

**TEXAS STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**

**CHAPTER 1, TITLE VII OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973,  
AS AMENDED**

**STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES PROGRAM  
PART B**

**CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM  
PART C**

**FISCAL YEARS 2021-2023**

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## **Executive Summary**

### **Purpose**

The State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) is a three-year strategic plan that provides the framework for the delivery of Independent Living services in Texas. The mission of the SPIL is to empower Texans with disabilities to live as independently as they choose.

### **Partnerships**

There are several partnerships that provide for the provision of Independent Living Services in Texas. Notably, Texans with disabilities serve as the lead of the consumer-controlled Independent Living services. The public input from Texans with disabilities and consumers of Independent Living services has been received through public hearings, townhalls, surveys, and other means has been incorporated and serves as the foundation of this SPIL. Other partners in the development and implementation of the SPIL include the following:

- The Texas Network for Independent Living consists of 27 Centers for Independent Living (CILs) that provide direct services to the over six million Texans with disabilities and seniors.
- The Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC) provides for the development, monitoring, and the evaluation of the State Plan for Independent Living that establishes a framework and guides the Network's delivery of Independent Living services.
- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) serves as the Designated State Entity (DSE) for Texas and provides administration, training, technical assistance, budget support, and oversight of state and federal resources.

### **Background**

Title VII, Chapter 1 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (the Act), establishes the Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living programs. The purpose is to:

- promote the independent living philosophy, based on consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access and individual and systems advocacy;
- maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities; and

- promote the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

The Independent Living Services Program, funded under Part B of Chapter 1 of the Act, makes available financial assistance to Texas for providing, expanding, and improving the provision of Independent Living services. The program also provides for the:

- development and support of the statewide network CILs;
- improvements in working relationships between the SILC, the CILs, and the DSE in each State; and
- collaboration among the Independent Living services program, the CILs, and other programs that address the needs of individuals with significant disabilities.

The CIL program, funded under Part C of Chapter 1 of the Act, provides financial assistance for planning, conducting, administering and evaluating centers for independent living that comply with specific standards and assurances (Section 725 of the Act) and that reflect the State's design for the establishment of a statewide network of centers detailed in the State Plan for Independent Living.

To be eligible to receive Part B and Part C funding, a state needs to submit an approvable three-year SPIL to the Administration for Community Living / Independent Living Administration (ACL/OILP). The Texas SILC is responsible for developing the SPIL after receiving public input from individuals with disabilities throughout the State. While the development of the SPIL is a SILC duty, the SILC and CIL Directors should be partners in the development process. The SPIL should serve as a blueprint for the Independent Living Network in the Texas. The SPIL must be signed by the Texas SILC Chairperson, acting on behalf of and at the direction of the SILC, not less than 51 percent of the CIL Directors in Texas, and the Executive Commissioner of HHSC before submission to ACL/OILP.

### **SPIL Development and Implementation**

The SPIL encompasses the activities planned by the Texas Independent Living Network to achieve specified independent living objectives and reflects the State's commitment to comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements during the three years covered by the plan. The SPIL must identify the DSE, and the DSE must sign the plan indicating agreement that it will serve as the DSE and fulfill all the responsibilities in Sec. 704(c) of the Act including complying with the aforementioned assurances during the three-year period of this SPIL. The SILC prepares, in

conjunction with the DSE, a plan for the provision of resources as may be necessary and sufficient to carry out the functions of the SILC (Sec 704(e)(1); 45 CFR 1329.15(c)).

States are required to gather public input prior to its submission and on any revisions to the approved state plan before drafting the SPIL. The public input requirement may be met by methods and technologies of all types but must meet the requirements of 1329.17(f)(2).

The SPIL consists of narrative sections describing the Independent Living objectives, services, activities, and operational details as well as a series of assurances, or statements of compliance, based on legal and regulatory provisions governing the Independent Living Services and CIL programs.

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

### **1.1 Mission:**

#### **Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL:**

The mission of the Texas Independent Living Network is to empower Texans with disabilities to live as independently as they choose.

### **1.2 Goals:**

#### **Goals of the Independent Living Network for the three-year period of the plan:**

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

Goal 2—Community Integration: Individuals with disabilities receive the community integration and community-based living supports needed to be more independent.

Goal 3—Network Capacity and Sustainability: The Independent Living Network operates effectively, is adequately funded, and has the capacity to expand.

### **1.3 Objectives**

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

Goal 1—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;
- Number of outreach toolkits/trainings provided to boards/commissions
- Number of outreach toolkits/trainings for advocates

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2023: Boards/Commissions are identified; advocate and board toolkits or other trainings provided.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: Boards and commissions that have disabilities represented are identified; Boards and commissions targeted for outreach are identified; Texans with disabilities are encouraged to apply for boards and commissions and technical assistance is provided.
- FY22: Boards and commissions that have disabilities represented are identified; Boards and Commissions targeted for outreach are identified; Texans with disabilities are encouraged to apply for boards and commissions and technical assistance is provided.
- FY23: Boards and commissions that have disabilities represented are identified; Boards and commissions targeted for outreach are identified; Texans with disabilities are encouraged to apply for boards and commissions and technical assistance is provided.

Activities:

- Identify the boards and commissions that do not 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;
- Distribute outreach toolkit for boards/commissions to bring awareness to disability types and their influence; and
- 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

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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 distributed for consumer support for personal care attendant issues; and
- Number of activities to increase awareness of consumer-directed services to consumers.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2023: 225 advocacy activities on personal care attendant issues over three years; 450 consumer support toolkits distributed; 150 activities on increasing awareness of consumer directed services for consumers.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: 75 advocacy activities on personal care attendant issues; distribute 150 consumer support toolkit; 25 activities to increase awareness of consumer-directed services for consumers.
- FY22: 75 advocacy activities on personal care attendant issues; distribute 150 consumer support toolkits; 50 activities to increase awareness of consumer-directed services for consumers.
- FY23: 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; and
- Support the consumer in effectively communicating and addressing issues with their personal care attendant.

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, Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

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

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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;
- Number of activities to increase awareness in the disability community;
- Develop one, comprehensive, statewide emergency management plan with Memorandum of Agreement template for SILC and CIL use to manage resources in an emergency.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for FY21-23: 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 FY21-23:

- FY21: five advocacy activities at the state level; 20 advocacy activities at the local level; 20 advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community; develop the statewide emergency plan.
- FY22: five advocacy activities at the state level; 20 advocacy activities at the local level; 20 advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community; develop the statewide emergency plan.
- FY23: five advocacy activities at the state level; 20 advocacy activities at the local level; 20 advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community; complete and distribute the statewide emergency plan to IL Network for use.

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; and
- Develop Independent Living Network emergency management plan.

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 Division of Emergency Management; 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

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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; and
- Number of transportation summits or trainings held.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for FY21-23: five advocacy activities with Texas Legislature on policy changes; 400 advocacy activities for expanded accessible

transportation; 50 people trained as advocates for accessible transportation; one transportation summit held.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: 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; one transportation summit held.
- FY22: 5 advocacy activities with the Texas Legislature on policy changes; 10 advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation.
- FY23: 5 advocacy activities with the Texas Legislature on policy changes; 10 advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation.

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; and
- Advocate for additional Center for Independent Living activities with local transportation planning commissions, boards

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

Potential Partners: Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities; Texas Department of Transportation; Texas Transportation Institute; Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities; 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

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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; and
- Number of housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Scope: Statewide; Local

Target Performance Levels for FY21-23: 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 FY21-23:

- FY21: 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; five housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- FY22: 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; five housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- FY23: 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; five 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 Council for Developmental Disabilities; 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; Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities Funds; Unrestricted Funds

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Goal 2—Community Integration: Individuals with Disabilities receive the community integration and community-based living supports needed to be more independent.

Objective 2.1—Youth Transition: Youth with disabilities access and utilize transition services provided by Centers for Independent Living and other providers.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of outreach contacts 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, populations, or races; and
- Increase in youth consumers served by Centers for Independent Living.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for FY21-23: 75 outreach activities 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.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: 25 outreach activities 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.
- FY22: 25 outreach activities 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.
- FY23: 25 outreach activities 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.

Activities:

- Reach out to school systems regarding participating in Admission, Review, and Dismissal meetings or reach out to education service centers;
- Attend Transition fairs or education trainings;
- 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

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Objective 2.2—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, rehabilitation 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 FY21-23: 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 FY21-23:

- FY21: 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.
- FY22: 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.
- FY23: 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;
- Report on relocation contract activities;
- 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

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

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Objective 2.3—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 FY21-23: 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 FY21-23:

- FY21: 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 use disorders, and youth; 50 education opportunities for parents or consumers on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.
- FY22: 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 use disorders, and youth; 50 education opportunities for parents or consumers on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.
- FY23: 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 use 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 Health and Human Services Commission, Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority, Texas Medical Board, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, Veterans Affairs

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

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Goal 3—Network Capacity and Sustainability: The Independent Living Network operates effectively, is adequately funded, and has the capacity to expand.

Objective 3.1—Independent Living 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 funding sources secured to assist in providing Independent Living Services in the community;
- Technical assistance requested and provided to appropriate parties;
- Number of community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for FY21-23: 15 new funding sources secured to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; technical

assistance provided to appropriate parties; 120 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: Five new funding sources secured to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; technical assistance provided to appropriate parties; 30 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.
- FY22: Five new funding sources secured to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; technical assistance provided to appropriate parties; 30 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.
- FY23: Five new funding sources secured to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; 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;
- 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 Rehabilitation Association; Administration on Community Living

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

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Objective 3.2—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 FY21-23: 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 FY21-23:

- FY21: 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; four 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.
- FY22: 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; four 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.
- FY23: 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; four 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 or alternative locations;
- 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 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

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Objective 3.3—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; and
- Percent of Centers for Independent Living adhering to federal reporting guidelines.

Scope: Statewide Network of Centers for Independent Living

Target Performance Levels for FY21-23:

- FY21: 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 or state and federal agencies on the success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services; 100 percent providing annual Program Performance Reports/704 Reports (or other federally required reports) to the Texas State Independent Living Council.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: 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 or state and federal agencies on the success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services; 100 percent providing annual Program Performance Report/704 Report (or other federally required reports) to the Texas State Independent Living Council.
- FY22: 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 or state and federal agencies on the success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services; 100 percent providing annual Program Performance Report/704 Report (or other federally required reports) to the Texas State Independent Living Council.
- FY23: 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 or state and federal agencies on the success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services; 100 percent providing annual Program Performance Report/704 Report (or other federally required reports) to the Texas State Independent Living Council.

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; and
- Provide outreach to Texas Legislature to state or federal agencies (e.g. Texas Health and Human Services Commission; Texas Workforce Commission; Administration on Community Living) on success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services on a regular basis

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 Workforce Commission

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

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#### **1.4 Evaluation**

**Methods and processes the SILC will use to evaluate the effectiveness of the SPIL including timelines and evaluation of satisfaction of individuals with disabilities.**

The Texas State Independent Living Council will use a three-tiered approach in providing evaluation and analysis of the State Plan for Independent Living:

##### 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 semi-annual 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 as appropriate as it is received Centers for Independent Living.

##### 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 an annual basis. An annual report summary will be included in the Texas State Independent Living Council's annual Program Performance Report/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 Independent Living Network.

##### Consumer Satisfaction Plan:

Consumer satisfaction measures input from consumers about benefits received from provider services. 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 and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, as the Designated State Entity, have worked 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. At a minimum, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, through its Standards for Independent Living Providers (Section 1.28.3), requires the following:

*“Each provider may develop its own survey instrument and procedure. However, at a minimum, the survey instrument must use a Likert scale and include the following statements:*

- I was treated in a friendly, caring and respectful manner by the staff of [insert provider name].*
- Services were provided in a timely manner.*
- The services met my needs.*
- I was satisfied with the services provided.*

	<i>Likert Scale</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Neither agree or disagree</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Agree</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>

*All consumers, both successful and unsuccessful, must be given the opportunity to respond.*

*The provider must calculate an average consumer rating on the Likert scale for each of the four required statements.”*

The data regarding consumer satisfaction will be reported from Texas Centers for Independent Living to the Texas State Independent Living Council and the Designated State Entity. The Texas SILC will develop a summary of findings and conclusions and share them with the Texas Independent Living Network, Designated State Entity, and the public for view by posting the information on the Texas State Independent Living Council website: [www.txsilc.org](http://www.txsilc.org). The findings will be used to make recommendations for service delivery improvements.

### 1.5 Financial Plan

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

Fiscal Year(s):					
Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
	SILC Resource Plan	Independent Living Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities relating to the CARES Act for FY21 only	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
<b>Title VII Funds</b>					
Chapter 1, Part B	\$409,564	\$300,000	\$840,437	\$0	\$0
Chapter 1, Part C	\$0	\$0	\$5,985,616	\$0	
<b>Other Federal Funds</b>					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Social Security Reimbursement (SSA-VR)	\$0	\$7,717,986	\$597,767	\$0	
CARES Act Funds (FY21 only)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,134,327	
<b>Total Federal Funds</b>	\$409,564	\$8,017,986	\$7,423,820	\$6,134,327	
<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>					
State Funds: General Revenue/State Match		\$924,543	\$1,262,279		
<b>Total Funding</b>	\$409,564	\$8,942,529	\$8,686,099	\$6,134,327	

## **Description of financial plan narrative.**

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission serves as the Designated State Entity that receives the federal and state funds and provides oversight and accounting for the funds. The Texas Independent Living Network consists of 27 Centers for Independent Living and the State Independent Living Council and is funded primarily from a combination of three funding sources: Title VII Funds, both Part B and Part C; Social Security Vocational Rehabilitation reimbursements (SSA-VR); and Texas General Revenue Funds. Other funding sources, such as grants and donations, are also available to members of the Independent Living Network, but those funding sources and opportunities are not covered in this section.

Title VII Part B and Part C funding furthers the State Plan for Independent Living goals and objectives. Part B funds are received by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission as the Designated State Entity with the use of State of Texas General Revenue funds satisfying Texas' match requirement of 10 percent to obtain the funding. The Designated State Entity may use up to five percent of Part B funds for administrative cost but does not. Part B funds support the SILC. More regarding the SILC and its Resource Plan may be found in Section 5.

Part B funds designated for the Independent Living Services program in the amount of \$300,000 are evenly divided by 13 Centers (ABLE Center for Independent Living, ARCIL Inc., Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living, Crocket Resource Center for Independent Living, Disability In Action, Houston Center for Independent Living, Heart of Central Texas Center for Independent Living, LIFE Inc.—LIFE/RUN, Panhandle Independent Living Center, RISE Center, San Antonio Independent Living Services, Valley Association for Independent Living—Rio Grande Valley, and Volar Center for Independent Living) with each receiving approximately \$23,077.

Part B funds designated for base operations for Centers for Independent Living that do not receive General Revenue are divided amongst nine Centers. Crocket Resource Center for Independent Living, LIFE Inc.—LIFE/RUN, Panhandle Independent Living Center, REACH Resource Center for Independent Living of Fort Worth, San Antonio Independent Living Services, Valley Association for Independent Living—Rio Grande Valley, and Volar Center for Independent Living each receive approximately \$97,131. Both ARCIL Inc. and CBFL/Houston Center for Independent Living each receive

approximately \$74,660. Additionally, REACH of Fort Worth Resource Center on Independent Living receives \$11,200 Part B for a special project.

State and federal funds are coordinated in order to provide Independent Living Services on a statewide basis. Specifically, \$1,550,001 is provided in Part B funding for the provision of Independent Living Services along with \$8,315,753 in funding from SSA-VR and \$2,186,822 in State General Revenue.

Funding for the base operations of Centers for Independent Living is coordinated as well. Part C Funds are provided to 21 of the 27 Centers for Independent Living in Texas directly from the Administration on Community Living to serve as base funding. In sum, 21 Centers receive \$5,985,616 in Part C funding, nine Centers receive Part B funding, eight Centers receive \$1,439,283 in SSA-VR funding, and five Centers receive \$1,325,676 in State General Revenue funding.

The following represents the base funding sources for each of 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. Valley Association for Independent Living-South Texas

**State General Revenue and State SSA-VR Funded Centers for Independent Living**

1. REACH of Plano Resource Center on Independent Living

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

1. REACH of Fort Worth Resource Center on Independent Living

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

1. Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living
2. LIFE Inc. - LIFE/RUN
3. Panhandle Independent Living Center
4. San Antonio Independent Living Services
5. Valley Association for Independent Living-Rio Grande Valley
6. Volar Center for Independent Living

**Federal Part B and Federal Part C Funded Centers for Independent Living**



1. ARCIL INC.
2. CBFL/Houston Center for Independent Living

### **Federal Part C Funded Centers for Independent Living**

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

### Contract Administration and Management

Texas Health and Human Services Commission provides services to receive, deposit, and disburse state and federal funds allocated for the Texas State Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living's general operations and Independent Living Services program. Texas Health and Human Services Commission provides administration, budget, and support services as a partner of the State Plan for Independent Living and follows generally accepted accounting procedures and satisfies the requirements of Title VII Designated State Entity requirements.

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 to provide purchased services pursuant to Texas Human Resources Code §117.079. These service providers include Centers for Independent Living and other organizations or persons skilled in the delivery of Independent Living Services. Training and technical assistance are provided for service providers under the Independent Living Services (ILS) Program, in accordance with Texas Human Resources Code §117.080(e), and Chapter 104 Independent Living Services. Texas Health and Human Services Commission evaluates the Independent Living Services provided to consumers and gives technical assistance and training, as needed, to help the service provider offer a full range of independent living purchased services according to the Independent Living Services rules and Standards for Providers.

Documentation obtained from the contract application and monitoring activities provide input that can be used to develop or improve the technical assistance and training opportunities offered to individual service providers. Contract managers and other Texas Health and Human Services Commission staff members provide technical assistance, as needed, throughout the term of the contract. Technical assistance may include help to expand a service provider's capacity to provide a full range of independent living services. Contracts with service providers that provide services under the Independent Living Services Program are monitored in accordance with the Health and Human Services System Contract Management Handbook (CMH) published pursuant to Texas Government Code §2261.256, on the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts webpage.

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 consumers who receive services, to ensure delivery of quality goods and services, and to protect the financial interest of the state. Monitoring includes planned, ongoing, periodic, or unscheduled activities that cover financial, programmatic, and administrative components.

The Independent Living Services Program adheres to all applicable federal and state monitoring laws. In addition, federal law is incorporated in the monitoring process by following the federal Uniform Grant Guidelines and Rehabilitation Act.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission contracts with the Centers for Independent Living to provide Independent Living Services using Part B Funding. The full contract amount for each provider's service area will be made up of other funding sources such as State General Revenue and Social Security Administration-Vocation Rehabilitation (SSA-VR) funds as noted in Financial Tables. Thirteen Centers for Independent Living in Texas, as recognized by this plan, are eligible to receive the Part B Funds for the Independent Living Services Program with funds being evenly distributed among each Center. All Part B funds can be rolled over pursuant unexpended balance authority from one fiscal year to the next within the biennium as long as allowable under state and federal law. At the end of the fiscal year, Texas Health and Human Services Commission will reallocate any unspent Part B funds to the same contractor to which they were allocated through a contract amendment. Any unexpended balance funds or roll over funds must be spent by the end of the next fiscal year within the biennium.

## The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act:

The CARES Act was passed by the United States Congress on March 27th, 2020. This one-time approximately \$2.3 trillion economic relief package is designed to protecting the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The CARES Act is designed to provide economic assistance to workers and small businesses, including Centers for Independent Living.

The State of Texas did not receive additional funding for Independent Living Services; therefore, only Part C funded Centers for Independent Living received the funds. The one-time distribution of CARES Act funding must be obligated by September 30, 2021 and liquidated within 90 days (December 31, 2021). Part C funded Centers for Independent Living that received CARES Act funds totaling \$6,134,327 are as follows:

1. ABLE Center for Independent Living: \$286,761
2. ARCIL Inc.: \$481,893
3. ARCIL San Marcos: \$242,634
4. ARCIL Round Rock: \$236,965
5. Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living: \$342,760
6. CBFL/Brazoria County Center for Independent Living: \$228,119
7. CBFL/Houston Center for Independent Living: \$378,955
8. CBFL/Fort Bend Center for Independent Living: \$315,030
9. Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living: \$272,132
10. Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living: \$237,712
11. East Texas Center for Independent Living: \$307,744
12. Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Inc.: \$307,744
13. LIFE Inc. - LIFE/RUN: \$224,648
14. Palestine Resource Center for Independent Living: \$276,645
15. Panhandle Independent Living Center: \$303,445
16. REACH of Denton Resource Center on Independent Living: \$241,295
17. REACH of Dallas Resource Center on Independent Living: \$465,439
18. RISE Center: \$310,383
19. San Antonio Independent Living Services: \$225,322
20. Valley Association for Independent Living-Rio Grande Valley: \$224,051
21. Volar Center for Independent Living: \$224,650

The Texas Independent Living Network has reported that CARES Act funds will be used in each of the above-referenced service area where core Independent Living Services are delivered. All Centers for Independent Living report extreme challenges in providing direct services to Texans with disabilities as a result of social distancing requirements and institutions' closures (e.g. nursing homes) to the public. While Centers for Independent Living are making every effort to connect with Texans with disabilities by

leveraging technology, the Independent Living Network concedes that performance measures for delivery of services will be affected.

All Centers for Independent Living report using CARES Act funding to fulfill the State Plan for Independent Living goals and objectives. Each Center for Independent Living receiving funds for the pandemic are committed to a statewide relief approach while specifically addressing the needs of their community. The CARES Act funds will be generally used to provide relief and a response to the Coronavirus pandemic as guided by the State Plan for Independent Living framework and ACL guidance. More specific uses of funds reported at time of publication of this State Plan include but are not limited to the following for Texans with disabilities affected by the Coronavirus:

1. Virtual Independent Living Services. Funding will be used to increase all Centers for Independent Living on-line presence (e.g. update website capabilities) and increase capacity to deliver virtual independent living services. Funds will also be used to ensure consumers have access to needed technology and training for the technology in an effort to ensure equal access.
2. Emergency Preparedness: Funding will be used to address consumer preparedness measures for future emergencies. Centers for Independent Living are committed to taking lessons learned from this emergency and amending plans and policies for future emergencies.
3. Personal Care Attendants: Texas is lacking personal care attendants to meet the needs of Texans with disabilities. This funding may be used to increase the ability for Texans with disabilities to connect with personal care attendants.
4. Relocation from an Institutions: Funds will be used to for a varied approach to outreach to individuals that choose to relocate out of institutions should they choose.
5. Equipment and Supplies: Personal protective equipment, personal care items, mobile phones for Center for Independent Living staff to work remotely, and other office supplies will be purchased to enhance Center for Independent operations and increase the ability to continue to provide direct services to consumers.
6. Human Capital/Training: Funds will be used to train staff on new technology and processes developed to assist Texans with disabilities. Whether hiring new staff or contracting for services (e.g. website updates), Centers for Independent report increasing human resource capabilities to meet the growing needs of Texans with disabilities during the pandemic.

Working together the Texas Independent Living Network are committed to using CARES Act funding and other public and private resources to increase supports and services for Texans with disabilities. New approaches for outreach and leveraging technology are paramount in continuing Independent Living Services during the pandemic crisis.

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

### 2.1 Services

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

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Core Independent Living Services, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information and referral</li> <li>- IL skills training</li> <li>- Peer counseling</li> <li>- Individual and systems advocacy</li> <li>- Transition services including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transition from nursing homes &amp; other institutions</li> <li>▪ Diversion from institutions</li> <li>▪ Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	√	√	CIL
	√	√	CIL
	√	√	CIL
		√	CIL
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	√	√	CIL
Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with disabilities) Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.	√	√	CIL

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

<b>Table 2.1A: Independent living services</b>	<b>Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)</b>	<b>Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)</b>	<b>Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)</b>
Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with significant disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options	√	√	CIL
Services for children	√	√	CIL
Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance, of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities	√	√	CIL
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	√	√	CIL, DSE
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	√	√	CIL, DSE
Such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act	√	√	CIL

## **2.2 Outreach**

**Identify steps to be taken regarding statewide outreach to populations that are unserved or underserved by programs that are funded under Title VII, including minority groups and urban and rural populations.**

### 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 relatively 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 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. There are 163 out of 254 Texas counties that receive the five Independent Living five core services but are considered to be underserved. Underserved counties are counties within a Center's service area where Independent Living services are provided but not to all Texans with disabilities residing in the service area. There are a variety of reasons the counties remain underserved. Examples include inability to reach all Texans with disabilities in the county or limited resources and funding.

#### Unserved Counties:

There are 91 out of 254 Texas counties that are not contracted with a Center for Independent Living to provide the five Independent Living core services. 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.

#### Outreach Strategy:

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

The State Plan for Independent Living's Goals and Objectives' intent is to focus on underserved and unserved populations in Texas. For Example, Goal 1 focuses entirely on advocacy efforts in various arenas to support Texans with disabilities to live independently. Another example is Objectives 3.1 and 3.2, which focus on the Independent Living 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 encourages efforts to expand financial resources to reach these populations.

In addition, Objectives 2.1 and 2.2 specifically target services and outreach activities to youth and individuals residing in long-term care facilities or institutions. 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.

The Independent Living Network agrees to assist underserved and unserved populations by providing Information and Referral services. Whether in a public service announcement, online resources, promotion of special events and projects, or individual case management, the Centers for Independent Living and State Independent Living Council are committed to working with a unity of purpose to ensure Texans receive the information and resources about Independent Living.

### **2.3 Coordination**

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

A collaborative framework is in place to promote unity and singleness of purpose among the Texas State Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission as the Designated State Entity, and other partners.

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 Transportation, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, and

Texas Workforce Commission. Recruiting efforts are continuous and underway with the Governor's Office to include additional representation from other state agencies that provide services to individuals with disabilities. The Texas State Independent Living Council also coordinates with several agencies that are not appointed members of the SILC including but not limited to the Texas Education Agency and Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities.

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 Texas Disability Policy Consortium, The Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management, 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.

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.

The Texas Independent Living Services Program is provided by awarding state contracts that include terms and conditions and the opportunity for renewals. House Bill 2463, Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, requires that the Centers for Independent Living are provided the first refusal to receive contracts to provide Independent living services directly or subcontract to another Center, organization, or individual. If no Center for Independent Living is willing or able to provide Independent Living Services in a particular service area, Texas may contract with others to provide services.

All service components detailed in the State Plan relate to the overall goal of Texans with disabilities full inclusion in community life. Independent Living Services funded under Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act are coordinated at the federal, state, and local level to ensure services are complimented and resources maximized. Coordination of services is a listed requirement during the development and review of the independent living plan or waived independent living plan. Services must be coordinated, to the extent possible, with all of the following programs for which the consumer may be eligible and gain benefit:

- A vocational rehabilitation program

- A habilitation program, prepared under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act
- An education program, prepared under Part B of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

The following is a brief description of how specific services are coordinated for Texans 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 community needs define its service priorities. In addition to the Federally-required core services, Centers for Independent Living conduct resource development activities through grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to expand Independent Living Services. Other examples of community services that Texas Centers for Independent Living provide in addition to core services 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.

The Centers for Independent Living have established contracts with HHSC to receive funds for services under the Independent Living Services Program. HHSC is responsible for administering and monitoring contracts with Centers for Independent Living to provide Independent Living services. Some of these additional services include counseling, orientation and mobility, recreation and socialization, rehabilitation technologies, and examinations.

The 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.

Centers for Independent Living also coordinate with the Independent Living Program for Older Individuals who are Blind (ILS-OIB) administered through the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). OIB staff are located in Workforce Solutions offices across the state and are assigned coverage areas by county. To be eligible for the ILS-OIB program, the individual must be 55 years of age or older and have a significant visual impairment that creates barriers for the individual to live independently.

Services that the ILS-OIB program provides to individuals may include:

- Counseling, guidance, and referral services provided by TWC-ILS-OIB staff;
- Orientation and Mobility Training;
- Independent Living Services Training;
- Diabetes Education Training;
- Low-Vision evaluations; and
- Adaptive aids, Low-Vision devices.

Individuals may receive goods and services from both programs. To provide coordinated services for mutual consumers, the following activities are expected from both the service provider's Independent Living staff person and the Texas Workforce Commission OIB worker:

- Monthly or quarterly meetings, as agreed upon, with the OIB worker to discuss mutual referrals.
- ILS service provider acceptance of referrals for services that are related to non-visual disabilities (e.g., hearing aids, medical equipment).
- Discussion of ongoing progress with the mutual consumer.

Individuals may benefit from one or both programs; therefore, OIB staff and the service provider's Independent Living staff are required to refer individuals to each respective program and ensure that this referral is correctly captured in the case management system.

## Emergency Preparedness and Management

During times of emergency, Centers work collaboratively to assist people with disabilities to coordinate services with local community partners; such as hospitals, attendant care organizations, 2-1-1 for information sharing related to transportation services and evacuation assistance registries, temporary housing assistance, prescription assistance and document preservation. Furthermore, the Texas State Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living have committed to a statewide emergency preparedness plan whereby Centers could contract with each other for services and resources via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). When an emergency is declared by the appropriate state or federal official, state and federal funds may be reallocated from one Center for Independent Living's contracted service area and to another Center's service area or unserved area to maximize the goals set forth in this State Plan. Additionally, Centers for Independent Living conduct ongoing emergency preparedness campaigns to ensure people with disabilities are prepared during an emergency and included in State and local plans.

## Texas Health and Human Services Commission

At a statewide level, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) coordinates services with other agencies and internally to avoid duplication of services via policies and guidelines that delineate responsibilities amongst programs for persons with disabilities. Additional efforts include participation in meetings to provide programmatic updates to keep partners informed, participate in cooperative initiatives/workgroups, develop and cultivate relationships with key agency staff to coordinate wraparound services and ensure quality referrals for the Independent Living Services program. Coordinated services within HHSC include:

### Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services

- Home and Community based services
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Medicaid/CHIP
- Office of Disability Prevention for Children

### External Agencies

- Aging and Disability Resource Centers

- Area Agencies on Aging
- Office of the Governor: Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities
- Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
- Texas Education Agency
- The Texas Workforce Commission

The State of Texas is fully invested in providing wraparound services for people with disabilities. HHSC works diligently to continue ongoing coordination with the community and statewide partners to work together to expand services for people with disabilities throughout Texas.

#### 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 SILC and several Centers for Independent Living to facilitate specific programs and projects and further local efforts to facilitate options for their communities.

#### Center for Independent Living Associations

Texas has two associations for Centers for Independent Living to coordinate services, provide peer support, and works to improve the delivery of services through the sharing of information and best practices: Texas Association for Centers for Independent Living (TACIL) and Texas Centers for Independent Living (TEXCIL). Both associations are independent organizations and several Centers of Independent Living are members of both associations. It is notable that both associations have provided resources to ensure operations of Centers during difficult times, including natural disasters and times of emergency.

## **Section 3: Network of Centers**

### **3.1 Existing Centers**

**Current Centers for Independent Living including: legal name; geographic area and counties served; and source(s) of funding. Oversight process, by source of funds (e.g., Part B, Part C, state funds, etc.) and oversight entity.**

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 alphabetical list contains the contact information, base operating funding sources, counties served for core services, and non-core service contracts and counties served for the 27 Centers for Independent Living in Texas.

#### **ABLE Center for Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)**

(ABLE)

Address: 4803 Plaza Blvd. Suite 401 Odessa, Texas

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act; Fee for Service

Counties Served for Core Services: Andrews, Crane, Ector, Martin, Midland, Upton, and Ward

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

HHSC-IL Purchased Services Program: Andrews, Bordon, Coke, Crane, Concho, Crockett, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Kimble, Loving, Martin, Mason, McCullough, Menard, Midland, Pecos, Reagan, Reeves, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Tom Green, Upton, Ward, Winkler

SSA Employment Network: Andrews, Bordon, Coke, Crane, Concho, Crockett, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Kimble, Loving, Martin, Mason, McCullough, Menard, Midland, Pecos, Reagan, Reeves, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Tom Green, Upton, Ward, Winkler

TxDOT 5310 Mobility Management: Andrews, Bordon, Coke, Crane, Concho, Crockett, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Kimble, Loving, Martin, Mason, McCullough, Menard, Midland, Pecos, Reagan, Reeves, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Tom Green, Upton, Ward, Winkler



Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.  
Oversight Entity: ACL

**ARCIL, Inc. (SPIL Signatory)**

(ARCIL)

Address: 8200 Cameron Rd. C154, Austin, Texas 78754

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part B and C; CARES Act; Fee for Service; Private

Counties Served for Core Services: Bastrop, Travis, and Williamson

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

ARCIL Travel Services: Bell, Blanco, Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Comal, Hays, HHSC-IL Purchased Services Program: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Fayette, Grayson, Hays, Hood, Johnson, Lampasas, Lee, Llano, Milam, Montague, Parker, Rockwall, San Saba, Tarrant, Travis, Williamson, Wise

Home By Choice: Anderson, Angelina, Bastrop, Bell, Blanco, Bosque, Bowie, Brazos, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Cass, Cherokee, Coryell, Delta, Falls, Franklin, Freestone, Gregg, Grimes, Hamilton, Harbin, Harrison, Hays, Henderson, Hill, Hopkins, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Lamar, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Limestone, Llano, Madison, Marion, McLennan, Mills, Morris, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Rains, Red River, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Smith, Titus, Travis, Upshur, Van Zant, Washington, Williamson, Wood

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA): Atasco, Bandera, Bexar, Blanco, Brooks, Caldwell, Cameron, Comal, DeWitt, Duval, Frio, Gillespie, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kennedy, Kerr, LaSalle, Live Oak, McMullen, Medina, Starr, Web, Willacy, Wilson, Zapata

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL and DSE

Oversight Entity: ACL and DSE

**ARCIL San Marcos (SPIL Signatory)**

(ARCIL)

Address: 618 S Guadalupe #103, San Marcos TX 78666

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act

Counties Served for Core Services: Hays, Blanco, Caldwell, Comal

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

HHSC IL Purchased Services Program: Bastrop, Burnet, Blanco, Hays, Lampasas, Llano, San Saba, Travis, Fayette, Lee, Milam, Williamson  
ARCIL Travel Services: Bell, Blanco, Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Comal, Hays, Home By Choice: Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Hopkins, Lamar, Mason, Morris, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Wood, Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, Van Zant, Freestone, Leon, Limestone, Robertson, Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Trinity, San Augustin, Shelby, Madison, Grimes, Brazos, Harbin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Jacinto, Tyler, Llano, Bastrop, Caldwell, Blanco, Burleson, Burnet, Lee, Travis, Williamson, Washington, Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Hamilton, Hill, Hamilton, Lampasas, McLennan, Mills

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.

Oversight Entity: ACL

**ARCIL Round Rock (SPIL Signatory)**

Address: 525 Round Rock West, Suite A120, Round Rock, Texas 78681

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act

Counties Served for Core Services: Williamson, Bell, Burnet, Milam

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.

Oversight Entity: ACL

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

(BVCIL)

Address: 1869 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, TX 77802

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act; Local Government;

Fee for Service; Private

Counties Served for Core Services: Brazos, Burleson, Madison, Robertson, and Washington

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

Above and Beyond Para-Transit: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Houston, Leon, Madison, Montgomery (outside of the UZA - Urbanized Area), Polk, Robertson, San Jacinto, Trinity, Walker, and Washington.

Virtual Independent Living Services (VILS): Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Madison, Robertson, Walker, and Washington

Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP): Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Madison, Robertson, Walker, and Washington

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.  
Oversight Entity: ACL

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

(BCCIL)

Address: 1104-D East Mulberry, Angleton, Texas 77515

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act; Private; Fee for Service

Counties Served for Core Services: Brazoria and Matagorda

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.  
Oversight Entity: ACL

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

(FBCIL)

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

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act; Private; Fee for Service

Counties Served for Core Services: Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Walker, Waller, Wharton

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.  
Oversight Entity: ACL

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

(HCIL)

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

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part B and C; CARES Act; Fee for Service; Private  
Counties Served for Core Services: Harris

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:  
Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA): Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Waller, Washington

HHSC-IL Purchased Services Program: Harris, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Wharton, Colorado, Austin, Waller, Montgomery, Liberty, Chambers, Galveston

Relocation Services Program: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, Wharton

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL and DSE.

Oversight Entity: ACL and DSE

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

(CBCIL)

Address: 1537 Seventh St., Corpus Christi, TX, 78404

Satellite Office Address: CBCIL Administration—3462 S. Alameda Corpus Christi, Texas 78404; Relocation and Class Program—3833 S. Staples, Corpus Christi, Texas 78404

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act; Local Government, Fee for Service; Private

Counties Served for Core Services: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kennedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

HHSC-Relocation Services Program: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo, Jim Wells, Jim Hogg, Kennedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Webb, Willacy, Zapata Counties; Nueces catchment area, Hidalgo catchment area (Consumer Direct Services: MCO-United Healthcare, Superior Healthcare, Molina Healthcare and Healthspring);

HHSC-CLASS Program: Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, Goliad, Jackson, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Lavaca, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio

Mobility Options Program (MOP): Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kennedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio

Home Modifications: Amy Young Barrier Removal (TDHCA) (City of Corpus Christi, CDBG); Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TDHCA)

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.

Oversight Entity: ACL

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

(CRCIL)

Address: 1020 Loop 304 East, Crockett, Texas 75835

Funding Sources: SSA-VR; Federal Title VII, Part B and C; CARES Act

Counties Served for Core Services: Freestone, Houston, Leon, Panola, Alabama Coushatta Reservation—Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Trinity

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

HHSC IL Purchased Services Program: (Region 5) Angelina, Freestone, Henderson, Houston, Leon, Nacogdoches, Panola, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler; (Region 4) Anderson, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood (Region 7); Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Madison, Washington, Walker, Robertson

CRCIL WIPA Contract: Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio, Bee, Refugio, Aransas, Goliad, Calhoun, Victoria, Jackson, Matagorda, Wharton, Lavaca, Colorado, Fayette, Bastrop, Travis, Lee, Llano, Burnet, Williamson, Milam, Burleson, Brazos, Robertson, Falls, Bell, Madison, Leon, Walker, San Jacinto, Houston, Polk, Trinity, Hardin, Jefferson, Orange, Jasper, Newton, Tyler, Angelina, San Augustine, Sabine, Nacogdoches, Cherokee, Rusk, Shelby, Panola, Harrison, Gregg, Smith, Marion, Upshur, Wood

Home By Choice: (Region 04) Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, Van Zandt; (Region 5) Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Trinity, San Augustine, Shelby; (Region 7) Freestone, Leon, Madison, Grimes, Limestone, Brazos, Robertson

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL and DSE.

Oversight Entity: ACL and DSE

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

Address: 317 N. Willis St. Abilene, Texas 79603

Funding Sources: State, General Revenue; Other Federal Funds

Counties served for Core Services: Taylor, Jones, Shackelford, Stephens, Eastland, Callahan

Non-Core Services and Counties Served:

HHSC-IL Purchased Services Program: Taylor, Jones, Shackelford, Eastland, Callahan, Stephens, Archer, Baylor, Brown, Clay, Coleman, Comanche, Fisher, Haskell, Jack, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Stonewall, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger, Young, Erath, Palo Pinto, Somervell

Texas SILC/TCDD contracts for Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) and Housing Education and Advocacy for Rural Texans (HEART): Callahan, Eastland, Jones, Shackelford, Stephens, and Taylor.

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to DSE.  
Oversight Entity: DSE

**East Texas Center for Independent Living (SPIL Signatory)**  
(ETCIL)

Address: 4713 Troup Hwy., Tyler, Texas 75703

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act; Fee for Service; Private; State Contracts

Counties Served for Core Services: Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood

Non-Core Contract Services and Counties Served:

Home By Choice Relocation Program (MOU with ARCIL): Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus.

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.  
Oversight Entity: ACL

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

Address: 2005 Commerce Street, Belton, Texas 76513

Satellite Office Address: HOCTIL Waco Office, 1300 Lake Air Drive, Suite 7, Waco, Texas 76710

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act; Fee for Service; Private; Other State Funds; Other Federal Funds

Counties Served for Core Services: Bell, Coryell, McLennan, and Hill

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

HHSC Relocation (contract with ARCIL): Bell, Coryell, Mills, Hamilton, McLennan, Falls, Limestone, Bosque, Hill

HHSC IL Purchased Services Program: Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Hamilton, Hill, Limestone, McLennan, Mills, and Navarro.

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.  
Oversight Entity: ACL

**Lifetime Independence for Everyone, Inc. (LIFE, Inc) - LIFE/RUN  
(SPIL Signatory)**

(LIFE/RUN)

Address: 8240 Boston Ave., Lubbock, TX 79423

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part B and C; CARES Act; State SSA-VR;  
Fee for Service; Private; Other Federal Funds

Counties Served for Core Services: Crosby, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley,  
Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Terry. Disability Connections: Coke, Concho, Irion,  
Menard, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Tom Green

Non-core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

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

HHSC IL Purchased Services Program: Bailey, Borden, Cochran, Coke,  
Concho, Cottle, Crockett, Crosby, Dawson, Dickens, Floyd, Foard, Gaines,  
Garza, Hale, Hardeman, Hockley, Irion, Kent, Kimble, King, Lamb, Lubbock,  
Lynn, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Motley, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher,  
Sterling, Sutton, Terry, Tom Green, Yoakum

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC): Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion,  
Kimble, Mason, Menard, McCulloch, Reagan Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling,  
Sutton, Tom Green

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL and  
DSE.

Oversight Entity: ACL and DSE

**Lifetime Independence for Everyone, Inc. - Disability Connections  
(SPIL Signatory)**

(LIFE, Inc)

Address: 2809 Southwest Blvd., San Angelo TX 76904

Funding Sources: State, General Revenue

Counties served for core services: Tom Green, Sterling, Coke, Schleicher,  
Concho, Runnels, Irion, Menard

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

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

HHSC IL Purchased Services Program: Bailey, Borden, Cochran, Coke,  
Concho, Cottle, Crockett, Crosby, Dawson, Dickens, Floyd, Foard, Gaines,  
Garza, Hale, Hardeman, Hockley, Irion, Kent, Kimble, King, Lamb, Lubbock,  
Lynn, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Motley, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher,  
Sterling, Sutton, Terry, Tom Green, Yoakum

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC): Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion,  
Kimble, Mason, Menard, McCulloch, Reagan Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling,  
Sutton, Tom Green

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to DSE.

Oversight Entity: DSE

**Mounting Horizons Inc.**

(MHCIL)

Address: 4700 Broadway #C102, Galveston, Texas 77551

Funding Sources: State, General Revenue; Other Federal Funds

County Served for Core Services: Galveston



Non-Core Service Contracts and County Served:  
TxDOT Public Transportation: Galveston

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to DSE.  
Oversight Entity:

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

Address: 421 Avenue A, Palestine, Texas 75801  
Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act  
Counties served for core services: Anderson, Cherokee, Angelina,  
Nacogdoches, parts of Smith counties

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.  
Oversight Entity: ACL

**Panhandle Independent Living Center (SPIL Signatory)  
(PILC)**

Address: 417 W. 10th Ave, Amarillo, Texas 79101  
Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part B and C; CARES Act; SSA-VR; Other  
Federal Funds  
Counties Served for Core Services: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro,  
Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford,  
Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer,  
Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Wheeler

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:  
HHSC IL Purchased Services Program: Potter, Randall, Armstrong, Briscoe,  
Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Grey,  
Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree,  
TxDOT: Mobility Management and GAP transportation: Potter and Randall

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL and  
DSE.  
Oversight Entity: ACL and DSE

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

(REACH of Dallas)  
Address: 8625 King George Drive, Suite 210, Dallas, TX 75235

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act; Fee for Service

Counties Served for Core Services: Dallas

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

CRP for Job Placement & Job Skills Training: Dallas

TWC Independent Living Services for Older Blind: Denton

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.

Oversight Entity: ACL

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

(REACH of Denton)

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

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act; Fee for Service

County Served for Core Services: Denton

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.

Oversight Entity: ACL

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

(REACH of Fort Worth)

Address: 1000 Macon Street, Suite 200, Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part B; State SSA-VR

Counties Served for Core Services: Tarrant, Dallas, Denton, Collin

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

CRP for Job Placement & Job Skills Training: Dallas

TWC Independent Living Services for Older Blind: Denton

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL and DSE.

Oversight Entity: ACL and DSE

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

(REACH of Plano)

Address: 720 E. Park Blvd., Suite 104, Plano, Texas 75074

Funding Sources: State General Revenue; State SSA-VR

Counties Served for Core Services: Tarrant, Dallas, Denton, Collin

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

CRP for Job Placement & Job Skills Training: Dallas

TWC Independent Living Services for Older Blind: Denton

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to DSE.

Oversight Entity: DSE

**RISE Center (SPIL Signatory)**

(RISE Center for Independent Living)

Address: 755 S. 11th ST, STE 101, Beaumont, Texas 77701

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part C; CARES Act

Counties Served for Core Services: Jefferson, Hardin, Orange

Non-Core Services Contracts and Counties Served:

HHSC Relocation Contract: Jefferson, Hardin, Orange, Polk, Sabine, Jasper, San Jacinto, San Augustine, Newton, Tyler

HHSC-IL Purchase Services Program: Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL.

Oversight Entity: ACL

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

(SAILS)

Address: 1028 South Alamo Street, San Antonio, Texas 78210

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part B and C; CARES Act; State SSA-VR; Valero Corporation funds; Fee for service

Counties Served for Core Services: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Calhoun, Comal, DeWitt, Dimmit, Edwards, Frio, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Jackson, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kinney, La Salle, Lavaca, Maverick, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Wilson, Zavala

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL and DSE.

Oversight Entity: ACL and DSE

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

(VAIL-Rio Grande Valley)

Address: 3016 North McColl, Suite B, McAllen, TX 78501

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part B and C; CARES Act; State SSA-VR; Fee for Service

Counties Served for Core Services: Starr, Hidalgo, Willacy, Cameron

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

TCDD: Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Willacy

HHSC ILS: Webb, Jim Hogg, Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, Willacy, Cameron

LRGVDC: Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Starr, Zapata

HHSC-Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS):

Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Starr, Webb, Jim Hogg, Zapata, Duval

Mobility Management: Starr, Zapata, Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL and DSE.

Oversight Entity: ACL and DSE

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

(VAIL-South Texas)

Address: 709, Alta Vista Drive, Unit 102, Laredo, Texas 78041

Funding Sources: State, General Revenue

Counties Served for Core Services: Duval, Jim Hogg, Webb, Zapata

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

LRGVDC: Zapata

HHSC- Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS): Webb,

Jim Hogg, Zapata, Duval

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to DSE.

Oversight Entity: DSE

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

(Volar CIL)

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

Funding Sources: Federal Title VII, Part B and C; CARES Act; State, SSA-VR;

Local Government; Private; Other Federal Funds

Counties Served for Core Serves: El Paso

Non-Core Service Contracts and Counties Served:

HHSC-IL Purchased Services Program: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso,

Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio, and Presidio

Oversight Process: CIL submits Program Performance Report to ACL and DSE.

Oversight Entity: ACL and DSE

### **3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network**

**Plan and priorities for use of funds, by funding source, including Part B funds, Part C funds, State funds, and other funds, whether current, increased, or one-time funding and methodology for distribution of funds. Use of funds to build capacity of existing Centers, establish new Centers, and/or increase statewideness of Network.**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **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. 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.

#### Underserved Counties:

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. There are 162 out of 254 Texas counties that receive the five Independent Living five core services but are considered to be underserved. Underserved counties are counties within a Center's service area where Independent Living services are provided but not to all Texans with disabilities residing in the service area. There are a variety of reasons the counties remain underserved. Examples include inability to reach all Texans with disabilities in the county or limited resources and funding.

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 relatively 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.

#### Unserved Counties:

There are 91 out of 254 Texas counties are not served by one of the 27 Centers for Independent Living. 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 91 unserved counties would be eligible for such funding:

Archer	Ellis
Bailey	Erath
Baylor	Falls
Borden	Fannin
Bosque	Fayette
Bowie	Fisher
Brewster	Foard
Brown	Franklin
Cass	Gaines
Chambers	Glasscock
Clay	Grayson
Cochran	Hamilton
Coleman	Hardeman
Comanche	Haskell
Cooke	Hood
Cottle	Hopkins
Crockett	Howard
Culberson	Hudspeth
Dawson	Hunt
Delta	Jack
Dickens	Jasper

Jeff Davis  
Johnson  
Kaufman  
Kent  
Kimble  
King  
Knox  
La Salle  
Lamar  
Lampasas  
Liberty  
Limestone  
Llano  
Loving  
Mason  
McCulloch  
Mills  
Mitchell  
Montague  
Montgomery  
Morris  
Motley  
Navarro  
Newton  
Nolan  
Palo Pinto  
Parker

Pecos  
Presidio  
Reagan  
Red River  
Reeves  
Rockwall  
San Jacinto  
San Saba  
Scurry  
Somervell  
Stonewall  
Sutton  
Terrell  
Throckmorton  
Titus  
Walker  
Wichita  
Wilbarger  
Winkler  
Wise  
Yoakum  
Young



#### Expansion of the Network:

Efforts to expand and strengthen the network of Centers for Independent Living in Texas 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 a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt status because such applicants will be better positioned to initiate programming and deliver services 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) nonprofit, tax-exempt status because such applicants will be in a better position to initiate programming and services 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 may be found in Appendix C.

- **Area A** : Location: Southeast Texas  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s): 5,6,7  
Unserved Counties: Chambers; Liberty; Montgomery; San Jacinto; Walker
- **Area B**: Location: North-East Texas  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s): 4  
Unserved Counties: Bowie; Cass; Delta; Franklin; Hopkins; Lamar; Morris; Red River; Titus
- **Area C** : Location: North Texas  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s): 2  
Unserved Counties: Archer; Baylor; Clay; Cottle; Foard; Hardeman; Jack; Montague; Wichita; Wilbarger; Young
- **Area D**: Location: North Texas  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s): 3  
Unserved Counties: Cooke; Fannin; Grayson
- **Area E**: Location: Central Texas  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s): 2,7,9  
Unserved Counties with Disability Population: Brown; Coleman; Comanche; Hamilton; Lampasas; Llano; Mason; McCulloch; Mills; San Saba
- **Area F**: Location: West Texas  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s): 9,10  
Unserved Counties: Brewster; Culberson; Hudspeth; Jeff Davis; Loving; Pecos; Presidio; Reeves; Terrell; Winkler

- **Area G** : Location: West Texas  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission Region(s): 9

Unserved Counties: Borden; Dawson; Gaines; Glasscock; Howard

#### 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 and with particular focus on underserved areas and populations. Short-term, one-time 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 funding amount 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 the Administration on Community Living 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 Administration on Community Living 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 Independent Living 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 Independent Living Network encourages the development of contingency plans should there be a reduction 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 expend Part B funding to replace reductions in Part C funding. Should State General Revenue funding for Centers for Independent Living be reduced, 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 for Independent Living (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.

### Emergency Preparedness and Management

During times of emergency, Centers work collaboratively to assist people with disabilities to coordinate services with local community partners; such as hospitals, attendant care organizations, 2-1-1 for information sharing related to transportation services and evacuation assistance registries, temporary housing assistance, prescription assistance and document preservation. Furthermore, the Texas State Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living have committed to a statewide emergency preparedness plan whereby Centers could contract with each other for services and resources via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). When an emergency is declared by the appropriate state or federal official, state and federal funds may be reallocated from one Center for Independent Living's contracted service area and to another Center's service area or unserved area to maximize the goals set forth in this State Plan. Additionally, Centers for Independent Living conduct ongoing emergency preparedness campaigns to ensure people with disabilities are prepared during an emergency and included in State and local plans.

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

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will serve as the entity in Texas designated to receive, administer, and account for funds made available to the state under Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Act on behalf of the State. (Section 704(c) of the Act)

### **4.1 DSE Responsibilities**

HHSC, as the designated state entity (DSE) for Texas, agrees to the following responsibilities:

1. receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under this chapter based on the plan;
2. provide administrative support services for a program under Part B, and a program under Part C in a case in which the program is administered by the State under Section 723;
3. keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;
4. submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and
5. retain not more than five percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for the performance of the services outlined in paragraphs one through four above.

### **4.2 Grant Process & Distribution of Funds**

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

#### Grant Application Process

An application process is used for awarding contracts to service providers under the Independent Living Services Program within HHSC in accordance with Title 1, Texas Administrative Code, Part 15, Chapter 392 Subchapter J Independent Living Services Program Contracts.

Independent Living Service providers seeking financial assistance to provide the services outlined in the Independent Living Services Standards shall

submit a contract application packet in accordance with the established process.

The contract application packet includes instructions, required forms, and a deadline for submission. The following additional information is also included:

- county service areas;
- the work plan;
- the budget;
- the cost allocation plan, including the indirect cost rate if applicable;
- job descriptions for contract-funded positions; and
- other requirements.

Financial assistance is provided based on a completed and approved contract application submitted by the Independent Living Service provider.

If a service provider cannot service its designated area, HHSC will take appropriate action to secure services for the service area in question.

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

##### **Contract Monitoring and Oversight:**

Contracts with service providers that provide Independent Living Services under the Independent Living Services program will be monitored in accordance with HHSC, 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 HHSC 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.

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

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE.

HHSC, as the DSE, currently does not appropriate any Part B funds or other Independent Living funds for administration or staffing of HHSC staff.

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

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

- **State law, regulation, rule, or policy relating to the DSE's administration or operation of IL programs**
- **Rule or policy implementing any Federal law, regulation, or guideline that is beyond what would be required to comply with 45 CFR 1329**
- **That limits, expands, or alters requirements for the SPIL.**

**Describe any requirements imposed by the State that is in addition to the Act and the IL regulations. Requirements may be with regard to:**

- **Establishment and operations of the SILC**
- **Provision of and uses of State funding for Independent Living services and/or the SILC**
- **Any other requirements having a direct impact on the SILC, CILs, IL services, and/or processing of funding**

**Describe how the DSE will ensure compliance with state-imposed requirements without restricting the autonomy of the SILC in fulfilling its duties, authorities, and responsibilities.**

HHSC 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, §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, Texas Administrative Code (TAC), 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
- the Independent Living Services Standards.
- the Office of Management and Budget Guidance for Grants and Agreements

#### Special Contract Provisions or Restrictions

HHSC may include special provisions or restrictions based on an assessment of risk during the contract application process. Factors considered in determining whether special provisions or restrictions are appropriate include the potential service provider's:

- breadth of experience with the Independent Living Services Program;
- history of performance with health and human services contract requirements;
- monitoring reviews and audit findings;
- financial stability;
- quality of management systems; and
- ability to effectively implement program requirements.

The contract's special conditions or restrictions may address such topics as:

- additional approvals needed for contract decisions;
- required training and/or technical assistance;
- more frequent financial and/or program performance reporting; and
- increased contract monitoring.

#### Internal Controls

Independent Living service providers must create internal controls which are implemented and designed to provide reasonable assurance that the necessary objectives under the following categories will be achieved:

- Effectiveness and efficiency of operations;

- Reliability of reporting for internal and external use; and
- Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The Independent Living service provider must:

- Establish and maintain effective internal control that provides reasonable assurance that the federal funds awarded under the contract are being managed in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the award.
- Comply with federal statutes, state laws, ILS Standards, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the awards.
- Evaluate and monitor compliance with statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of awards.
- Take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are discovered, including when identified in audit findings.

The service provider must establish internal controls to promote employee awareness of the nature of workplace fraud. The controls may include employee training programs and policies that ensure careful oversight when purchasing goods and services for the Independent Living Services Program.

In accordance with the fiduciary responsibilities of the DSE, HHS must follow all state and federal laws and statutes related to all Independent Living funding sources.

#### 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.

#### 4.6 722 vs. 723 State

Check one:

722 (if checked, will move to Section 5)

723 (if checked, will move to Section 4.7)

#### 4.7 723 States

This Section is not applicable to Texas.

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

### **5.1 Establishment of SILC**

#### **How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.**

Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC) is a private, non-profit with the mission to assist Texans with disabilities to live as independently as they choose. Texas SILC was established following revisions to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1992, when the SILC requirement was introduced (29 United States Code §796d; and 34 C.F.R. §364.21). Texas SILC was then created as an independent council pursuant to state law (40 Tex. Admin. Code § 101.401), and it received its 501(c)(3) status in 1998. The Texas Workforce Innovation Act of 2014 reauthorized SILC's nationally and broaden the scope of their responsibilities, including the ability to develop resources for the Independent Living Network.

Texas SILC is tasked with developing and monitoring a multi-year plan that sets the parameters and establishes the goals for the provision of the Independent Living services in Texas. Other roles of the Texas SILC are systems advocacy, education of the public regarding disability-related topics, resource development to carry out goals and activities as established by the State Plan for Independent Living, and provision of technical assistance concerning the Independent Living philosophy and approach. As part of this effort, the Texas SILC conducts several public hearings throughout the state to gather the input of individuals with disabilities, their family members, seniors, and human service providers.

The Texas SILC is led by a Governor-appointed Council that consist of a majority of Members who have a disability and who provide leadership and guidance over the organization's activities. In 1992, the Federal Rehabilitation Act was amended to authorize the formation of Consumer-Directed Independent Living Councils in all states for the purpose of planning, monitoring, and evaluating the provision of Independent Living Services. The Texas SILC and its staff complete daily activities while upholding the principles of Independent Living Movement: peer support, self-help, self-determination, equality, and positive systemic change. The mission of the Texas SILC is to ensure that Texans with disabilities have access to quality Independent Living services by providing a framework for service delivery. The SILC, with the guidance of the State Plan for Independent Living, has set these goals:

- Develop a comprehensive, three-year plan that will structure the provision and expansion of Independent Living services in the state of Texas;

- Monitor the ongoing implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the current State Plan for Independent Living;
- Increase funding and resources for the provision of Independent Living services in the state;
- Improve public awareness and understanding regarding the Independent Living movement and issues related to disability;
- Provide technical assistance and training for both public and private entities in order that they might better assist persons with disabilities in achieving their Independent Living goals; and
- Assist in the development of public policy that promotes systemic change toward the successful integration of people with disabilities into the mainstream of society.

Members of the Texas SILC are Governor-appointed and serve on a voluntary basis. The SILC works in collaboration with Texas' 27 Centers for Independent Living, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, and other organizations to develop a three-year strategic plan, the SPIL. The Texas SILC is also charged with providing technical assistance to persons in disability-related fields, grassroots consumer-directed groups seeking to expand the Independent Living network, individuals with disabilities, and the public concerning Independent Living issues.

Texas SILC, through collaborations with Centers for Independent Living across the State, are the only consumer-led entities that serve Texans with disabilities regardless of disability type, race, socioeconomic position, age, or gender. The Network of Centers for Independent Living is uniquely positioned to provide comprehensive, consumer-directed and controlled planning for Independent Living goals as well as support to encourage self-advocacy and development through active engagement in transportation planning organizations.

For two decades, Texas SILC has hosted a successful advocacy and leadership-focused events with participants located throughout the State and country. The Texas SILC has received national recognition for the structure and content targeted to individuals with disabilities, their families, service providers, rehabilitation counselors, and other members of the disability community. These events foster strong partnerships with a variety of agencies, support networks, and individuals with disabilities to create a comprehensive Independent Living collaboration within Texas.

Along with SILC's main priorities outlined above, it has also been successful in increasing resources for the Independent Living Network by maintaining

additional grant funding. In the past several years, the SILC has been able to secure grants through agencies such as the Administration on Community Living Paralysis Resource Centers Pilot Program, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities. Since FY14 and the passage of the Workforce Opportunity and Innovation Act that authorized SILC resource development, Texas SILC has secured two grants from TxDOT totaling \$865,223 and five grants from Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities totaling \$1,424,085. These projects were guided by the State Plan advocacy goals and included: creating new accessible transportation options in Centers; completing a statewide assessment of accessible transportation; improving leadership, development, and advocacy; supporting health and fitness projects in Centers for Independent Living; hosting annual Accessible Transportation Summits; and creating new peer support and accessible housing programs in Centers for Independent Living. Most recently, Texas SILC secured a \$600,000 three-year cooperative agreement with Administration on Community Living for a State Paralysis Resource Center Pilot Project. This pilot includes the creation of the Virtual Independent Living Services project, which is using available telemedicine technology to reach unserved and underserved Texans with paralysis to ensure access to peer support, independent living, and community resources. Texas SILC will continue to partner with Texas Centers for Independent Living on capacity building projects and engage with its nearly 100 organizations to improve access to services for Texans with disabilities. 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.

The Texas SILC 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 SILC meetings, and compliance with established protocols should budget changes be requested. Additional monitoring activities include annual independent audits and periodic self-assessment of Texas SILC operations in relation to standards and indicators.

The Texas SILC remains aware of and safeguards its independence. The entity operates under the Council's direction with established management, policies and procedures, and in its independent office location. 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 SILC Resource Plan**

**Resources (including necessary and sufficient funding, staff/administrative support, and in-kind), by funding source and amount, for SILC to fulfill all duties and authorities.**

The primary funding for the operation of the Texas State Independent Living Council is through Title VII, Part B funding. These funds are necessary and sufficient to support SILC staff and personnel expenses; operating expenses; Council expenses, including meeting and accessibility expenses and resources for training; and other costs as appropriate. The SILC 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 independent living needs identified throughout the state. These activities do not impair or interfere with the Texas SILC's ability to perform its statutory duties. The Texas SILC 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 SILC includes \$409,564 per year for FY21-23 to complete the following duties and authorities as well as to participate as noted in the following State Plan Goals and Objectives:

- 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 for Youth Transition (Objective 2.1);
- Advocacy for Additional Relocations Services (Objective 2.2);
- Advocacy for Diversion Services (Objective 2.3);
- Advocacy and Support for Independent Living Services Resources (Objective 3.1); and
- Advocacy and Support for Expanded Services to Unserved and Underserved Populations (Objective 3.2).

The Texas SILC'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 SILC 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 SILC 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 SILC 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.

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

The process used to develop the SILC Resource Plan centers on the authorities and duties required by federal and state law and the resources necessary and sufficient to satisfy its obligations.

SILC business meetings, active and frequent engagement with the Network and Centers for Independent Living, and seeking feedback from the Texas disability community provide guidance on the resources needed for the SILC to fulfill its mission. Meetings with the Independent Living Network, supporting Associations (e.g. TACIL and TEXCIL), and SPIL Development Workgroups determined the SILC funding amount would remain the same (at FY17 levels; \$409,564 annually).

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

Texas SILC is reimbursed monthly for allowable expenditures pursuant to the SILC's policy and procedure manual and as guided by the Uniform Grant Guidance and applicable state and federal laws. After Texas SILC process payroll and other expenditures, it reconciles those expenditures with bank statements and other financial records to ensure accuracy. Texas SILC sends its request for monthly reimbursement timely, usually by the fifth

working day of the month. HHSC provides for a quick reimbursement process averaging two weeks. This process ensures that Texas SILC remains autonomous and with necessary and sufficient resources to fulfill its statutory duties and duties guided by the State Plan.

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

Not Applicable; Dedicated funding for the Texas SILC's Resource Plan is less than 30 percent of the Part B appropriation.

**5.3 Maintenance of SILC**

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

The Texas SILC is led by a ten-member Council of who a majority identify as an individual with a disability and appointed by the Governor. The Council also consists of several Ex-Officio members appointed by the Governor from state agencies that provide services to Texans with disabilities. Texas SILC bylaws, policy and procedures, and the State Plan echo federal law regarding SILC member composition.

Texas SILC staff coordinates closely with the Office of the Governor, Appointment's Division to ensure the SILC composition and qualification requirements are met. The Texas SILC provides a list of interested candidates for SILC Membership to the Governor's Office annually that is adopted in a SILC a business meeting, which is open to the public. Appointment-terms are tracked by both the Governor's Office and Texas SILC staff. Appointments are made through the Governor's Office interview and review process as SILC Member's vacancies become open. Members serve no more than two, three-year consecutive terms pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act. SILC Officer positions are elected annually by a majority vote by SILC Members.

The Texas SILC, under the direction of the Governor-appointed Council, is an an autonomous entity. The Texas SILC Resource Plan provides for necessary and sufficient funding for an independent office and staff. The SILC's duties and authorities are exercised independently while simultaneously seeking input and coordinating with the Independent Living Network and Designated State Entity.

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

### **6.1 Designated State Entity (DSE)**

The state entity/agency designated to receive and distribute funding, as directed by the SPIL, under Title VII, Part B of the Act is Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Authorized representative of the DSE: Phil Wilson, Executive Commissioner.

### **6.2 Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

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

### **6.3 Centers for Independent Living (CILs)**

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

1. Marilyn Hancock for ABLE Center for Independent Living;
2. Ronald Rocha for ARCIL INC., ARCIL San Marcos, Williamson County Center for Independent Living Services;
3. Jackie Pacha for Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living;
4. Chamane Barrow for CBFL/Houston Center for Independent Living, CBFL/Brazoria County Center for Independent Living, CBFL/Fort Bend Center for Independent Living;
5. Linda Fallwell-Stover for Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living;
6. Sara Minton for Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living, Palestine Resource Center for Independent Living;
7. Leah Beltran for Disability In Action;
8. Jay Nichols for East Texas Center for Independent Living;
9. Peggy Cosner for Health of Central Texas Independent Living Center;
10. Michelle Crain for LIFE Inc.—Disability Connections, LIFE Inc.—LIFE/RUN;
11. Perry Hunter for Mounting Horizons;
12. Joe Rogers for Panhandle Independent Living Center;
13. Charlotte Stewart for 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 Fort Worth Resource Center on Independent Living;
14. James Brocato for RISE Center;
15. Kitty Brietzke for San Antonio Independent Living Services;
16. Susan Nelson for Valley Association for Independent Living—Rio Grande Valley, Valley Association for Independent Living—South Texas;
17. Luis Enrique Chew for Volar Center for Independent Living.

## 6.4 Authorizations

6.4.a. The SILC is authorized to submit the SPIL to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living. YES (Yes/No)

6.4.b. The SILC and CILs may legally carryout each provision of the SPIL. YES (Yes/No)

6.4.c. State/DSE operation and administration of the program is authorized by the SPIL. YES (Yes/No)

## Section 7: DSE Assurances

Phil Wilson, Executive Commissioner, acting on behalf of the DSE—The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) located at:  
Brown-Heatly Building  
4900 N. Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78751-2316  
Phil.Wilson@hhsc.state.tx.us  
512-424-650

*45 CFR 1329.11* Assures that:

- 7.1. The DSE acknowledges its role on behalf of the State, as the fiscal intermediary to receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State to support Independent Living Services in the State based on the plan;
- 7.2. The DSE will assure that the agency keeps appropriate records, in accordance with federal and state law, and provides access to records by the federal funding agency upon request;
- 7.3. The DSE will not retain more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for administrative expenses;
- 7.4. The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in *45 CFR 1329.14*;
- 7.5. The DSE will not interfere with the business or operations of the SILC that include but are not limited to:
  1. Expenditure of federal funds
  2. Meeting schedules and agendas
  3. SILC board business
  4. Voting actions of the SILC board
  5. Personnel actions
  6. Allowable travel
  7. Trainings
- 7.6. The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff:
  1. If the SILC informs the DSE that the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff, the DSE assures that management of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC is the sole responsibility of the SILC in accordance with Sec. 705(e)(3) of the Act (Sec. 705(e)(3), 29 U.S.C.796d(e)(3)).

- 7.7. The DSE will fully cooperate with the SILC in the nomination and appointment process for the SILC in the State;
- 7.8. The DSE shall make timely and prompt payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs:
  - 1. When the reimbursement method is used, the DSE must make a payment within 30 calendar days after receipt of the billing, unless the agency or pass-through entity reasonably believes the request to be improper;
  - 2. When necessary, the DSE will advance payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs to cover its estimated disbursement needs for an initial period generally geared to the mutually agreed upon disbursing cycle; and
  - 3. The DSE will accept requests for advance payments and reimbursements at least monthly when electronic fund transfers are not used, and as often as necessary when electronic fund transfers are used, in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693-1693r).

The signature below indicates this entity/agency's agreement to: serve as the DSE and fulfill all the responsibilities in Sec. 704(c) of the Act; affirm the State will comply with the aforementioned assurances during the three-year period of this SPIL; and develop, with the SILC, and ensure that the SILC resource plan is necessary and sufficient (in compliance with section 8, indicator (6) below) for the SILC to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities under Sec. 705(c) of the Act, consistent with the approved SPIL.

Mr. Phil Wilson, Executive Commissioner, Texas HHSC  
 Name and Title of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature Date

Electronic signature may be used for the purposes of submission, but hard copy of signature must be kept on file by the SILC.

## **Section 8: State Independent Living Council (SILC) Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance**

### **8.1 Assurances**

Chairman Colton Read, acting on behalf of the Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC), located at 1524 South Interstate Highway 35, Suite 320, Austin, Texas 78704 (512-371-7353; webmaster@txsilc.org) (45 CFR 1329.14) assures that:

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

### **Section 8.2 Indicators of Minimum Compliance**

Indicators of minimum compliance for Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILC) as required by the Rehabilitation Act (Section 706(b), 29 U.S.C. Sec

796d-1(b)), as amended and supported by 45 CFR 1329.14-1329.16; and Assurances for Designated State Entities (DSE) as permitted by Section 704(c)(4) of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. Sec. 796c(c)(4)), as amended.

(a) STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL INDICATORS. –

- (1) SILC written policies and procedures must include:
  - a. A method for recruiting members, reviewing applications, and regularly providing recommendations for eligible appointments to the appointing authority;
  - b. A method for identifying and resolving actual or potential disputes and conflicts of interest that are in compliance with State and federal law;
  - c. A process to hold public meetings and meet regularly as prescribed in 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
  - d. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
  - e. A process and timeline for advance notice to the public for SILC “Executive Session” meetings, that are closed to the public, that follow applicable federal and State laws;
    - i. “Executive Session” meetings should be rare and only take place to discuss confidential SILC issues such as but not limited to staffing.
    - ii. Agendas for “Executive Session” meetings must be made available to the public, although personal identifiable information regarding SILC staff shall not be included;
  - f. A process and timelines for the public to request reasonable accommodations to participate during a public Council meeting;
  - g. A method for developing, seeking and incorporating public input into, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating implementation of the State Plan as required in 45 CFR 1329.17; and
  - h. A process to verify centers for independent living are eligible to sign the State Plan in compliance with 45 CFR 1329.17(d)(2)(iii).
- (2) The SILC maintains regular communication with the appointing authority to ensure efficiency and timeliness of the appointment process.



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

1. If the resource plan includes Title VII, Part B funds, the State Plan provides justification of the percentage of Part B funds to be used if the percentage exceeds 30 percent of Title VII, Part B funds received by the State;
  - ii. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18), as applicable;
  - iii. Other public and private sources.
- b. The funds needed to support:
  - i. Staff/personnel;
  - ii. Operating expenses;
  - iii. Council compensation and expenses;
  - iv. Meeting expenses including meeting space, alternate formats, interpreters, and other accommodations;
  - v. Resources to attend and/or secure training and conferences for staff and council members and;
  - vi. Other costs as appropriate.

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

---

Colton Read, SILC Chairperson

Date

## Section 9: Signatures

The signatures below are of the SILC chairperson and at least 51 percent of the Directors of the Centers for Independent Living listed in section 6.3. These signatures indicate that the Texas SILC and the Centers for Independent Living in the state agree with and intend to fully implement this SPIL's content. These signatures also indicate that this SPIL is complete and ready for submission to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2020.

### **Texas State Independent Living Council**

---

Colton Read, SILC Chairperson

Date

### **ABLE Center for Independent Living**

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Marilyn Hancock, CIL Director

Date

### **ARCIL INC., ARCIL San Marcos, ARCIL Round Rock**

---

Ronald Rocha, CIL Director

Date

### **Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living**

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Jackie Pacha, CIL Director

Date

### **CBFL/Houston Center for Independent Living, CBFL/Brazoria County Center for Independent Living, CBFL/Fort Bend Center for Independent Living**

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Chamane Barrow, CIL Director

Date

**Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living**

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Linda Fallwell-Stover, CIL Director

Date

**Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living and Palestine  
Resource Center for Independent Living**

---

Sara Minton, CIL Director

Date

**Disability In Action**

---

Leah Beltran, CIL Director

Date

**East Texas Center for Independent Living**

---

Jay Nichols, CIL Director

Date

**Heart of Central Texas Center for Independent Living**

---

Peggy Cosner, CIL Director

Date

**LIFE Inc.—Disability Connections and LIFE Inc.—LIFE/RUN**

---

Michelle Crain, CIL Director

Date

## **Mounting Horizons Center for Independent Living**

---

Perry Hunter, CIL Director

Date

## **Pan Handle Independent Living Center**

---

Joe Rogers, CIL Director

Date

## **REACH of Plano Resource Center on Independent Living, REACH of Denton Resource Center on Independent Living, REACH of Dallas Resource Center on Independent Living, and REACH of Fort Worth Resource Center on Independent Living**

---

Charlotte Stewart, CIL Director

Date

## **RISE Center for Independent Living**

---

James Brocato, CIL Director

Date

## **San Antonio Independent Living Services**

---

Kitty Brietzke, CIL Director

Date

**Valley Association for Independent Living—Rio Grande Valley and  
Valley Association for Independent Living—South Texas**

---

Susan Nelson, CIL Director

Date

**Volar Center for Independent Living**

---

Luis Enrique Chew, CIL Director

Date

## **APPENDIX A: Texas State Independent Living Council Composition**

Colton Read, Chair

County: Hays

Term: Expires 10/24/2022

Position: Person with a disability

Joe Rogers, Council Member

County: Potter

Term: Expires 10/24/21

Position: Center for Independent Living Director

Mike Bates, Treasurer

County: Ward

Term: Expires 10/24/2022

Position: Person with a disability

April Pollreisz, Vice Chair

County: Potter

Term: Expires 10/24/2020

Position: Person with a disability

Wendy Wilkinson, Council Member

County: Harris

Term: Expires 10/24/2020

Position: Person with a disability

Alex San Martin

County: Travis

Term: Expires 10/24/2021

Position: Person with a disability

Jacqueline L. Clark

County: Travis

Term: Expires 10/24/2021

Position: Public

Eva Storey

County: Harris

Term: Expires 6/20/22

Position: Person with a disability

Jim Batchelor

County: Cooper

Term: Expires 6/20/2022

Position: Person with a disability

Leah Beltran

County: Taylor

Term: Expires 10/24/2021

Position: Public/CIL Employee

Pamela Clark

County: Harris



Term: Expires 10/24/2021

Position: Person with a disability/CIL Employee

Garry Simmons

County: Bexar

Term: Expires 6/20/2022

Position: Person with a disability

Keisha Rowe, Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Term: 10/24/2022

Position: Ex-Officio

Jonas Schwartz, Texas Workforce Commission

Term: Expires 10/24/2020

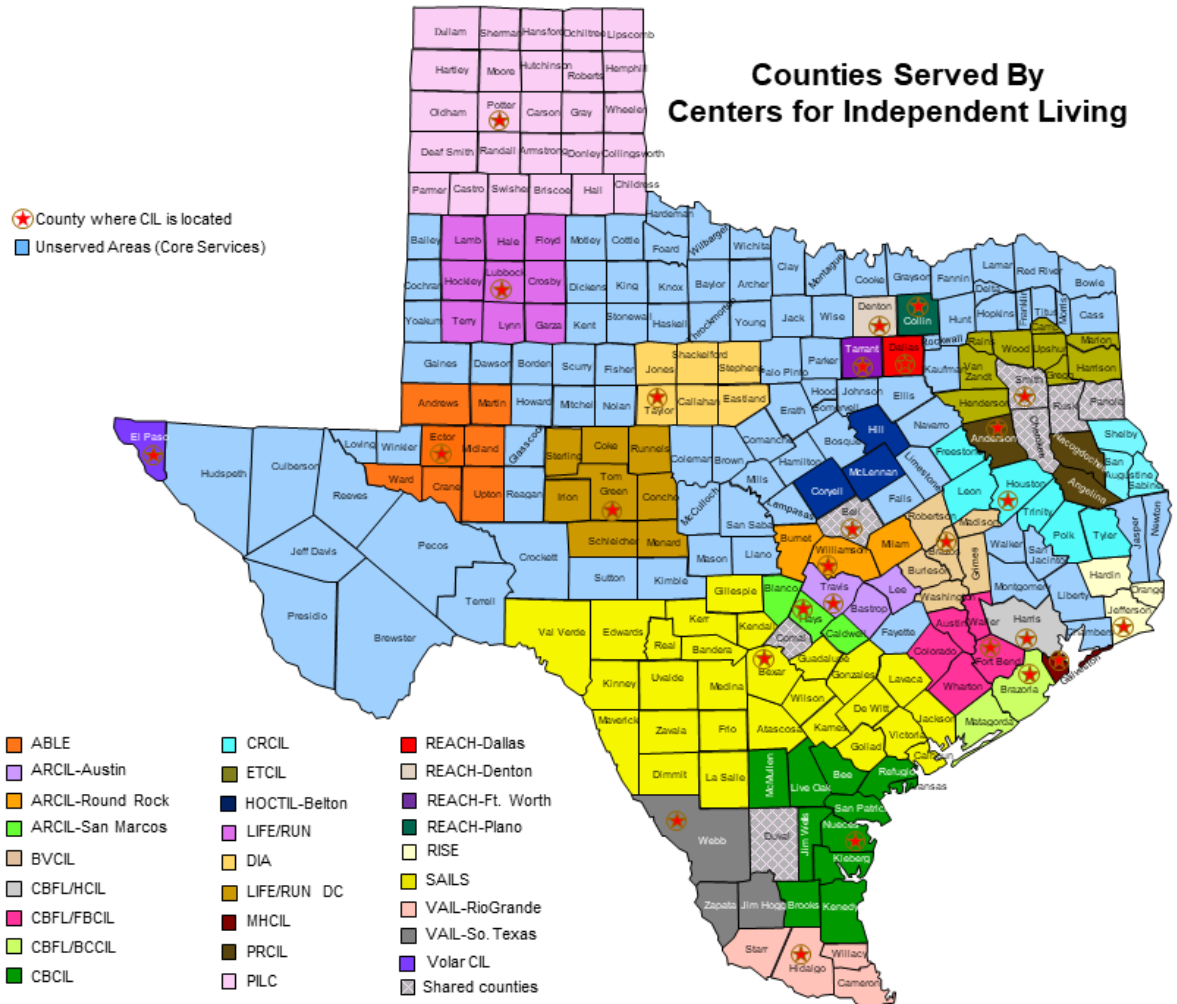
Position: Ex-Officio

Debra Lyon, Texas Department of Transportation

Term: Expires 10/24/2020

Position: Ex-Officio

# APPENDIX B: Texas Center for Independent Living Coverage Map



# APPENDIX C: Center for Independent Living Expansion

