with Texas Health and Human Services Commission on future relocation contracts and advocate for additional funding after the expiration of Money Follows the Person
- Coordinate with managed care organizations on relocation activities

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Texas State Independent Living Council, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Maximus/Managed Care Organizations, State Supported Living Centers

Resources: \$4,161,537 CMS Money Follows the Person Grant Funds and State General Revenue

Funding Sources: **Funding Sources:** State General Revenue; SSA-VR; Title VII Part B; Title VII Part C; Program Funds; Unrestricted Funds; CMS Money Follows the Person Grant Funds

Objective 3.3—Diversion: Individuals with disabilities who are at risk for entering institutions or nursing homes access to diversion services provided by Centers for Independent Living.

Measurable Indicators:

- Percent of Centers for Independent Living use an assessment process/tool for determining risk
- Number of outreach activities to those typically underserved
- Number of education opportunities for parents and consumers on accessing Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services
- Number of advocacy activities to increase the number of community-based services

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2019: 50 percent of Centers for Independent Living use an assessment process/tool for determining risk; 150 outreach activities to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and youth; 150 education opportunities for parents or consumers on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.

Target Progress for FY17-19:

- **FY17:** 50 percent of Centers for Independent Living use an assessment process/tool for determining risk; 50 outreach activities to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and youth; 50 education opportunities for parents or consumers on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.
- **FY18:** 50 percent of Centers for Independent Living use an assessment process/tool for determining risk; 50 outreach activities to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and youth; 50 education opportunities for parents or consumers on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.
- **FY19:** 50 percent of Centers for Independent Living use an assessment process/tool for determining risk; 50 outreach activities to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and youth; 50 education opportunities for parents or consumers on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.

Activities:

- Provide youth transition activities/services to reduce chance of institutionalization

- Provide education for parents and consumers on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services
- Advocate for additional community-based services
- Use of an assessment process/tool by Centers for Independent Living for determining risk
- Reaching out to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental illness, substance abuse

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Texas State Independent Living Council, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority, Texas Medical Board, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, Veterans Affairs, Promoting Independence Advisory Committee

Funding Sources: State General Revenue; SSA-VR; Title VII Part B; Title VII Part C; Program Funds; Unrestricted Funds; CMS Money Follows the Person Grant Funds

1.2B 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. This section of the State Plan for Independent Living must:

- **Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts;**
- **Identify the geographic areas (i.e., communities) in which the targeted populations reside; and**
- **Describe how the needs of individuals with significant disabilities from minority group backgrounds will be addressed.**

Description of Underserved and Unserved:

The Texas State Independent Living Council and the Network of Centers for Independent Living recognizes that all counties and areas currently served by a Center for Independent Living are underserved. Despite the large number of Centers for Independent Living in Texas, the Independent Living needs in their service areas are greater than the resources and capacity available to them. Federal and State funding for the Texas Network has remained stagnant despite increased mandates and additional requirements. The Centers for Independent Living have worked to diversify their funding sources and secure private sources of funding, but a majority of Centers for Independent Living rely on federal and state sources for their base funding. It is imperative for the Network to secure additional funding to ensure they can 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 current Network’s service areas and populations will also continue to be underserved.

Geographic Locations:

Section 3.2 identified 116 counties in Texas as underserved and 92 counties as unserved, which represents both rural and urban populations. Twenty-three percent of served counties (or 38 counties) represent the most severely underserved as no consumers have been served by a Center for Independent Living over the last three fiscal years (FY13-15).

Racial Populations:

A Needs Assessment survey was conducted and respondents identified Hispanic and Black/African American as the two categories that were most in the need of Independent Living Services in Texas.

Disability Populations:

The following number reflect those served with a consumer service record only and do not include Information and Referral services to these populations provided by a Center for Independent Living. Those with a consumer service record have significant disabilities and are seeking specific Independent Living services with often complex needs. Annual 704 Report data compiled from FY13-15 shows that hearing and vision disabilities are underserved by Centers for Independent Living compared to the rate of service for other disabilities such as physical and cognitive disabilities. These rates were calculated by totaling and averaging the number of services provided by Centers for Independent Living over the Fiscal Years 13-15 and comparing those figures to the number of people over the age of five residing in counties currently served by a Center for Independent Living that have self-identified as having difficulties with specific functions according to the 2013 American Community Survey.

Additional Groups:

A Needs Assessment survey was conducted and respondents identified the following populations as in need of additional Independent Living Services:

- Veterans
- Homeless
- Individuals residing in long term residential facilities or institutions
- Adults residing with their family
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Youth

Outreach Strategy:

The Goals and Objectives' intent to address the underserved and unserved populations in Texas is clear. For example, Objectives 2.1 and 2.2 are focused on the IL Network receiving the funding and supports needed to provide current and expanded Independent Living Services for underserved and unserved areas of Texas. This will be achieved through expanded partnerships with existing service providers and established entities in unserved or underserved areas as well as the use of mobile or virtual technologies. In addition, by also focusing on new funding opportunities and improving communication to policymakers and funders the current successes, the State Plan for Independent Living hopes to encourage efforts to expand financial resources to reach these populations.

In addition, Objectives 3.1 and 3.2 specifically target services and outreach activities to youth and individuals residing in long-term care facilities or institutions. In addition, the Centers for Independent Living are encouraged to provide special outreach to the populations identified on a statewide basis as well as the underserved and unserved populations they see in their own communities.

1.3 Financial Plan – 34 CFR 364.42(a)(2) and (3); 34 CFR 364.29

Describe in sections 1.3A and 1.3B, below, the financial plan for the use of Federal and non-Federal funds to meet the State Plan for Independent Living objectives.

1.3A Financial Plan Tables

Complete the financial plan tables covering years 1, 2 and 3 of this State Plan for Independent Living. For each funding source, provide estimated dollar amounts anticipated for the applicable uses. The financial plan table should include only those funding sources and amounts that are intended to support one or more of the objectives identified in section 1.2 of the State Plan for Independent Living. To the extent possible, the tables and narratives must reflect the applicable financial information from centers for independent living. Refer to the State Plan for Independent Living Instructions for additional information about completing the financial tables and narratives.

- Insert additional rows for the specific funding sources and amounts expected within the categories of Other Federal Funds and Non-Federal Funds.

Year 1 - Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses

Sources	Texas State Independent Living Council Resource Plan	IL Services	General Center for Independent Living Operations	Other State Plan for Independent Living Activities
Title VII Funds - Chapter 1, Part B	\$409,564	\$944,449	\$11,200	\$0
Title VII Funds - Chapter 1, Part C	N/A	N/A	\$5,985,616	N/A
Title VII Funds - Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a State Plan for Independent Living objective)	N/A	\$2,085,836	N/A	\$0
Other Federal Funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Federal Funds - Other (SSA-VR)	\$0	\$7,146,543	\$1,439,283	\$0
Other Federal Funds - Other	\$0	\$1,447,839 (Relocation)	\$0	\$0

Sources	Texas State Independent Living Council Resource Plan	IL Services	General Center for Independent Living Operations	Other State Plan for Independent Living Activities
Non-Federal Funds - State Funds (GR)	\$0	\$2,713,698 (relocation) \$3,646,212 (IL Services)	\$1,325,676	\$0
Non-Federal Funds - Other	\$0	\$6,036 (Blind Endowment and Appropriated Receipts)	\$0	\$0

Year 2 - Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses

Sources	Texas State Independent Living Council Resource Plan	IL Services	General Center for Independent Living Operations	Other State Plan for Independent Living Activities
Title VII Funds - Chapter 1, Part B	\$409,564	\$944,449	\$11,200	\$0
Title VII Funds - Chapter 1, Part C	N/A	N/A	\$5,985,616	N/A
Title VII Funds - Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a State Plan for Independent Living objective)	N/A	\$2,085,836	N/A	\$0
Other Federal Funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Federal Funds - Other (SSA-VR)	\$0	\$7,146,543	\$1,439,283	\$0
Other Federal Funds - Other	\$0	\$1,447,839 (Relocation)	\$0	\$0

Sources	Texas State Independent Living Council Resource Plan	IL Services	General Center for Independent Living Operations	Other State Plan for Independent Living Activities
Non-Federal Funds -State Funds (GR)	\$0	\$2,713,698 (relocation) \$3,646,212 (IL Services)	\$1,325,676	\$0
Non-Federal Funds - Other	\$0	\$6,036 (Blind Endowment and Appropriated Receipts)	\$0	\$0

Year 3 - Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses

Sources	Texas State Independent Living Council Resource Plan	IL Services	General Center for Independent Living Operations	Other State Plan for Independent Living Activities
Title VII Funds - Chapter 1, Part B	\$409,564	\$944,449	\$11,200	\$0
Title VII Funds - Chapter 1, Part C	N/A	N/A	\$5,985,616	N/A
Title VII Funds - Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a State Plan for Independent Living objective)	N/A	\$2,085,836	N/A	\$0
Other Federal Funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Federal Funds - Other (SSA-VR)	\$0	\$7,146,543	\$1,439,283	\$0
Other Federal Funds - Other	\$0	\$1,447,839 (Relocation)	\$0	\$0

Sources	Texas State Independent Living Council Resource Plan	IL Services	General Center for Independent Living Operations	Other State Plan for Independent Living Activities
Non-Federal Funds -State Funds (GR)	\$0	\$2,713,698 (relocation) \$3,646,212 (IL Services)	\$1,325,676	\$0
Non-Federal Funds - Other	\$0	\$6,036 (Blind Endowment and Appropriated Receipts)	\$0	\$0

1.3B Financial Plan Narratives

1.3B(1) Specify how the part B, part C and chapter 2 (Older Blind) funds, if applicable, will further the State Plan for Independent Living objectives.

Part B and Part C Funding Furthering State Plan for Independent Living Objectives:

Part B funds support the framework through which State Plan for Independent Living objectives are realized. Specific State Plan for Independent Living objectives are delineated for the Centers for Independent Living and the Texas State Independent Living Council as outlined in Section 1.2(A), with funding sources appropriately noted. Part B funds support the Independent Living Services for the State of Texas as well as the Texas State Independent Living Council Resource Plan and administrative support for the Designated State Entity. Part B funds also partially funds one Center for Independent Living. Part C Funds are provided to 21 of the 27 Centers for Independent Living in Texas.

1.3B(2) Describe efforts to coordinate Federal and State funding for centers and Independent Living Services, including the amounts, sources and purposes of the funding to be coordinated.

State and federal funds are coordinated in order to provide Independent Living Services on a Statewide basis. Specifically, \$944,449 is provided in Part B funding for the provision of Independent Living Services along with \$7,146,543 in funding from SSA-VR and \$3,646,212 in State General Revenue dollars. Funding for Centers for Independent Living is coordinated as well. Currently 21 Centers receive \$5,985,616 in Part C funding, 1 Center receives \$11,200 in Part B funding, 10 Centers receive \$1,439,283 in SSA-VR funding, and 5 Centers receive \$1,325,676 in State General Revenue funding. In addition to the funds provided for Independent Living Services and base Center for Independent Living funding, the Designated State Entity provides \$4,161,537 in funding for relocation services for individuals with disabilities relocating from nursing homes or institutions into community-based services.

The following represents the base funding sources for each of the 27 Centers for Independent Living in Texas. This and additional information is also included in Section 3.1.

State General Revenue Funded Centers for Independent Living

1. Disability in Action
2. LIFE Inc. - Disability Connections
3. Mounting Horizons
4. REACH of Plano Resource Center on Independent Living
5. Valley Association for Independent Living-South Texas

State SSA-VR and Federal Part C Funded Centers for Independent Living

1. ARCIL INC.
2. CBFL/Houston Center for Independent Living
3. Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living
4. LIFE Inc. - LIFE/RUN
5. Panhandle Independent Living Center
6. REACH of Dallas Resource Center on Independent Living
7. San Antonio Independent Living Services
8. Valley Association for Independent Living-Rio Grande Valley
9. Volar Center for Independent Living

State SSA-VR and Federal Part B Funded Center for Independent Living

1. REACH of Fort Worth Resource Center on Independent Living

Federal Part C Funded Centers for Independent Living

1. ABLE Center for Independent Living
2. ARCIL San Marcos
3. Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living
4. CBFL/Brazoria County Center for Independent Living
5. CBFL/Fort Bend Center for Independent Living
6. Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living
7. East Texas Center for Independent Living
8. Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Inc.
9. Palestine Resource Center for Independent Living
10. REACH of Denton Resource Center on Independent Living
11. RISE Center
12. Williamson County Center for Independent Living Services

1.3B(3) Describe any in-kind resources including plant, equipment or services to be provided in support of the Texas State Independent Living Council resource plan, Independent Living Services, general Center for Independent Living operations and/or other State Plan for Independent Living objectives.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will provide services to receive, deposit, and

disburse state and federal funds allocated for the Texas State Independent Living Council budget and resource plan, general Center for Independent Living operations, or State Plan for Independent Living objectives, in accordance with the approved State Plan for Independent Living and with applicable state and federal law and generally accepted accounting procedures, as per the Title VII requirements of the Designated State Entity.

1.3B(4) Provide any additional information about the financial plan, as appropriate.

1.4 Compatibility with Chapter 1 of Title VII and the Center for Independent Living Work Plans – 34 CFR 364.42(c) and (e)

1.4A Describe how the State Plan for Independent Living objectives are consistent with and further the purpose of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act as stated in section 701 of the Act and 34 CFR 364.2.

The State Plan for Independent Living objectives listed in 1.2A are the means by which the criteria outlined in 34 CFR 364.2 will be satisfied. The following list is a breakdown of how the FY17-19 State Plan for Independent Living's Goals are consistent with the purpose of the programs authorized by chapter I of title VII of the Act.

Goal 1—Advocacy: Texans with disabilities receive necessary supports and services to become more independent.

- Promotion of the philosophy of Independent Living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy, to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities, and to promote and maximize the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

Goal 2—Network Capacity and Sustainability: The Independent Living Network operates effectively, is adequately funded, and has the capacity to expand.

- Providing, expanding, and improving the provision of Independent Living services.
- Improving working relationships among Centers, Texas State Independent Living Councils, Vocational Rehabilitation programs, and other programs funded under the Rehabilitation Act and through non-federal sources.

Goal 3—Community Integration: Individuals with Disabilities receive the community integration and community-based living supports needed to be more independent.

- Promotion of the philosophy of Independent Living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy, to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities, and to promote and maximize the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society.
- Providing, expanding, and improving the provision of Independent Living services.

- Improving working relationships among Centers, Vocational Rehabilitation programs, and other programs funded under the Rehabilitation Act and through non-federal sources.

1.4B Describe how, in developing the State Plan for Independent Living objectives, the DSU and the State Independent Living Council considered and incorporated, where appropriate, the priorities and objectives established by centers for independent living under section 725(c)(4) of the Act.

The FY17-19 State Plan for Independent Living goals and objectives were developed after extensive dialogue between the Texas State Independent Living Council and the Network of Centers for Independent Living and receiving input from Texans with disabilities. In all during Fiscal Year 2016, the Texas State Independent Living Council hosted two public hearings, one in San Antonio and one in Houston, attended by over 120 individuals with disabilities, providers, and advocates and two virtual online discussions with over 50 participants to gather the feedback of the public and the Network of Centers on their Independent Living priorities. Public hearings were also held in Alpine and McAllen in 2015 and Austin and Amarillo in 2014.

In addition, seven State Plan for Independent Living workgroups consisting of Center for Independent Living Directors, Center for Independent Living staff, Texas State Independent Living Council staff, and Texas State Independent Living Council board members met a total of 12 times to discuss and draft sections of the State Plan for Independent Living. In addition, the Texas State Independent Living Council and the Center for Independent Living Directors had three in-person meetings to discuss and review State Plan for Independent Living drafts. In total, the Texas State Independent Living Council and the Centers for Independent Living participated in over 40 hours of discussion on the contents of the FY17-19 draft. The Centers for Independent Living and the Texas State Independent Living Council drafted the State Plan for Independent Living together in consultation with the Designated State Entity with each party providing feedback reflecting their own organizations' priorities and objectives. Representatives of the Texas State Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living, and Designated State Entity were invited to participate in every State Plan for Independent Living workgroup, discussion, and hearing.

These public input activities will continue through FY 2017-19. The public will be asked to provide comment on current and potential services, provided under this State Plan and funded through Part B and other sources in the context of identified best practices and all allowable uses of funds.

1.5 Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships Among Various Entities – 34 CFR 364.26

Describe the steps that will be taken to maximize the cooperation, coordination and working relationships among the SILS program, the SILC, and centers; the DSU, other State agencies represented on the State Independent Living Council and other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues; and other public and private entities determined to be appropriate by the SILC.

- **The description must identify the entities with which the DSU and the SILC will cooperate and coordinate.**

A collaborative framework is in place to promote unity and singleness of purpose among the Texas State Independent Living Council, the Designated State Entity, and the Centers for Independent Living. The Texas State Independent Living Council composition includes a Center for Independent Living Representative, as well as Ex-Officio members from Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, and Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. Recruiting efforts are underway to include additional Ex-Officio representation from other state agencies that provide services to individuals with disabilities as per Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

State agencies represented on the Texas State Independent Living Council as Ex-Officio members include the Health and Human Services Commission, the Department of Aging and Disability Services, and the Texas Department of Home and Community Administration. Efforts are underway to recruit Ex-Officios from other state agencies that provide services for individuals with disabilities such as the Veterans Commission, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Workforce Commission, and Texas Education Agency. Regardless of placement on the Texas State Independent Living Council, it also coordinates with several agencies including the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities, and others. The Texas State Independent Living Council and the Centers for Independent Living also work with various entities, advisory councils, and non-profits such as the Promoting Independence Advisory Council, Texas Disability Policy Consortium, Disability Rights Texas, ADAPT of Texas, and the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities. A member of the Texas State Independent Living Council acts as a representative liaison to the Rehabilitation Council of Texas. Plans are underway to include a representative of the Rehabilitation Council of Texas on the Texas State Independent Living Council as well.

Activities related to Council meetings, interim workgroups, and shared priorities provide understanding of respective programs, collective support, and promotion of Independent Living Services statewide. The Texas State Independent Living Council invites all Centers for Independent Living in Texas to participate in State Plan for Independent Living activities. Activities defined for State Plan for Independent Living objectives cite a number of entities with whom coordination will be important to achieve progress on objectives.

1.6 Coordination of Services – 34 CFR 364.27

Describe how Independent Living Services funded under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will be coordinated with and complement other services to avoid unnecessary duplication with other Federal, State, and local programs, including the OIB program authorized by chapter 2 of title VII of the Act, that provide IL- or VR-related services.

During 2014 and 2015, the Texas Sunset Commission reviewed the agencies and programs within the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, including those agencies that administer the Independent Living program. Sunset is the regular assessment of the continuing need for a state

agency or program to exist. The process creates a unique opportunity and powerful incentive for the Texas Legislature and stakeholders to look closely at each agency and make key improvements to how state government works.

(https://www.sunset.texas.gov/public/uploads/files/reports/Sunset_percent20in_percent20Texas_0.pdf page 7)

The Sunset Commission recommended and the Texas Legislature passed, HB 2463, SB 200, and SB 208, which makes significant changes to the way some programs for individual with disabilities will be administered in Texas. The review process looked at all of the disability programs and reviewed them for duplication of services and effectiveness. They made several recommendations to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Among the most significant changes is that the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services will be dissolved as of September 1, 2016 and its programs and functions will be transferred to the Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Workforce Commission. The Vocational Rehabilitation programs will be transferred to the Texas Workforce Commission effective September 1, 2016, The Independent Living Program for Older Individuals who are Blind and the Business Enterprises of Texas program will also transfer to the Texas Workforce Commission with the Vocational Rehabilitation Blind program, since both must be administered by the Designated State Unit serving individuals who are blind as required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The legislation also requires that the blind and general Independent Living Services programs be combined into one Independent Living program and transferred to the Health and Human Services Commission effective September 1, 2016. In addition, the Sunset Commission recommended and the Texas Legislature included in HB 2463 a requirement that the Health and Human Services Commission contract with the Centers for Independent Living and other providers to provide services under the Independent Living program. Previously, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services provided Independent Living Services to consumers directly. The Texas Workforce Commission intends to execute an interagency agreement with the Health and Human Services Commission to enable Older Individuals who are Blind program services to be administered by Centers for Independent Living as part of the outsourced Independent Living Services program.

HB 2463 requires that the Centers for Independent Living are provided the right of first refusal to receive contracts to provide Independent Living services directly or to subcontract out with another Center for Independent Living, organization, or individual. If no Center is willing or able to provide Independent Living Services in a particular service area, the State may contract directly with an organization or person to provide these services. There is clear legislative intent that Centers for Independent Living in Texas are to become the one stop shop for all Independent Living Services in Texas regardless of age, disability type, or service required.

All service components described in the State Plan relate to the overall goal of full inclusion in community life for Texans with disabilities. Information about offerings from each component of the Independent Living Service network is promoted so that staff can make appropriate and timely referrals. The Independent Living Services funded under Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act are coordinated at the federal, state, and local level to ensure each program is complemented, rather than duplicated. The following is a brief description of how specific services are coordinated, followed by an overview of the core agencies that coordinate these services for individuals with disabilities.

Centers for Independent Living:

Centers for Independent Living are community organizations that, under Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, serve cross-disability populations. Centers for Independent Living provide five core services (information and referral, individual and system advocacy, peer support, Independent Living skills training, and transition/relocation services from nursing homes and other institutions and diversion services that keep a person with a disability out of a nursing home or other institutions). Each Center for Independent Living's local community needs define its service priorities. Examples of community services that Texas Centers for Independent Living provide, include but are not limited to: assistance with accessing benefit counseling and Social Security Work Incentives technical assistance programs, managing housing voucher programs, coordinating transportation services and mobility management to include travel training and identification and utilization of all transportation resources, operating assistive technology demonstration sites, providing various emergency preparedness technical assistance for people with disabilities, durable medical equipment loan programs and clothing closets, home modifications for accessibility, obtaining utility assistance, sponsoring local independent living conferences and service provider expos, working with local Workforce Solutions to establish a disability sub-committees to improve access of their services to job seekers with disabilities.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission Cooperative Agreements:

Texas Health and Human Services Commission enters into appropriate cooperative arrangements with, and utilizes the services and facilities of, various federal, state, and local agencies and programs. Texas Health and Human Services Commission coordinates with other agencies and programs to ensure individuals with disabilities receive appropriate services. These agencies and programs include:

- The Texas Education Agency and Education Service Centers, for the purpose of coordinating services to transition age students with disabilities;
- The Texas Department of Insurance's Division of Workers' Compensation, for the purpose of enhanced referrals for return-to-work efforts;
- The Social Security Administration and the Texas Workforce Commission, for the purpose of collaboration on employment incentives and supports and the maximization of SSA/VR reimbursement activity through the Ticket to Work;
- The Department of Veterans Affairs, to save case service funds through better access to comparable benefits. A Memorandum of Agreement provides for concurrent employment plans to enhance case management, while avoiding duplication of services;
- The Texas Workforce Commission, for the purpose of facilitating for Texas businesses the electronic verification that job applicants for the Work Opportunities Tax Credit program are receiving or have received vocational rehabilitation services under an individualized plan for employment; and
- The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, the Department of State Health Services, and Texas Workforce Commission for the purpose of reducing duplication and fragmentation of employment services provided to the shared client population of these entities.

Department of Aging and Disability Services:

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services provides a wide array of personal and long-term care services so that individuals with disabilities will be able to live in the community or in the least restrictive setting with availability of needed supports. Services for Older Adults and for Persons with Disabilities are provided primarily through Medicaid and Medicare or related waiver programs. Service examples are: adaptive aids, attendant services, meals, medication assistance, medical supplies, nursing services and therapy. Medicaid recipients may be eligible for over two dozen community care programs with varying eligibility criteria and availability.

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services provide an array of services to persons over 60 years through the network of local Area Agencies on Aging (benefits counseling, help for caregivers, health information counseling, and state ombudsman related to nursing homes). The Aging and Disability Resource Centers are funded through the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services to develop “no wrong door” systems for access to long-term services and supports. Centers for Independent Living are partners with many of the local Aging and Disability Resource Centers and local Area Agencies on Aging, with some holding subcontracts to provide Housing Navigator and other services. The Texas State Independent Living Council and representatives from Centers for Independent Living collaborate with the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services to ensure respective parties are aware of services and initiatives within each network.

The Promoting Independence Initiative focuses on relocation from institutions to community. This has been and continues to be a major initiative. A representative of the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services is an Ex-Officio member of the Texas State Independent Living Council and in this capacity is the conduit for information between the two entities.

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs:

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is leading an effort to coordinate with Centers for Independent Living and other community stakeholders to facilitate additional housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities by effectively utilizing existing federal, state, and local housing resources.

Texas Department of Transportation:

Texas Department of Transportation works closely with local lead transportation agencies to coordinate projects that impact and improve transportation options for individuals with disabilities. In addition, they work closely with the Texas State Independent Living Council and several Centers for Independent Living to facilitate specific programs and projects and further local efforts to facilitate options for their communities.

1.7 Independent Living Services for Individuals who are Older Blind – 34 CFR 364.28

Describe how the DSU seeks to incorporate into, and describe in, the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of Independent Living Services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under the Older Individuals who are Blind program and that the DSU determines to be effective.

N/A

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services

2.1 Scope and Extent – 34 CFR 364.42(b)(2)(3); 34 CFR 364.43(b); 34 CFR 364.59(b)

2.1A Check the appropriate boxes in the State Plan for Independent Living Instrument table indicating the types of Independent Living Services to be provided to meet the objectives identified in section 1.2 of this State Plan for Independent Living, and whether the services will be provided by the Centers for Independent Living or by the DSU (directly and/or through contract or grant).

Table 2.1A: Independent living services

	Provided by the DSU (directly)	Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	Provided by the Centers for Independent Living (Not through DSU contracts/ grants)
Table 2.1A: Independent living services			
Core IL Services - Information and referral		Y	Y
Core IL Services - IL skills training		Y	Y
Core IL Services - Peer counseling		Y	Y
Core IL Services - Individual and systems advocacy		Y	Y
Core IL Services – Transition Services		Y	Y
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services		Y	Y
Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive 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 significant disabilities)		Y	Y
Rehabilitation technology		Y	Y
Mobility training		Y	Y
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services		Y	Y
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel		Y	Y

	Provided by the DSU (directly)	Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	Provided by the Centers for Independent Living (Not through DSU contracts/ grants)
Table 2.1A: Independent living services providing such services			
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services		Y	Y
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		Y	Y
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities		Y	Y
Supported living			Y
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation		Y	
Physical rehabilitation		Y	Y
Therapeutic treatment		Y	N
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices		Y	N
Individual and group social and recreational services		Y	Y
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		Y	Y
Services for children with significant disabilities	Y	Y	Y
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 significant disabilities		Y	Y
Appropriate preventive services to decrease		Y	Y

	Provided by the DSU (directly)	Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	Provided by the Centers for Independent Living (Not through DSU contracts/ grants)
Table 2.1A: Independent living services			
the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future			
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities		Y	Y
Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act		Y	Y

2.1B Describe any service provision priorities, including types of services or populations, established for meeting the State Plan for Independent Living objectives identified in section 1.2.

The State Plan for Independent Living Goals and Objectives have identified the following services as priorities during FY17-19 to address some of the issues, populations, and areas as targeted for outreach:

- Increased Systems Advocacy (Objective 1.1)
- Advocacy for Personal Care Attendant Issues (Objective 1.2)
- Advocacy for Coordination of Emergency Preparedness and Planning (Objective 1.3)
- Advocacy for Accessible Transportation (Objective 1.4)
- Expanded services to unserved and underserved populations (Objective 2.2)
- Youth Transition (Objective 3.1)
- Relocation from Nursing Facilities or Institutions (Objective 3.2)
- Diversion (Objective 3.3)

2.1C If the State allows service providers to charge consumers for the cost of services or to consider the ability of individual consumers to pay for the cost of Independent Living Services, specify the types of Independent Living Services for which costs may be charged and for which a financial need test may be applied, and describe how the State will ensure that:

- Any consideration of financial need is applied uniformly so that all individuals who are eligible for Independent Living Services are treated equally; and
- Written policies and consumer documentation required by 34 CFR 364.59(d) will be kept by the service provider.

Indicate N/A if not applicable.

The Independent Living Services provider will administer the consumer participation system in accordance with the Independent Living Services rules being promulgated with a September 1,

2016 effective date, the Independent Living Program Standards Manual that will be effective on September 1, 2016, and other applicable contract requirements established by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. If a purchased service is part of the consumer's independent living plan, the service provider gathers financial information about the consumer to determine the consumer's participation. In summary, the service provider determines the consumer's requirement and ability to participate by:

1. Collecting financial information;
2. Calculating the consumer's household size and adjusted gross income;
3. Assessing the consumer participation fee according to the published scale;
4. Processing the consumer participation agreement with the consumer; and
5. Documenting the agreement in the consumer service record.

Purchased independent living services defined in the Independent Living Standards are subject to consumer participation and comparable benefits requirements of these standards. Policies regarding record retention and determining consumer eligibility are outlined in the Independent Living Standards.

Centers for Independent Living provide independent living core services, and any necessary assessments for the purpose of determining eligibility, and evaluations for determination of appropriate independent living service provision as defined in the Independent Living Program Standards Manual, at no cost to the consumer.

2.2 Arrangements for State-Provided Services – 34 CFR 364.43(d) and (e)

2.2A If the DSU will provide any of the Independent Living Services identified in section 2.1A through grants or contractual arrangements with third parties, describe such arrangements.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission awards contracts, whether by grant or other form of agreement, to service providers under the Independent Living Services program pursuant to Texas Human Resources Code, Section 117.079. These service providers include Centers for Independent Living and other organizations or persons skilled in the delivery of Independent Living services. Service providers must comply with the requirements under Title 1, Part 15, Chapter 392, Purchase of Goods and Services for Specific Health and Human Services Commission Programs, Subchapter J, Independent Living Services Program Contracts, the Independent Living Services rules, and Independent Living Services Program Standards Manual.

2.2B If the State contracts with or awards a grant to a center for the general operation of the center, describe how the State will ensure that the determination of an individual's eligibility for services from that center shall be delegated to the center.

In the HHSC Standards for Providers, direction is provided for Centers for Independent Living that a Center staff person will document determination of eligibility. Routine on-site monitoring visits by Texas Health and Human Services Commission will help ensure Center for Independent Living compliance with this requirement.

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/>

Section 3: Design for the Statewide Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Network – 34 CFR 364.25

Provide an overview of the existing network of centers, including non-Part C-funded centers that comply with the standards and assurances in section 725 (b) and (c) of the Act, and the geographic areas and populations currently served by the centers.

The State of Texas contains diverse racial and disability populations in the vast rural and urban areas of the state. The Centers for Independent Living in Texas serve all disability and racial populations and adapt their programs and services to reflect the unique populations and needs in their service areas.

The following list contains the base operating funding sources for the 27 Centers for Independent Living in Texas.

State General Revenue Funded Centers for Independent Living

1. Disability in Action
2. LIFE Inc. - Disability Connections
3. Mounting Horizons
4. REACH of Plano Resource Center on Independent Living
5. Valley Association for Independent Living-South Texas

State SSA-VR and Federal Part C Funded Centers for Independent Living

1. ARCIL INC.
2. CBFL/Houston Center for Independent Living
3. Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living
4. LIFE Inc. - LIFE/RUN
5. Panhandle Independent Living Center
6. REACH of Dallas Resource Center on Independent Living
7. San Antonio Independent Living Services
8. Valley Association for Independent Living-Rio Grande Valley
9. Volar Center for Independent Living

State SSA-VR and Federal Part B Funded Center for Independent Living

1. REACH of Fort Worth Resource Center on Independent Living

Federal Part C Funded Centers for Independent Living

1. ABLE Center for Independent Living
2. ARCIL San Marcos
3. Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living
4. CBFL/Brazoria County Center for Independent Living
5. CBFL/Fort Bend Center for Independent Living

6. Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living
7. East Texas Center for Independent Living
8. Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Inc.
9. Palestine Resource Center for Independent Living
10. REACH of Denton Resource Center on Independent Living
11. RISE Center
12. Williamson County Center for Independent Living Services

The CILs listed above are also listed below in alphabetical order with more detailed information such as location, counties served, and additional funding sources.

ABLE Center for Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)

(ABLE)

4803 Plaza Blvd. Suite 401 Odessa, Texas

Counties Served:

Andrews, Crane, Ector, Martin, Midland, Upton and Ward

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; Fee for Service

ARCIL INC. (SPIL Signatory)

(ARCIL)

825 E. Rundberg Ln. Austin, Texas 78753

Counties Served:

Travis, Bastrop, Lee

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; SSA-VR; Other Federal Funds; Fee for Service; Private

Counties served and funding source(s) for areas outside Title VII, Part C agreement: Social Security Administration Work Incentive Planning and Assistance:

Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Brooks, Cameron, DeWitt, Duval, Frio, Gillespie, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, LaSalle, Live Oak, McMullen, Medina, Starr, Webb, Willacy, Wilson, Zapata

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services Relocation:

Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Coryell, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Grimes, Hamilton, Hill, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Limestone, Llano, McLennan, Madison, Mills, Robertson San Saba, Washington

ARCIL San Marcos (SPIL Signatory)

(ARCIL)

618 S Guadalupe #103, San Marcos TX 78666

Counties Served:

Hays, Blanco, Caldwell, Comal

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C

**Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)
(BVCIL)**

1869 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, TX 77802

Counties Served:

Brazos, Burleson, Madison, Robertson & Washington

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; Local Government; Fee for Service; Private

Counties served and funding source(s) for areas outside Title VII, Part C agreement:

DARS – DBS, IL Skills, Statewide authorization; DARS – DBS, Vocational Adjustment Training/Work Adjustment Training, Statewide authorization but not required to accept all referrals; DARS – DBS, Job Readiness Training/Job Placement, Statewide authorization but not required to accept all referrals; Brazos Transit District (5310) Mobility Management and Operating Origins/destinations in the counties of Grimes, Leon; Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services Financial Management Services Agency- MDCP, Bastrop, Bell, Blanco, Bosque, Burnet, Caldwell, Coryell, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Grimes, Hamilton, Hays, Hill, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Limestone, Llano, McLennan, Milam, Mills, San Saba, Travis, Williamson; Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services Financial Management Services Agency – CLASS Bastrop, Bell, Blanco, Bosque, Burnet, Caldwell, Coryell, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Grimes, Hamilton, Hays, Hill, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Limestone, Llano, McLennan, Milam, Mills, San Saba, Travis, Williamson

**CBFL/Brazoria County Center for Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)
(BCCIL)**

1104-D East Mulberry, Angleton, Texas 77515

Counties Served:

Brazoria and Matagorda

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; Private; Fee for Service

**CBFL/Fort Bend Center for Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)
(FBCIL)**

12946 Dairy Ashford Road, Suite 110, Sugar Land, TX 77478

Counties Served:

Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Walker, Waller, Wharton

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; Private; Fee for Service

**CBFL/Houston Center for Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)
(HCIL)**

6201 Bonhomme Road, Suite 150-S, Houston, TX
77036

Counties Served:

Harris

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; SSA-VR; Other Federal Funds; Fee for Service; Private

Counties served and funding source(s) for areas outside Title VII, Part C agreement: Austin, Colorado, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, Wharton, Washington, Grimes (SSA WIPA and Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services Relocation)

**Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)
(CBCIL)**

1537 Seventh St., Corpus Christi, TX, 78404

Counties Served:

Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; State, General Revenue, Other Federal Funds; Local Government, Fee for Service; Private

Counties served and funding source(s) for areas outside Title VII, Part C agreement:

Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo, Jim Wells, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Webb, Willacy, Zapata Counties (Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services Relocation); Nueces catchment area, Hidalgo catchment area (Consumer Direct Services: MCO-United Healthcare, Superior Healthcare, Molina Healthcare and Healthspring); Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, Goliad, Jackson, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Lavaca, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio (CLASS Case Management Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services); Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio (MOP-Mobility Options Program) (Home Modifications- Amy Young Barrier Removal (TDHC) (City of Corpus Christi CDBG); Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA TDCHA)

**Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)
(CRCIL)**

1020 Loop 304 East, Crockett, Texas 75835

Counties Served:

Houston, Trinity, Leon, Polk, Tyler, San Augustine, Sabine, Shelby, Panola, Rusk, Freestone, Alabama Coushatta Indian Reservation

Funding Sources:

SSA-VR; Federal Title VII, Part C

Counties served and funding source(s) for areas outside Title VII, Part C agreement:

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services Relocation Contract: Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, Van Zandt, Angelina, Nacogdoches, Trinity, Limestone, Leon, Grimes, Madison, Brazos, Robertson, Washington, Falls, Milam

**Disability in Action, Inc. (SPIL Signatory)
(DIA)**

317 N. Willis St. Abilene, Texas 79603

Counties Served:

Stephens, Callahan, Taylor, Jones, Shackelford, Eastland

Funding Sources:

State, General Revenue; Other Federal Funds

East Texas Center for Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)

(ETCIL)

4713 Troup Hwy. Tyler Texas 75703

Counties Served:

Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; Fee for Service; Private; State Contracts

Counties served and funding source(s) for areas outside Title VII, Part C agreement:

Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program Contract and Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services Relocation Subcontract: Anderson, Camp, Titus, Red River, Franklin, Hopkins, Delta, Lamar, Bowie, Marion, Cass, Morris

Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Inc. (SPIL Signatory)

(HOCTIL)

222 E. Central Ave., Belton, Texas 76513

Counties Served:

Bell, Coryell, McLennan, and Hill

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; SSA-VR; Fee for Service; Private; Other State Funds; Other Federal Funds

Counties served and funding source(s) for areas outside Title VII, Part C agreement:

Central Texas Council of Governments ADRC Housing Navigator and Respite Services: Hamilton, Lampassas, Milam, Mills, SanSaba; Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services Relocation Subcontract: Hamilton, Lampassas, Milam, Mills, SanSaba, Limestone, Freestone, Falls, Bosque, Brazos, Robertson; Consumer Directed Services: Hamilton, Lampassas, Milam, Mills, SanSaba, Limestone, Freestone, Falls, Bosque, Williamson, Travis; Ticket to Work: Hamilton, Lampassas, Milam, Mills, SanSaba; Limestone, Freestone, Falls, Bosque, Brazos, Williamson

LIFE Inc. - LIFE/RUN (SPIL Signatory)

(LIFE Inc.)

8240 Boston Avenue, Lubbock, TX 79423

Counties Served:

Crosby, Lubbock, Lynn, Terry, Lamb, Floyd, Garza,
Hale, Hockley

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; SSA-VR; Other Federal Funds; Local Government; Fee for Service; Private

Counties served and funding source(s) for areas outside Title VII, Part C agreement:

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services Relocation Contract: Armstrong, Bailey, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Collingsworth, Crosby, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Floyd, Garza, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hockley, Hutchinson, King, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lynn, Moore, Motley, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Terry, Wheeler, Yoakum, Archer, Baylor, Brown, Callahan, Clay, Coleman, Comanche, Cottle, Eastland, Fisher, Foard, Hardeman, Haskell, Jack, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Montague, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall, Stephens, Taylor, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger, Young, Andrews, Borden, Coke, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Kimble, Loving, Martin, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Midland, Pecos, Reagan, Reeves, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Tom Green, Upton, Ward, Winkler, Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio

LIFE Inc. - Disability Connections (SPIL Signatory)

2809 Southwest Blvd., San Angelo TX 76904

Counties Served:

Tom Green, Sterling, Coke, Schleicher, Concho, Runnels, Irion, Menard

Funding Sources:

State, General Revenue

Mounting Horizons Inc. (SPIL Signatory)

(MHCIL)

4700 Broadway #C102, Galveston, Texas 77551

Counties Served:

Galveston

Funding Sources:

State, General Revenue; Other Federal Funds

Panhandle Independent Living Center (SPIL Signatory)

(PILC)

417 W. 10th Ave, Amarillo, Texas 79101

Counties Served:

Potter, Randall, Hartley, Deaf Smith, Parmer, Moore, Carson, Castro, Armstrong, Briscoe, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Oldham, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Wheeler

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; SSA-VR; Other Federal Funds

**Palestine Resource Center for Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)
(PRCIL)**

421 Avenue A, Palestine, Texas 75801

Counties Served:

Anderson, Cherokee, Angelina, Nacogdoches, Smith

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C

**REACH of Dallas Resource Center on Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)
(REACH of Dallas)**

8625 King George Drive, Suite 210, Dallas, TX 75235

Counties Served:

Dallas

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; SSA-VR; Fee for Service

**REACH of Denton Resource Center on Independent (SPIL Signatory)
Living**

(REACH of Denton)

405 S. Elm Street, Suite 202, Denton, TX 76201

Counties Served:

Denton

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; Fee for Service

**REACH of Fort Worth Resource Center on Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)
(REACH of Fort Worth)**

1000 Macon Street, Suite 200

Fort Worth, TX 76102

Counties Served:

Tarrant

Funding Sources:

SSA-VR; Title VII, Part B

**REACH of Plano Resource Center on Independent (SPIL Signatory)
Living**

(REACH of Plano)

720 E. Park Blvd., Suite 104, Plano, TX 75074

Counties Served:

Collin

Funding Sources:

State, General Revenue

**RISE Center (SPIL Signatory)
(RISE Center for Independent Living)**

755 S. 11th ST, STE 101, Beaumont, TX 77701

Counties Served:

Hardin, Orange, Jefferson

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; Fee for Service; Private

Counties served and funding source(s) for areas outside Title VII, Part C agreement:

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services Relocation Contract—Jefferson, Hardin, Orange, Polk, Sabine, Jasper, San Jacinto, San Augustine, Newton, Tyler

**San Antonio Independent Living Services (SPIL Signatory)
(SAILS)**

1028 South Alamo Street, San Antonio, Texas 78210

Counties Served:

Atascosa, Bexar, Calhoun, Comal, De Witt, Dimmit, Frio, Edwards, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Bandera, Edwards, Karnes, Lavaca, Kerr, Jackson, Kendall, Kinney, Maverick, Medina, LaSalle, Uvalde, Val Verde, Real, Victoria, Zavala

Funding Sources:

SSA-VR; Federal Title VII, Part C; Other Federal Funds; Local Government; Fee for Service; Private

**Valley Association for Independent Living-Rio Grande Valley (SPIL Signatory)
(VAIL-Rio Grande Valley)**

3016 North McColl, Suite B, McAllen, TX 78501

Counties Served:

Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Willacy

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C; SSA-VR; Fee for Service

**Valley Association for Independent Living-South Texas (SPIL Signatory)
(VAIL-South Texas)**

1419 Corpus Christi Street, Laredo, TX 78040

Counties Served:

Duval, Jim Hogg, Webb, Zapata

Funding Sources:

State, General Revenue

**Volar Center for Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)
(Volar CIL)**

1220 Golden Key Circle, El Paso, Texas 79925-5825

Counties Served:

El Paso

Funding Sources:

SSA-VR; Federal Title VII, Part C; Local Government; Private; Other Federal Funds

Counties served and funding source(s) for areas outside Title VII, Part C agreement:

Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program; Hearing Loss Resource Specialist:
Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio

**Williamson County Center for Independent Living Services (SPIL Signatory)
(WCCIL)**

525 Round Rock West, Suite A120, Round Rock TX
78681

Counties Served:

Williamson, Bell, Burnet, Milam

Funding Sources:

Federal Title VII, Part C

3.2 Expansion of Network – 34 CFR 364.25

Describe the design for the further expansion of the network, including identification of the unserved and underserved areas in the State and the order of priority for serving these areas as additional funding becomes available (beyond the required cost-of-living increase).

Strengthen the Network-- Statement of Funding Equity:

The Network of Centers for Independent Living and the Texas State Independent Living Council recognize the value and importance of implementing a statement of funding equity. The purpose of this statement is to increase access to services for individuals with disabilities and strengthen the Network. The Network is committed to pursuing increased funding that will allow for financial support to bring existing Centers for Independent Living up to a baseline level of \$500,000. Funding will also be pursued to expand the capacity of Centers for Independent Living to reach underserved populations and regions within existing coverage areas. Decreases in General Center for Independent Living Operating funds and stagnant funding levels jeopardize the ability of the Network to maintain their current level of services and adequately fund the activities of the five Core services. We believe funding for the Network should remain stable from year-to-year and every effort should be made to bring all Centers up to equal baseline funding. The Network will not accept expansion funds if it will potentially jeopardize the stability of the existing Network such as the reducing the continuation funding of existing Centers for Independent Living in the Network. Any funding to establish a new Center should be expected to continue from year-to-year indefinitely. As indicated in the Plan's Goals and Objectives, the Network will also pursue efforts to provide more security to the funding currently provided by the State of Texas.

The Texas State Independent Living Council and the Network of Centers for Independent Living worked together to identify a strategy for completing the network of Centers for Independent Living in the state. Based on 2010 U.S. Census Data, there are nearly 400,000 Texans with disabilities currently living in areas that are not served by a Center for Independent Living. Of the 254 counties in Texas, 162 receive at least the five core services by a Center for Independent

Living.

Underserved Counties and Populations:

The Texas State Independent Living Council and the Network of Centers for Independent Living recognizes that all counties and areas currently served by a Center for Independent Living are underserved. Despite the large number of Centers for Independent Living in Texas, the Independent Living needs in their service areas are greater than the resources and capacity available to them. Federal and State funding for the Texas Network has remained stagnant despite increased mandates and additional requirements. The Centers for Independent Living have worked to diversify their funding sources and secure private sources of funding, but a majority of Centers for Independent Living rely on federal and state sources for their base funding. It is imperative for the Network to secure additional funding to ensure they can 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 current Network's service areas and populations will also continue to be underserved.

Underserved Racial Populations:

A Needs Assessment survey was conducted and respondents identified Hispanic and Black/African American as the two categories that were most in the need of Independent Living Services in Texas.

Underserved Disability Populations:

The following number reflect those served with a consumer service record only and do not include Information and Referral services to these populations provided by a Center for Independent Living. Those with a consumer service record have significant disabilities and are seeking specific Independent Living services with often complex needs. Annual 704 Report data compiled from FY13-15 shows that hearing and vision disabilities are underserved by Centers for Independent Living compared to the rate of service for other disabilities such as physical and cognitive disabilities. These rates were calculated by totaling and averaging the number of services provided by Centers for Independent Living over the Fiscal Years 13-15 and comparing those figures to the number of people over the age of five residing in counties currently served by a Center for Independent Living that have self-identified as having difficulties with specific functions according to the 2013 American Community Survey.

Underserved Counties:

Data on the number of consumers receiving services in each county in FY13-15 from Center for Independent Living 704 Reports was compiled and analyzed to provide a list of those counties in Texas that are underserved. A three-year average of the number of Independent Living Services was calculated and compared to the number of individuals with disabilities residing in that county according to the American Community Survey. A rate of service was calculated for each county and an average rate of service for all served counties in Texas was calculated. There are 116 counties, which is approximately 72 percent of the counties served, receiving services at a rate below the statewide average rate of service and they are listed here as underserved counties.

Angelina	Gonzales	Moore
Armstrong	Gray	Nacogdoches
Atascosa	Guadalupe	Ochiltree
Bandera	Hale	Oldham
Bastrop	Hall	Orange
Bexar	Hansford	Polk
Blanco	Hardin	Rains
Briscoe	Harris	Real
Brooks	Harrison	Roberts
Burleson	Hartley	Robertson
Burnet	Hemphill	Rusk
Calhoun	Henderson	Sabine
Callahan	Hidalgo	San Augustine
Cameron	Hill	Shelby
Carson	Hockley	Sherman
Castro	Hutchinson	Starr
Childress	Jackson	Swisher
Collin	Jim Hogg	Tarrant
Collingsworth	Jim Wells	Terry
Comal	Karnes	Travis
Coryell	Kendall	Trinity
Crosby	Kenedy	Tyler
Dallam	Kerr	Upshur
Dallas	Kinney	Upton
Deaf Smith	Lamb	Uvalde
Denton	Lavaca	Val Verde
DeWitt	Lee	Van Zandt
Dimmit	Leon	Victoria
Donley	Lipscomb	Waller
Duval	Live Oak	Ward
Eastland	Lynn	Washington
Edwards	Madison	Webb
Floyd	Marion	Wharton
Fort Bend	Matagorda	Wheeler
Freestone	Maverick	Willacy
Frio	McLennan	Wilson
Gillespie	Medina	Wood
Goliad	Menard	Zapata
	Milam	Zavala

Unserved Counties:

The following list represents the list of 92 unfunded and unserved counties in Texas with their respective disability populations according to the American Community Survey. The Centers remain aware of the unmet needs of those areas because they receive requests for additional

services. It should be noted that Centers for Independent Living provide Information and Referral services to individuals in unserved counties at their request. Should new state or federal funds become available for the purpose of establishing a new Center for Independent Living, the following counties (listed here with corresponding disability populations) would be eligible for such funding.

Archer	1,346	Grayson	19,049	Montgomery	48,057
Bailey	891	Grimes	3,665	Morris	3,068
Baylor	763	Hamilton	1,762	Motley	180
Borden	76	Hardeman	949	Navarro	8,379
Bosque	3,062	Haskell	1,275	Newton	2,658
Bowie	13,373	Hood	7,847	Nolan	2,729
Brewster	1,803	Hopkins	5,427	Palo Pinto	4,563
Brown	5,009	Howard	5,666	Parker	14,338
Cass	5,912	Hudspeth	724	Pecos	1,513
Chambers	4,718	Hunt	14,210	Presidio	1,904
Clay	1,927	Jack	1,604	Reagan	268
Cochran	569	Jasper	7,054	Red River	2,827
Coleman	1,075	Jeff Davis	685	Reeves	2,055
Comanche	2,474	Johnson	16,432	Rockwall	5,976
Cooke	5,386	Kaufman	13,198	San Jacinto	4,643
Cottle	329	Kent	168	San Saba	852
Crockett	398	Kimble	788	Scurry	2,454
Culberson	445	King	31	Somervell	1,066
Dawson	1,680	Knox	756	Stonewall	244
Delta	797	La Salle	1,589	Sutton	356
Dickens	422	Lamar	8,989	Terrell	151
Ellis	19,086	Lampasas	2,998	Throckmorton	
Erath	4,363	Liberty	13,516	n	317
Falls	3,003	Limestone	3,598	Titus	5,476
Fannin	5,550	Llano	4,265	Walker	4,908
Fayette	2,924	Loving	13	Wichita	16,697
Fisher	589	Mason	779	Wilbarger	2,445
Foard	346	McCulloch	1,396	Winkler	1,073
Franklin	2,270	Mills	620	Wise	9,000
Gaines	2,280	Mitchell	1,225	Yoakum	860
Glasscock	85	Montague	3,449	Young	3,076

Expansion of the Network:

Efforts to expand and strengthen the network of Centers for Independent Living in Texas will involve working closely with state and federal entities toward the allocation of additional funding for the establishment and operation of Centers for Independent Living. Should funding become available, a competitive process will be conducted, which will define criteria for selection. In

addition, as stated above, the network will not accept expansion funds if it will potentially jeopardize the stability of the existing network such as the reducing of the continuation funding of existing Centers for Independent Living in the Network. Priority will be given to applicants with a cross-disability board in place that have filed for incorporation and obtained, or are in the process of obtaining, 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Such applicants will be in a position to initiate programming more readily.

Priority Unserved Or Underserved Area(s) in the State: Ninety-two counties in Texas remain unserved. In adherence with federal guidance, if Part C funds become available over the threshold of establishing a new Center, the priority will be to establish a new Center for Independent Living in an unserved area. Priority should be given to applicants with a cross-disability board in place that have filed for incorporation and obtained, or in a process of obtaining, 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Such applicants will be in a position to initiate programming more readily. In addition, if additional funds from sources such as Part B, State General Revenue, or SSA-VR become available, the Network supports efforts for the following activities: 1) to add currently unserved areas/counties to an existing Center for Independent Living's catchment area for purposes of providing the five core services; 2) To expand the capacity of Centers for Independent Living to reach underserved populations and regions within existing coverage areas. The Network will not accept expansion funds if it will potentially jeopardize the stability of the existing Network.

Order Of Priority For Establishing New Centers for Independent Living in these Areas: Should funding become available to establish a new Center for Independent Living in an unserved area, the Network supports open competition among unserved areas and believes that all qualified applicants should be considered regardless of their presence on the priority areas list that follows. The following list contains the priority areas as required by the Rehabilitation Act. The areas are listed in descending order with the highest populations listed first; however, the order of listing should not be construed as being listed in any particular priority order. A map showing the priority areas is included in Appendix D.

- **Area A :** Location: Southeast Texas
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s): 5,6,7
Unserved Counties with Disability Population: Chambers 4,718; Grimes 3,665; Liberty 13,516; Montgomery 48,057; San Jacinto 4,643; Walker 4,908
Total Disability Population: 79,507

- **Area B:** Location: North-East Texas
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s): 4
Unserved Counties with Disability Population: Bowie 13,373; Cass 5,912; Delta 797; Franklin 2,270; Hopkins 5,427; Lamar 8,989; Morris 3,068; Red River 2,827; Titus 5,476
Total Disability Population: 48,139

- **Area C :** Location: North Texas
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s): 2
Unserved Counties with Disability Population: Archer 1,346; Baylor 763; Clay 1,927; Cottle 329; Foard 346; Hardeman 949; Jack 1,604; Montague 3,449; Wichita 16,697; Wilbarger 2,445; Young 3,076

Total Disability Population: 32,931

- **Area D:** Location: North Texas
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s): 3
Unserved Counties with Disability Population: Cooke 5,386; Fannin 5,550; Grayson 19,049
Total Disability Population: 29,985
- **Area E:** Location: Central Texas
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s): 2,7,9
Unserved Counties with Disability Population: Brown 5,009; Coleman 1,075; Comanche 2,474; Hamilton 1,762; Lampasas 2,998; Llano 4,265; Mason 779; McCulloch 1,396; Mills 620; San Saba 852
Total Disability Population: 21,230
- **Area F:** Location: West Texas
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s):9,10
Unserved Counties with Disability Population: Brewster 1,803; Culberson 445; Hudspeth 724; Jeff Davis 685; Loving 13; Pecos 1,513; Presidio 1,904; Reeves 2,055; Terrell 151; Winkler 1,073
Total Disability Population: 10,366
- **Area G :** Location: West Texas
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s):9
Unserved Counties with Disability Population: Borden 76; Dawson 1,680; Gaines 2,280; Glasscock 85; Howard 5,666
Total Disability Population: 9,787

Funding Priorities:

The priorities for the designation of additional funds will be determined as funding becomes available through a process of negotiation among Texas Health and Human Services Commission, the Texas State Independent Living Council, and the Centers for Independent Living in the network. These basic guidelines will be employed to make such determinations:

- Short Term Funding: As previously stated, funds that are short-term in nature and do not have a provision for ongoing sustainability (beyond those used to establish a new Center for Independent Living if doing so does not jeopardize the Part C funding of existing Centers for Independent Living), will be used to expand the capacity of existing Centers for Independent Living consistent with the goals and objectives of the State Plan for Independent Living, with particular emphasis on underserved areas and populations. Such funds will be distributed among existing Centers for Independent Living in the same proportion as their regular Part C appropriation.
- Minimum Funding Level Required To Establish A New Center for Independent Living: The minimum funding required to establish a new Center for Independent Living (Center for Independent Living) in Texas is \$500,000 for the provision of the five core services. This figure reflects the staffing needs necessary to establish and maintain a Center for Independent Living with an Executive Director, Program Director, Bookkeeper,

three IL Specialists, an Outreach Coordinator, and a Secretary/Administrative Assistant. This funding level includes salary, fringe, space, contract services, supplies, travel, and other necessary expenses. This figure was determined after reviewing the staffing and program needs to provide adequate consumer services while looking at the average costs of personnel and overhead from both rural and urban centers from across the state.

- Potential Funding Sources For This Minimum Level (i.e., Part C only or a combination of Part C, Part B, state or other funding): Texas will fully utilize as many funding resources as possible to achieve the minimum funding levels depending on the availability of such sources. Resources that could be used to fulfill the minimum level include sustainable Part C, Part B, State General Revenue, and SSA-VR funds. When Part C funding does become available, the Texas State Independent Living Council and the Designated State Entity will coordinate with ACL to determine if these alternative sources are available to reach a minimum funding level to establish a new Center for Independent Living.
- If The Minimum Funding Level Required To Establish A New Center Will Not Be Met, The Method By Which The State Requests ACL Distribute The Additional Part C Funds: If the minimum funding level required to establish a new Center cannot be met, Texas requests that distribution of additional Part C funds first to Part C Centers for annual Cost of Living Adjustment. The remaining funds above a cost of living allowance when available, should be distributed among existing Centers for Independent Living receiving Part C funding that receive less than \$500,000 in Part C funds, in the same proportion as their regular Part C award is to the State's total Part C allocation. With this method, it is goal of the Network to bring Part C centers that are currently funded below the established minimum funding level up to a more equitable level.

Funding Reductions:

Due to recent reductions, both planned and unplanned, the IL Network encourages the development of contingency plans, should there be a future reductions or rescission of state or federal funds. If reductions take place, the Center for Independent Living Network is committed to providing the five core services to consumers in the Center's catchment area to ensure their status as Center for Independent Living under Title VII, Part C is not jeopardized. It is recommended that the State use Part B funding to replace reductions in Part C funding. Should general funding for Centers for Independent Living be reduced at the State level, the Network of Centers should receive a proportional funding reduction, rather than consider the closing of a Center. It is expected that any such reductions may impact the quantity and quality of services offered by a Center.

Closing of a Center for Independent Living:

In the event that a Center funded by Title VII, Part B or Part C should close, the Texas State Independent Living Council and the network of Centers (and Texas Health and Human Services Commission when appropriate) will coordinate on the distribution of funds previously allocated to the Center. Should such funds remain available for use in the State, the areas and populations previously served by the now-closed center will be given higher priority to reestablish a Center for

Independent Living to serve those areas. If a Center is not reestablished to serve those areas they will be listed as unserved areas for purposes of determining future priorities as outlined previously in this section.

3.3 Section 723 States Only – 34 CFR 364.39

3.3A If the State follows an order of priorities for allocating funds among centers within a State that is different from what is outlined in 34 CFR 366.22, describe the alternate order of priority that the DSU director and the SeState Independent Living Council chair have agreed upon. Indicate N/A if not applicable.

N/A

3.3B Describe how the State policies, practices and procedures governing the awarding of grants to centers and the oversight of these centers are consistent with 34 CFR 366.37 and 366.38.

N/A

Section 4: Designated State Unit (DSU)

4.1 Administrative Support Services – 34 CFR 364.4; 34 CFR 364.22(b)

4.1A Describe the administrative support services to be provided by the DSU for the SILS (Part B) program and, if the State is a Section 723 State, for the Center for Independent Living (Part C) program.

- Refer to the State Plan for Independent Living Instructions for additional information about administrative support services.**

Designated State Unit Designation:

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will provide services to receive, deposit, and disburse state and federal funds allocated for the Texas State Independent Living Council budget and resource plan, general Center for Independent Living operations, or State Plan for Independent Living objectives, in accordance with the approved State Plan for Independent Living and with applicable state and federal law and generally accepted accounting procedures, as per the Title VII requirements of the Designated State Entity.

Contract Monitoring:

Contracts with service providers that provide Independent Living Services under the Independent Living Services program will be monitored in accordance with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Contract Management Handbook published pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 2261.256 on the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts webpage, titled Health and Human Services System Contract Management Handbook.

Contract monitoring is the systematic review of a service provider's records, business processes, deliverables, and activities to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract. The goal of contract monitoring is to protect the health and safety of clients that receive services, ensure delivery of quality goods and services, and protect the financial interest of the state. Monitoring includes planned, ongoing, periodic, or unscheduled activities that

cover financial, programmatic and administrative components.

Technical Assistance:

Contract managers and other Texas Health and Human Services Commission staff provide technical assistance, as needed, throughout the term of the Independent Living Services contract.

Technical assistance may include help to expand a service provider's capacity to provide a full range of independent living services. Technical assistance may be provided by phone, email, or during on-site visits, and can include circumstances, such as:

- turnover in key agency or service provider staff;
- difficulty with following contract terms and conditions, policies and procedures, or reporting requirements;
- clarification of health and human services agency policies;
- clarification of monitoring and oversight requirements;
- billing or payment issues;
- service delivery, including conducting assessments, direct delivery of services, and development of Independent Living Plans and appropriate documentation; or
- other identified needs.

Technical assistance may be provided more frequently for new service providers or when significant program changes are being implemented. Technical assistance also may be necessary for improving contract performance, overseeing compliance, supporting successful contract outcomes, and clarifying expectations.

Training:

Training for Independent Living Service providers under this program may include:

- the Independent Living philosophy;
- methods for training and assessing the needs of older individuals who are blind;
- training techniques and service delivery methodologies for special populations; and
- the administration, operation, evaluation, and performance of Independent Living services according to the rules for Independent Living Services, these standards, and the contract requirements.

Training opportunities will be developed and coordinated with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission staff and service providers.

New service providers will be required to participate in comprehensive orientation that covers contract and program requirements, to be held shortly before or after the contract start date. Other training may include required and optional training opportunities for program improvement.

4.1B Describe other DSU arrangements for the administration of the IL program, if any.

N/A

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 Resource plan – 34 CFR 364.21(i)

5.1A Describe the resource plan prepared by the Texas State Independent Living Council in conjunction with the DSU for the provision of resources, including staff and personnel, made available under parts B and C of chapter 1 of Title VII, section 101(a)(18) of the Act, and from other public and private sources that may be necessary to carry out the functions of the State Independent Living Council identified in section 705(c). The description must address the three years of this State Plan for Independent Living.

– Refer to the State Plan for Independent Living Instructions for more information about completing this section.

The State of Texas' recent legislative changes has provided the Texas State Independent Living Council additional issues to navigate and ensure continuation of the State's quality services to the nearly three million Texans with disabilities. Texas' consolidation of health and human service agencies and movement of vocational rehabilitation to a different agency, Texas Workforce Commission, has resulted in a changing landscape in which Texas State Independent Living Council must adapt. These changes will require the Texas State Independent Living Council to more closely engage with both the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Texas Workforce Commission staff, increase coordination and advocacy efforts, and share its experience in the disability and Center for Independent Living arena. The Texas State Independent Living Council is enthusiastic about future changes in Independent Living in Texas and a national perspective and is excited about being tasked with new State and national responsibilities.

The primary funding for the operation of the Texas State Independent Living Council is through Title VII, Part B funding. The State Independent Living Council also pursues funding from other sources, both public and private, for additional activities to accomplish its mission, further State Plan for Independent Living objectives, and address IL needs identified throughout the state. These activities do not impair or interfere with the Texas State Independent Living Council's ability to perform its statutory duties. The Texas State Independent Living Council has established and maintains fiscal and fund accounting controls ensuring proper separation between federal and non-federal funds.

More specifically, the Resource Plan for the Texas State Independent Living Council includes \$409,564 from Title VII, Part B funding per year for FY17-19 to complete the following duties and authorities as well as to participate as noted in the following State Plan Goals and Objectives listed in Section 1.2A.

- Advocacy on Systems Change (Objective 1.1)
- Advocacy for Personal Care Attendant Issues (Objective 1.2)
- Advocacy for Coordination of Emergency Preparedness and Planning (Objective 1.3)
- Advocacy for Accessible Transportation (Objective 1.4)
- Advocacy for Accessible Housing (Objective 1.5)
- Advocacy and Support for Independent Living Services Resources (Objective 2.1)
- Advocacy and Support for Expanded Services to Unserved and Underserved Populations (Objective 2.2)
- Advocacy for Youth Transition (Objective 3.1)

- Advocacy for Additional Relocations Services (Objective 3.2)
- Advocacy for Diversion Services (Objective 3.3)

The Texas State Independent Living Council's primary duties include five federally-mandated tasks pursuant to the Section 705(c) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act:

- Develop the State Plan for Independent Living as required by Section 704 of the Rehabilitation Act;
- Monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living;
- Meet regularly and ensure that meetings of the Texas State Independent Living Council are open to the public and sufficient advance notice of such meetings is provided;
- Submit to the Administrator periodic reports as the Administrator may reasonably request, and keep records, and afford access to records, as the Administrator finds necessary to verify the information in reports; and
- As appropriate, coordinate activities with other entities in the State that provide services that are complementary to Independent Living services, such as entities that facilitate the provision of or provide long-term community-based services and supports.

Section 705(c)(2) of the Rehabilitation Act authorizes the Texas State Independent Living Council to work with Centers for Independent Living to improved services provided to individuals with disabilities; conduct resource development activities to support the provision of Independent Living services by Centers for Independent Living; and perform other functions as appropriate to carry out the organization's mission. The Texas State Independent Living Council intends to fully utilize all of the authorities authorized by federal statute and is also responsible for other notable activities, which it plans to continue in the upcoming years.

The organization and several Center for Independent Living partners currently administers *Get Fit, Work, and Play!*, which is a health and fitness initiative funded by Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities that impacts hundreds of Texans with disabilities. Another endeavor the Texas State Independent Living Council is bringing to the forefront of Independent Living discussion is its work on accessible transportation. Transportation Works, initially a Texas Department of Transportation project but now funded by the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, is a project that brings transportation providers, local governments, and consumers together to develop accessible transportation options for Texans with disabilities. The Texas State Independent Living Council also hosts an annual conference for Texans with disabilities to learn more about the Independent Living philosophy and address a wide range of topics that impact the community. The Texas State Independent Living Council is privileged to participate in these projects and plans to exercise its authority to continue these and other projects in the upcoming fiscal years to ensure Texans with disabilities thrive in their respective communities.

5.1B Describe how the following Texas State Independent Living Council resource plan requirements will be addressed:

- **The State Independent Living Council's responsibility for the proper expenditure of funds and use of resources that it receives under the resource plan.**

- **Non-inclusion of conditions or requirements in the State Independent Living Council resource plan that may compromise the independence of the State Independent Living Council.**
- **Reliance, to the maximum extent possible, on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the State plan.**

The Texas State Independent Living Council has established fiscal policies and procedures that govern the expenditure of funds. Proper use of fiscal resources will be routinely monitored by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. This monitoring includes a review of Texas State Independent Living Council billings for reimbursements, discussion of budget status at quarterly Texas State Independent Living Council meetings, and compliance with established protocols, should budget changes be requested. Additional monitoring activities include annual independent audits and periodic self-assessment of Texas State Independent Living Council operations in relation to standards and indicators.

The Texas State Independent Living Council remains very aware of and safeguards its independence. Nothing in the resource plan jeopardizes its autonomy. Furthermore, the resource plan reflects prudent planning for operational needs, while taking into account full use of available resources.

5.2 Establishment and Placement – 34 CFR 364.21(a)

Describe how the establishment and placement of the Texas State Independent Living Council ensures its independence with respect to the DSU and all other State agencies.

- **Refer to the State Plan for Independent Living Instructions for more information about completing this section.**

The Texas State Independent Living Council was established following revisions to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1992, when the Texas State Independent Living Council requirement was introduced. The Texas State Independent Living Council was established and created as an independent council (40 Tex. Admin. Code § 101.401). Because of its standing as an independent council, the Texas State Independent Living Council is not subject to Section 2110 of the Texas Government Code regarding state advisory committees. The Texas State Independent Living Council received its 501(c)(3) status in 1998. The current structural reference for the Texas State Independent Living Council is found in Texas Administrative Code Title 40, Part 2, Chapter 101, Subchapter D, Rule §101.603.

The Texas State Independent Living Council is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that functions as a fully autonomous entity. In this capacity, the Texas State Independent Living Council leases offices, retains staff, conducts daily activities, and administers both public and private funds. Funding for the Texas State Independent Living Council originates with the Administration on Community Living. Those funds are then granted to the Texas State Independent Living Council by Texas Health and Human Services Commission. (Title 40, Part 2, Chapter 101, Subchapter L, Rule §101.9101, Texas Administrative Code) The Texas State Independent Living Council is also free to raise additional funds from other sources, both public and private, to accomplish its mission.

While the Texas State Independent Living Council has an effective collaborative working relationship with Texas Health and Human Services Commission and other state agencies, the organization is recognized and operates as an independent entity with autonomy in its daily operations, development and implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living, and advocacy for Independent Living issues for Texans with disabilities. The Texas State Independent Living Council is an objective entity that organically connects the Independent Living network for the good of individuals with disabilities and is an ideal catalyst for implementing change using stakeholder feedback and leveraging contacts to develop innovative solutions.

5.3 Appointment and Composition – 34 CFR 364.21(b) – (f)

Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the Texas State Independent Living Council who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b).

- **Refer to the State Plan for Independent Living Instructions for more information about completing this section.**

Members of the Texas State Independent Living Council are appointed by the Governor and serve on a voluntary basis. Potential nominees meeting established criteria for cross-disability representation, geographic coverage, knowledge of Independent Living, etc. are submitted for consideration to the Governor’s Office when vacancies arise. While the Texas State Independent Living Council may identify and make recommendations of potential candidates for Council membership to the Governor’s appointments office, the Texas State Independent Living Council does not have the power to nominate members. Those wishing to serve on the Texas State Independent Living Council are encouraged to apply with the Governor’s office directly.

Composition of the Texas State Independent Living Council is reflected in Appendix B, which is used as a tool to track compliance with the requirements for Texas State Independent Living Council composition defined in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The Texas State Independent Living Council consists of 10 Council Members and four Ex-Officio Council Members; however, the organization is likely to increase in size in FY17. Recently, the Council indicated support to increase the voting Council Members from 10 to 12 Members. Additionally, Section 705(b)(1)(C) of the Rehabilitation Act provides specific provisions for the composition of the Texas State Independent Living Council regarding Ex-Officio members. The section requires the Texas State Independent Living Council to include representatives of Texas agencies that represent individuals with disabilities. As such, the Texas State Independent Living Council is likely to increase in size to include representatives from State agencies as Ex-Officio members on the Council. Additional representation from the following agencies may include:

- Texas Workforce Commission;
- Texas Education Agency;
- Texas Department of Transportation;
- Texas Veteran’s Commission; and
- Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers’ Compensation.

5.4 Staffing – 34 CFR 364.21(j)

Describe how the following Texas State Independent Living Council staffing requirements will be met:

- SILC supervision and evaluation, consistent with State law, of its staff and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions.**
- Non-assignment of duties to SILC staff and other personnel made available by the DSU, or any other State agency or office, that would create a conflict of interest while assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties.**

Responsibilities for supervision and evaluation of the Texas State Independent Living Council Executive Director lie primarily with the Texas State Independent Living Council Chair. An annual evaluation of the Executive Director is standard protocol with input from the Texas State Independent Living Council Executive Committee. The Executive Director supervises and evaluates the performance of any other staff. All employees of the Texas State Independent Living Council shall receive a periodic written evaluation of their job performance. Employees shall be evaluated upon completion of the probationary period. Formal written evaluation shall be conducted at least annually thereafter. However, the Texas State Independent Living Council and/or the Executive Director may conduct employee evaluations at any time as appropriate.

Texas State Independent Living Council personnel are not employed by the Designated State Entity or any other state agency. The Designated State Entity does not have authority to hire, evaluate, or otherwise control Texas State Independent Living Council personnel. Particular attention is paid regarding personnel assignments to avoid any conflict of interest in relation to carrying out Texas State Independent Living Council-related duties. Conflict of interest policies are included in employee policy and procedure documents and Council bylaws.

Section 6: Service Provider Requirements

Describe how the following service provider requirements will be met:

6.1 Staffing – 34 CFR 364.23; 34 CFR 364.24; 34 CFR 364.31

- Inclusion of personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of Independent Living Services and in the development and support of Centers for Independent Living.**
- Availability, to the maximum extent feasible, of personnel able to communicate (1) with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille, or audio tapes and (2) in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive Independent Living Services under Title VII of the Act.**
- Establishment and maintenance of a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing Independent Living Services and, where**

appropriate, in administering the Center for Independent Living program, improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of Independent Living Services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy.

- **Affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act.**

General Independent Living Services Personnel Requirements:

Staff Members with Disabilities

The Independent Living Service Provider's organizational and personnel assignment practices, as documented in written board policy, must comply with Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act, including taking affirmative action to employ and promote qualified individuals with significant disabilities. An Independent Living Service Provider must also document that the majority of its staff members, including members in decision-making positions, are people with disabilities.

Staff Qualifications

The Independent Living Service Provider's staff members must include specialists in developing and providing Independent Living Services and in developing and supporting a Center for Independent Living. To the greatest extent possible, personnel should be available who are able to communicate:

- with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, braille, or audiotapes;
- with people who apply for or receive IL services under Title VII of the Act; and
- in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under Title VII of the Act.

In accordance with the Independent Living Standards, staff managing independent living services cases, determining eligibility, and providing or coordinating services for adults who have a significant disability must have a bachelor's degree in an appropriate field. This degree requires a minimum of one-year experience in rehabilitation or two years' experience in providing similar independent living services for individuals who have a significant disability.

Staff Training and Development

The Independent Living Service Provider must establish and maintain a program of staff development for those involved in providing Independent Living Services. Staff development programs should emphasize improving the skills of staff members directly responsible for providing Independent Living Services, including knowledge and practice of the Independent Living philosophy. An Independent Living Service Provider must provide training to its staff on how to serve unserved and underserved populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations, as evidenced by in-service training records.

6.2 Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting – 34 CFR 364.34

- **Adoption of those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for funds made available through parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act, in addition to complying with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements.**

Fiscal control and fund accounting procedures and requirements are included in the Standards for Providers and the Independent Living Program Standards Manual. Compliance with requirements is examined during the application process before contracts are authorized. Compliance is reviewed as part of routine contract monitoring activities.

Centers for Independent Living receiving Part C funds comply with federal fiscal regulations as outlined under the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR § 200).

6.3 Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting – 34 CFR 364.35; 34 CFR 364.36; 34 CFR 364.37

- **Maintenance of records that fully disclose and document the information listed in 34 CFR 364.35.**
- **Submission of annual performance and financial reports, and any other reports that the Secretary determines to be appropriate**
- **Access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews, to the information listed in 34 CFR 364.37.**

Financial Management System

As outlined in the Independent Living Standards: The financial management system of the Independent Living Services provider must provide for the following:

- Identification, in its accounts, of all federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received. Federal award Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance numbers will be provided as invoices are received and reimbursements are made.
- Accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each federal award or program in accordance with the reporting requirements set forth under 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200, Uniform Guidance (UGG), Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards 200.327 Financial reporting, and 200.328 Monitoring and reporting program performance.
- Records that identify adequately the source and application of funds for federally funded activities, to contain information pertaining to federal awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, expenditures, income and interest and be supported by source documentation.

- Effective control over, and accountability for, all funds, property, and other assets.
- Comparison of expenditures with budget amounts for each federal award.
- Written procedures to implement the requirements of 2 CFR, §200.305 Payment.
- Written procedures for determining the allowability of costs in accordance with 2 CFR, Part 200, Subpart E—Cost Principles of this part and the terms and conditions of the federal award.

The Independent Living Services provider must maintain an accounting system and records in which separate records are maintained for each funding source provided by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and other funding sources. A cost center/objective must be set up for the Independent Living Services program contract separate from other Texas Health and Human Services Commission grants or contracts.

The Independent Living Services provider must be able to account for Independent Living Services program costs applicable to consumers served in accordance with the rules in the 40 TAC Chapter 104, Independent Living Services and 40 TAC Chapter 106, Subchapter D, Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB), and with these standards. The methods used to account for these costs, as documented, recorded and tracked, include:

- identifying eligible consumers served, including OIB, and recording services provided from intake to closure;
- setting up separate account codes for budget categories applicable to costs for services provided and other non-purchased service costs, including OIB;
- establishing a system for employees to record the time and/or resources spent and the costs salaries and wages and fringe benefits based on records that accurately reflect work performed, including for OIB consumers;
- recording and allocating all expenses applicable to program activities by budget category, including activities related to older individuals who are blind;
- reporting separate expenses by funding sources on invoices that bill for Independent Living Services Program costs, including older individuals who are blind; and
- entering information in the Independent Living Services Data Reporting System as required, including entering data related to older individuals who are blind.

Audit Requirements: In accordance with contract assurances, all Independent Living Services providers are required to obtain an annual financial audit conducted by an independent auditor in compliance with generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS), as published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

- The Independent Living Services provider must arrange for a financial and compliance audit (Single Audit) if required in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Guidance, Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards and/or Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS) State of Texas Audit Circular.
- If a Single Audit is not required, the service provider shall obtain an annual audit of its financial statements.

The Independent Living Services provider will be given instructions for audit submission to the

Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Centers for Independent Living receiving Part C funds comply with federal fiscal regulations as outlined under the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR § 200).

6.4 Eligibility – 34 CFR 364.40; 34 CFR 364.41

- **Eligibility of any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), for Independent Living Services under the State Independent Living Services and Center for Independent Living programs.**
- **Ability of any individual to seek information about Independent Living Services under these programs and to request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities.**
- **Determination of an individual's eligibility for Independent Living Services under the State Independent Living Services and Center for Independent Living programs in a manner that meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51.**
- **Application of eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the individual applying for Independent Living Services.**
- **Non-exclusion from receiving Independent Living Services of any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for Independent Living Services, based on the imposition of any State or local residence requirement.**

To be eligible for Independent Living Services, a consumer must:

- have a significant disability as defined in Independent Living Standards; and
- be present in Texas.

Eligibility requirements are applied without regard to a person's age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or length of time present in Texas.

Eligibility is determined by the Independent Living Services provider, based on the documented diagnosis of a licensed practitioner, and information gathered from the consumer to define their ability to benefit from services and reach Independent Living goals. All source records gathered to document eligibility should be maintained entered as part of the consumer service record.

The Independent Living Services provider must document the eligibility decision, including the records of diagnosis from a licensed practitioner, in the consumer service record.

Once a consumer is determined to be eligible for services, the Independent Living Services provider:

1. gathers financial information from the consumer to include the most recent federal tax return or documents to assess and confirm household size, gross income and allowable expenses;
2. verifies the benefits of all consumers who may be covered for independent living services by comparable services or benefits and maintains all related documentation;
3. assesses the consumer's ability to pay according to the federal poverty limit guidelines; and

4. notifies the consumer, or the consumer's representative, in writing about the eligibility decision and the assessment of ability to pay and the anticipated percentage to be applied as fee for service.

Ineligibility:

If an Independent Living Services provider determines that a consumer is not eligible based on the eligibility criteria, the service provider documents the determination of ineligibility and provides the Texas Health and Human Services Commission with a copy that is signed and dated by the service provider's executive director or designee. This ineligibility determination should be filed in the consumer service record along with any supporting documentation.

The Independent Living Services provider may determine a consumer to be ineligible for independent living services only after consultation with the consumer or after providing a clear opportunity for consultation.

6.5 Independent Living Plans – 34 CFR 364.43(c)

- **Provision of Independent Living Services in accordance with an IL plan complying with Sec. 364.52 and mutually agreed upon by the individuals with significant disabilities and the appropriate service provider staff unless the individual signs a waiver stating that an IL plan is unnecessary.**

After determining eligibility, the next step in the independent living services process is to develop the Independent Living Plan or waived Independent Living Plan.

The Independent Living Services provider uses all available information to counsel with the consumer regarding service options available to help the consumer:

- identify the independent living goals;
- complete the consumer cost participation requirements; and
- develop the Independent Living Plan or waived Independent Living Plan.

All Consumers served by Centers for Independent Living supported by federal or state sources develop an Independent Living Plan. The consumer may choose to waive participation in developing a plan by signing a waiver that documents this choice.

6.6 Client Assistance Program (CAP) Information – 34 CFR 364.30

- **Use of accessible formats to notify individuals seeking or receiving Independent Living Services under chapter 1 of title VII about the availability of the CAP program, the purposes of the services provided under the CAP, and how to contact the CAP.**

As outlined in the Independent Living Standards, the Client Assistance Program (CAP) is a federally-funded program created by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Client Assistance Program helps inform and advise all consumers or applicants of all available benefits under the Act. The Client Assistance Program also helps and advocates for consumers or applicants in their relationships with projects, programs, and service providers under the Act. The Client Assistance

Program has the ability to pursue legal, administrative, or other appropriate remedies to ensure protection of the rights of such consumers.

The Client Assistance Program was created to:

- Provide information about the services and benefits from the Independent Living Program
- Inform applicants and consumers of their rights in the Independent living program
- Assist and advocate for clients in their relationships with Independent Living Program and Centers for Independent Living
- Assist consumers and applicants in understanding and using the appeals process,
- Assist in individual and systemic advocacy in relation to the Independent Living Program, including addressing policy issues and changes.

Centers for Independent Living and Independent Living Services providers must use accessible formats to notify individuals with disabilities who are prospective or current consumers about

- the availability of the CAP,
- the purposes of the services provided under the CAP, and
- how to contact the CAP.

Centers for Independent Living and Independent Living Service providers should notify clients of the Client Assistance Program at application, the development of the Independent Living Plan, and anytime services are reduced, suspended or terminated.

6.7 Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information – 34 CFR 364.56(a)

- **Adoption and implementation of policies and procedures meeting the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a), to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names.**

The service provider adopts and implements policies and procedures to safeguard confidential personal information, including photographs and lists of names.

These policies and procedures comply with 34 Code of Federal Regulations, §364.56, and assure that:

- specific safeguards protect current and stored personal information;
- all consumers of independent living services and, as appropriate, consumers’ representatives, and interested persons are informed and the conditions for gaining access to and releasing this information; and
- all consumers and consumers’ representatives are informed about the service providers need to collect personal information, and the policies governing its use.

In addition to requirements above, the service provider complies with the information and security and confidentiality requirements in the contract uniform terms and conditions.

Federally-funded Centers for Independent Living comply with confidentiality requirements established by ACL. No information concerning a Consumer, including a photo of a Consumer,

is released to another individual or entity without signed authorization from the Consumer. Consumer service records are maintained in secured files.

Section 7: Evaluation

Describe the method that will be used to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the plan in meeting the objectives established in Section 1. The description must include the State's evaluation of satisfaction by individuals with significant disabilities who have participated in the program. 34 CFR 364.38

Implementation Plan:

The evaluation of the implementation of the State Plan will be performed by the Texas State Independent Living Council staff and reported to the Texas State Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living on a semi-annual basis. An annual report summary will be included in the Texas State Independent Living Council's annual 704 Report and will be posted on the Texas State Independent Living Council website for review by the public. Evaluation findings will be used to discuss needed improvements, revisions, or changes to the State Plan. Information and data on participation, resources, and activities underway will be collected from State Plan for Independent Living partners in the IL Network.

Progress on Objectives Plan:

The evaluation of the progress on objectives of the State Plan will be performed by the Texas State Independent Living Council on a quarterly basis. An annual report will be included in the Texas State Independent Living Council's annual 704 report and a summary will be posted on the Texas State Independent Living Council website for review by the public. Evaluation findings will be used to discuss needed improvements and possible revisions to objectives, targets, or indicators. Information and data will be evaluated for each objective, its corresponding activities, and indicators (see Section 1.2A) as appropriate as it is received from State Plan for Independent Living partners in the IL Network.

Consumer Satisfaction Plan:

The evaluation of consumer satisfaction on a statewide basis will be conducted by the Texas State Independent Living Council annually based on evaluations conducted by the Center for Independent Living Network. The Texas State Independent Living Council will work with the Centers for Independent Living to include a standard set of questions within their own consumer satisfaction tools to ensure continuity of data across the Network for this purpose. The data and conclusions will be reported in the aggregate to the Texas State Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living, and the Designated State Entity. A summary of the conclusions and findings will be posted online via the Texas State Independent Living Council website for viewing by the public. The findings will be used to make recommendations for service delivery improvements.

Section 8: State-Imposed Requirements

Identify any State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this State Plan for Independent Living. Indicate N/A if not applicable. 34 CFR 364.20(h)

Waiting List

Independent Living Services are provided when funding is available. When funding is not available for purchased services in the Independent Living Services program, the Independent Living Service provider maintains a waiting list.

A consumer is placed on a waiting list by the service provider when:

- the consumer meets the eligibility requirements for the program. and
- the consumer has a signed Independent Living Plan or a signed waiver and there is no funding for the purchase service; therefore, the consumer is placed on the waiting list until funds are available.

The waiting list is reviewed every six months by the service provider to determine whether consumers are still eligible for or interested in services. Consumers are removed from the waiting list when funding becomes available for the purchased service, or if the consumer is no longer eligible, or the consumer is no longer interested in the purchased service.

APPENDIX A: Signatures of CIL Directors

Marilyn Hancock; ABLE Center for Independent Living

Ronald Rocha; ARCIL INC., ARCIL San Marcos, Williamson County Center for Independent Living Services

Jackie Pacha; Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living

Sandra Bookman; CBFL/Houston Center for Independent Living, CBFL/Brazoria County Center for Independent Living, CBFL/Fort Bend Center for Independent Living

Linda Fallwell Stover; Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living

Sara Minton; Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living, Palestine Resource Center for Independent Living

Leah Beltran, Disability In Action

Laura Mattheis; East Texas Center for Independent Living

Peggy Cosner; Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Inc.

Michelle Crain; LIFE Inc. - Disability Connections, LIFE Inc. - LIFE/RUN

Perry Hunter; Mounting Horizons

Joe Rogers; Panhandle Independent Living Center

Charlotte Stewart; REACH of Plano Resource Center on Independent Living, REACH of Denton Resource Center on Independent Living, REACH of Dallas Resource Center on Independent Living, REACH of Ft. Worth Resource Center on Independent Living

James Brocato; RISE Center

Dr. Kitty Brietzke; San Antonio Independent Living Services

Susan Nelson; Valley Association for Independent Living-Rio Grande Valley, Valley Association for Independent Living-South Texas

Luis Enrique Chew; Volar Center for Independent Living

APPENDIX B: Texas State Independent Living Council Composition

Jimmy Batchelor, Chair
County: Delta
Term: Expires October 24, 2017
Position: Person with a disability

Lynne Richardson, Vice Chair
County: Williamson
Term: Expires October 24, 2017
Position: Person with a disability

Karen Swearingen, Treasurer
County: Dallas
Term: Expires October 24, 2016
Position: Parent of a person with a disability

Shannon Alexander, Secretary
County: Brazos
Term: Expires October 24, 2017
Position: Person with a disability

Jim Brocato, Council Member
County: Jefferson
Term: Expires October 24, 2018
Position: Center for Independent Living
Director

Mack Marsh, Jr., Council Member
County: Williamson
Term: Expires October 24, 2018
Position: Person with a disability

Paul Luther, Council Member
County: Williamson

Term: Expires October 24, 2017
Position: Business Representative

Colton Read, Council Member
County: Comal
Term: Expires October 24, 2016
Person with a disability

Ralph Jones, Ph.D.
County: Cameron
Term: Expires October 24, 2018
Position: Person with a disability

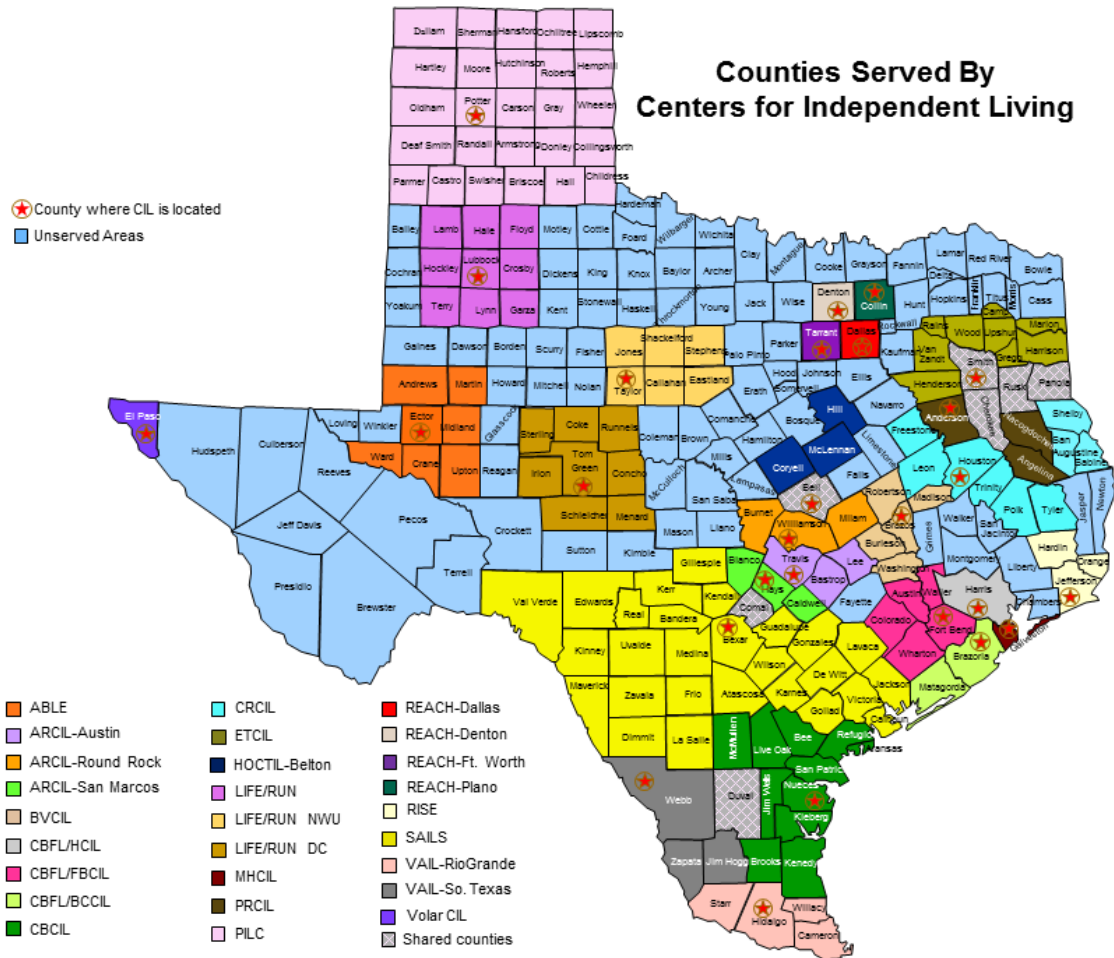
Martha Bagley, Department of Assistive and
Rehabilitative Services
October 24, 2017
Position: Ex-Officio

Jonas Schwartz, Department of Assistive and
Rehabilitative Services
October 24, 2017
Position: Ex-Officio

Terri Richard, Texas Department of Housing
and Community Affairs
October 24, 2016
Position: Ex-Officio

Wesley Yeager, Texas Department of Aging
and Disability Services
October 24, 2017
Position: Ex-Officio

APPENDIX C: Texas Center for Independent Living Coverage Map



APPENDIX D: Center for Independent Living Expansion Map

