



Texas State Plan For Independent Living 2014 - 2016



State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

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

**State Independent Living Services (SILS) Program
Part B**

**Centers for Independent Living (CIL) Program
Part C**

**FISCAL YEARS 2014-2016
Effective Date: October 1, 2013**

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PART I: ASSURANCES

State of: Texas

Section 1: Legal Basis and Certifications

- 1.1 The designated State unit (DSU) eligible to submit the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL or the plan) and authorized under State law to perform the functions of the State under the State Independent Living Services (SILS) and Centers for Independent Living (CIL) programs is the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Division for Rehabilitation Services (DRS). 34 CFR 76.104(a)(1) and (2); 34 CFR 364.22(a)
- 1.2 The separate State agency eligible to submit the plan and authorized under State law to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to individuals who are blind is DARS Division for Blind Services (DBS). 34 CFR 76.104(a)(1) and (2); 34 CFR 364.20(d) and 364.22(c)
- 1.3 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 the Texas State Independent Living Council. 34 CFR 364.21(a)
- 1.4 The DSU and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, and the SILC are authorized to jointly develop, sign and submit this SPIL on behalf of the State, and have adopted or otherwise formally approved the SPIL. 34 CFR 76.104(a)(7); 34 CFR 364.20(c) and (d)
- 1.5 The DSU, and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, may legally carry out each provision of the plan and will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the three-year period it receives funding under the SPIL. 34 CFR 76.104; 34 CFR 80.11(c)
- 1.6 The SPIL is the basis for State operation and administration of the program. All provisions of the SPIL plan are consistent with State law. 34 CFR 76.104(a)(4) and (8)
- 1.7 The representative(s) of the DSU and, if applicable, of the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, who has/have the authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the SPIL and to submit the SPIL jointly with the SILC chairperson is/are: Jim Hanophy, Assistant Commissioner, DARS-DRS and Barbara J. Madrigal, Assistant Commissioner, DARS-DBS. 34 CFR 76.104(a)(5) and (6)

Section 2: SPIL Development

- 2.1 The plan shall be reviewed and revised not less than once every three years, to ensure the existence of appropriate planning, financial support and coordination, and other assistance to appropriately address, on a statewide and comprehensive basis, the needs in the State for:

- a) The provision of State independent living services;
 - b) The development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living; and
 - c) Working relationships between programs providing independent living services and independent living centers, the vocational rehabilitation program established under title I, and other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities. *34 CFR 364.20(f)*
- 2.2 The DSU and SILC conduct public meetings to provide all segments of the public, including interested groups, organizations and individuals, an opportunity to comment on the State plan prior to its submission to the Commissioner and on any revisions to the approved State plan. *34 CFR 20(g)(1)*
- 2.3 The DSU and SILC establish and maintain a written description of procedures for conducting public meetings in accordance with the following requirements:
The DSU and SILC shall provide:
- a) Appropriate and sufficient notice of the public meetings (that is, at least 30 days prior to the public meeting through various media available to the general public, such as newspapers and public service announcements, and through specific contacts with appropriate constituency groups and organizations identified by the DSU and SILC);
 - b) Reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication in the conduct of the public meetings, including providing sign language interpreters and audio-loops; and
 - c) Public meeting notices, written material provided prior to or at the public meetings, and the approved State plan in accessible formats for individuals who rely on alternative modes of communication. *34 CFR 364.20(g)(2)*
- 2.4 At the public meetings to develop the State plan, the DSU and SILC identify those provisions in the SPIL that are State-imposed requirements beyond what would be required to comply with the regulations in 34 CFR parts 364, 365, 366, and 367. *34 CFR 364.20(h)*
- 2.5 The DSU will seek to incorporate into and describe in the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under a project funded under chapter 2 of title VII of the Act and that the DSU determines to be effective. *34 CFR 364.28*
- 2.6 The DSU and SILC actively consult, as appropriate, in the development of the State plan with the director of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) authorized under section 112 of the Act. *34 CFR 364.20(e)*

Section 3: Independent Living Services

- 3.1 The State, directly or through grants or contracts, will provide IL services with Federal, State, or other funds. *34 CFR 364.43(b)*
- 3.2 Independent living services shall be provided to individuals with significant disabilities in accordance with an independent living plan mutually agreed upon by an appropriate staff member of the service provider and the individual, unless the

individual signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary. *34 CFR 364.43(c)*

- 3.3 All service providers will use formats that are accessible to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII about:
 - a) The availability of the CAP authorized by section 112 of the Act;
 - b) The purposes of the services provided under the CAP; and
 - c) How to contact the CAP.*34 CFR 364.30*
- 3.4 Participating service providers meet all applicable State licensure or certification requirements. *34 CFR 365.31(c)*

Section 4: Eligibility

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

Section 5: Staffing Requirements

- 5.1 Service provider staff includes personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers. *34 CFR 364.23(a)*
- 5.2 To the maximum extent feasible, a service provider makes available personnel able to communicate:
 - (1) With individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille or audio tapes, and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act and
 - (2) in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act. *34 CFR 364.23(b)*
- 5.3 Service providers establish and maintain a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, if appropriate, in administering the CIL program. The staff development programs emphasize improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy. *34 CFR 364.24*
- 5.4 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified

individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act. *34 CFR 364.31*

Section 6: Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

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

Section 7: Recordkeeping, Access, and Reporting

- 7.1 In addition to complying with applicable EDGAR recordkeeping requirements, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will maintain records that fully disclose and document:
- a) The amount and disposition by the recipient of that financial assistance;
 - b) The total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which the financial assistance is given or used;
 - c) The amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources;
 - d) Compliance with the requirements of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act and Part 364 of the regulations; and
 - e) Other information that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit. *34 CFR 364.35(a) and (b)*
- 7.2 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will submit reports that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate with respect to the records that are required by *34 CFR 364.35* and *.36*
- 7.3 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 and chapter 2 of title VII of the Act will provide access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, to the records listed in *34 CFR 364.37* for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations and compliance reviews. *34 CFR 364.37*

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

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

State of: _____Texas_____

PART II: NARRATIVE

Section 1: Goals, Objectives, and Activities

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

1.1A Describe the overall goals and mission of the State's IL programs and services. The SPIL must address the goals and mission of both the SILS and the CIL programs.

The Texas State Plan for Independent Living is a collaborative effort between the State Independent Living Council (SILC) and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). This document is based on substantial input from the network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs), and persons with disabilities residing throughout the state.

SPIL Mission: To empower Texans with disabilities to live as independently, with as much choice, as possible.

DARS Mission: To work in partnership with Texans with disabilities and families with children who have developmental delays to improve the quality of their lives and enable their full participation in society.

Division of Blind Services Mission: To work in partnership with Texans who are blind or have low vision to reach their goals.

The goals cited below reflect current priorities of the SILC, DSU, and network of CILs toward the fulfillment of this mission:

GOAL I: Texans with disabilities establish and maintain an integrated, independent lifestyle.

GOAL II: Independent Living Services Network builds capacity and sustains expansions.

GOAL III: Persons underserved and underrepresented in the IL network have an increased presence within the network.

GOAL IV: The Independent Living Network coordinates on advocacy, training, and educational opportunities to promote systems change.

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

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

Specific objectives are presented to support each of the goals listed in Section 1.1 A above.

Given the expansiveness of these objectives, time to accomplish specific components of each will vary, but all activities will be accomplished during the FY 2014-2016 SPIL cycle as required. Progress on all objectives will be assessed quarterly and annually.

Goal #1: Texans with disabilities establish and maintain an integrated, independent lifestyle.

Objective 1.1: Key stakeholders and policymakers collaborate with the Independent Living (IL) Network to increase the availability of affordable and accessible housing for individuals with disabilities.

- Measurable Indicators: 1) 5% combined increase in housing assistance for individuals with disabilities through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and TDHCA Project Access programs (based on the annual average assistance provided for FY10-FY12). 2) 3 CILs are TDHCA TBRA vendors. 3) Addition of 2 TDHCA TBRA vendors serving people with disabilities (based on the annual average number of vendors from FY10-FY12).
- Scope: Statewide
- Target Performance Levels for 2016: 1) 5% combined increase in housing assistance for individuals with disabilities through the TDHCA HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance and TDHCA Project Access programs (based on the annual average assistance provided for FY10-FY12). 2) 3 CILs are TDHCA TBRA vendors. 3) Addition of 2 TDHCA TBRA vendors serving people with disabilities (based on the annual average number of vendors from FY10-FY12).
- Target Progress FY2014-FY2016: FY14—1% increase in housing assistance, 1 CIL is a TDHCA TBRA vendor, begin recruitment of additional TDHCA TBRA vendors to serve people with disabilities; FY15—2% increase in housing placements, 2 CILs are TDHCA TBRA vendors, addition of 1 TDHCA TBRA vendor serving people with disabilities; FY16—5% increase in housing assistance, 3 CILs are TDHCA TBRA vendors, addition of 2 TDHCA TBRA vendors serving people with disabilities (based on the annual average number of vendors from FY10-FY12).
- Activities: 1) Utilizing and accessing TDHCA Project Access vouchers and TDHCA HOME TBRA more efficiently. 2) Encouraging new TDHCA TBRA vendors in the community, including CILs. 3) Facilitating partnerships and communication efforts among municipal government, non-profits, developers, and government agencies to integrate affordable housing into planning activities.
- Lead Organization: Relocation contractors, TDHCA TBRA administrators

- Partners: TDHCA, CILs, Easter Seals Central Texas, Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)
- Resources: For FY12, \$3,794,677 was allocated by the TDHCA HOME program funding for rental assistance activities and \$5,573,940 was allocated by the TDHCA Section 8 program for the State of Texas. Funding is subject to federal appropriation.
- Funding Sources: TDHCA through federal and State General Revenue funds

Objective 1.2: Individuals with disabilities access and utilize public transportation and non-traditional transportation options in non-metropolitan, rural (under 50,000), and small urban (50,000-200,000) areas.

- Measurable Indicators: 1) 20 public hearings, town hall meetings, or community events held to assess the needs of rural and small urban areas. 2) 5,000 needs assessment surveys disseminated to determine the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities. 3) 4 regional workgroup meetings facilitated to discuss hearing and survey findings. 4) Submit a report to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the network of CILs summarizing the findings and suggestions derived from the public hearing and needs assessment process. 5) 5 CILs participate in Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan meetings.
- Scope: Statewide
- Target Performance Levels for 2016: 1) 20 public hearings, town hall meetings, or community events. 2) 5,000 needs assessment surveys. 3) 4 regional workgroup meetings. 4) Report to TxDOT. 5) 5 CILs participate in Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan meetings.
- Target Progress FY2014-FY2016: FY14—1) Hold 6 hearings, town hall meetings, or community events, 2) Distribute up to 1,500 surveys, 3) 1 CIL participates in Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan meetings; FY15—1) Hold 12 hearings, town hall meetings, or community events, 2) Distribute up to 3,000 surveys, 3) 2 CILs participate in Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan meetings; FY16—1) Hold 20 hearings town hall meetings, or community events, 2) Distribute up to 5,000 surveys, 3) Hold 4 regional workgroup meetings, 4) Report on findings, 5) 5 CILs participate in Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan meetings.
- Activities: 1) Assessing the availability and use of transportation resources for individuals with disabilities in rural and small urban areas. 2) Communicating the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities to regional and statewide transportation planners and stakeholders through participation by the network of CILs at Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan meetings.
- Lead Organization: SILC
- Partners: Federal Transit Administration, Texas Department of Transportation, CILs, Universities, and Community Colleges

- Resources: \$866,959 over the SPIL cycle
- Funding Sources: Texas Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, SILC, CIL funding

Objective 1.3: Job seekers with disabilities have an awareness of workplace expectations, employment opportunities, and access to job and soft skills training.

- Measurable Indicators: 1) 20 contacts per year between CILs and community groups on training and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. 2) 5 soft skills and employment readiness trainings conducted at CILs per year.
- Scope: Statewide network of CILs
- Target Performance Levels for 2016: 1) 60 contacts between CILs and community groups on training and employment opportunities, 2) 15 soft skills and employment readiness trainings.
- Target Progress FY2014-FY2016: FY14—20 contacts between CILs and community groups on training and employment opportunities, 5 soft skills and employment readiness trainings; FY15—40 contacts between CILs and community groups on training and employment opportunities, 10 soft skills and employment readiness trainings; FY16—60 contacts between CILs and community groups on training and employment opportunities, 15 soft skills and employment readiness trainings.
- Activities: 1) Coordinating with local Workforce Commissions and other community groups to collaborate on training and referral opportunities for individuals with disabilities seeking to enter the workforce. 2) Coordinating with local employers' programs to hire individuals with disabilities. 3) Implementing soft skills and employment readiness training at CILs.
- Lead Organization: CILs
- Partners: Texas Workforce Commission, DARS, DADS
- Resources: \$8,310,229 (estimated annual General CIL Operations funding)
- Funding Sources: Part B, Part C, SSA-VR, State General Revenue

Objective 1.4: Individuals with disabilities, rehabilitation counselors, and CILs have increased access to, and are informed of, new innovations in Assistive Technology (AT).

- Measurable Indicators: 1) At least one AT expert exhibit at the annual IL conference. 2) At least three trainings on AT held by 2016. 3) AT is featured quarterly in a SILC and/or CIL newsletter.
- Scope: Statewide
- Target Performance Levels for 2016: 1) 3 expert AT exhibits at the annual IL conference. 2) 3 trainings on AT. 3) 12 articles on AT in a SILC or CIL newsletter.

- Target Progress FY2014-FY2016: FY14—1 expert AT exhibit, 1 training on AT, 4 newsletter articles; FY15—2 expert AT exhibits, 2 trainings on AT, 8 newsletter articles; FY16—3 expert AT exhibits, 3 trainings on AT, 12 newsletters on AT.
- Activities: 1) Highlighting innovations in technologies at the annual statewide IL conference. 2) Featuring breakthroughs in AT research and innovation in regular newsletters to the IL community. 3) Training IL counselors and rehabilitation counselors at the annual statewide IL conference and the Texas Assistive Technology Regional Conference on available and emerging AT.
- Lead Organization: CILs, SILC
- Partners: SILC, DARS, CILs, TCDD, Texas Technology Access Program, TACIL
- Resources: \$8,310,229 (estimated annual General CIL Operations funding)
- Funding Sources: Part B, Part C, SSA-VR, State General Revenue, TCDD, Texas Technology Access Program, program income, and other funds to be determined from other community resources.

Goal #2—IL Services Network builds capacity and sustains expansions.

Objective 2.1: CILs partner with Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), Area Agency on Aging (AAAs), and/or Local Authorities to coordinate IL services within their communities.

- Measurable Indicators: 1) At least five CILs will work closely with ADRCs, AAAs, and/or Local Authorities to collaborate on resources. 2) At least once a year, the CILs, SILC, or TACIL will contact the ADRCs, AAAs, and/or Local Authorities to create awareness of CIL resources and service offerings.
- Scope: Statewide
- Target Performance Levels for 2016: 1) 5 CILs work with ADRCs, AAAs, and/or Local Authorities. 2) 3 contacts with ADRCs, AAAs, and Local Authorities to create awareness of CIL resources and service offerings.
- Target Progress FY2014-FY2016: FY14—2 CILs work with ADRCs, AAAs, and/or Local Authorities, 1 contact to create awareness; FY15—4 CILs work with ADRCs, AAAs, and/or Local Authorities, 2 contacts to create awareness; FY16—5 CILs work with ADRCs, AAAs, and/or Local Authorities, 3 contacts to create awareness.
- Activities: 1) Creating awareness of CIL presence in the community and the services they provide. 2) Working as a resource coach to ADRCs, AAAs, and/or Local Authorities along with other community partners. 3) Collaborating with ADRCs, AAAs, and/or Local Authorities to assess needed services for consumers. 4) Coordinating with CILs, SILC, and their community-based partners on the establishment of a new ADRC in the IL network. 5) Submit at least one ADRC grant proposal, should a RFP be issued.
- Lead Organization: CILs

- Partners: TACIL, SILC, DADS, ADRCs, AAAs, Local Authorities
- Resources: \$8,310,229 (estimated annual General CIL Operations funding)
- Funding Sources: Part B, Part C, SSA-VR, State General Revenue

Objective 2.2: The SILC coordinates additional grants and outside funding opportunities to expand consumer services and promote the value and services of CILs.

- Measurable Indicators: 1) Identify at least three potential funding opportunities. 2) 10% of CILs partners with the SILC, TACIL, community stakeholders, and/or state agencies on new funding opportunities.
- Scope: Statewide
- Target Performance Levels for 2016: 3 funding opportunities identified, 10% of CILs partner on new funding opportunities
- Target Progress FY2014-FY2016: FY14—1 funding opportunity identified, 1 CIL partners on new funding opportunity; FY15—2 funding opportunities identified, 2 CILs partner on new funding opportunities; FY16—3 funding opportunities identified, 3 CILs partner on new funding opportunity
- Activities: 1) Researching new funding or grant opportunities to collaborate with CILs to expand consumer services. 2) Partnering with CILs and other stakeholders on potential funding opportunities. 3) Providing technical assistance regarding and/ or administering grants to CILs for expansion of programs or awareness of CIL services and programs.
- Lead Organization: SILC
- Partners: CILs, TACIL
- Resources: To be determined
- Funding Sources: Volunteer hours, Non-federal dollars, Unrestricted funds

Goal #3—Persons underserved and underrepresented in the IL network have an increased presence within the Network.

Objective 3.1: Older Texans who are blind or have low vision receive IL training.

- Measurable Indicators: 1) 5 additional training contracts executed. 2) 225 consumers receive IL contract services.
- Scope: Statewide
- Target Performance Levels for 2016: 1) 5 training contracts executed. 2) 225 consumers receive IL contract services.
- Target Progress FY2014-FY2016: FY14—1 training contract executed, 50 consumers receive IL contract services; FY15—2 training contracts executed, 125 consumers receive IL contract services; FY16—5 training contracts executed, 225 consumers receive IL contract services.

- Activities: 1) Recruiting the necessary contractors to conduct IL training for individuals who are blind or have low vision. 2) Executing contracts with qualified vendors to perform IL contract services. 3) Conducting outreach to CILs, ADRCs, AAAs, and other stakeholders to identify consumers to receive training.
- Lead Organization: DBS
- Partners: DARS, CILs, DADS, ADRCs, AAAs
- Resources: \$250,000 per year
- Funding Sources: SSA-VR

Objective 3.2: Individuals that are Deaf or hard of hearing are aware of, and access, IL services.

- Measurable Indicators: 1) 12 programs and/ or activities per year in coordination with the CILs, specifically targeted to the Deaf and hard of hearing community.
- Scope: Statewide network of CILs.
- Target Performance Levels for 2016: 1) 36 programs and/or activities per year in coordination with the CILs, specifically targeted to the Deaf and hard of hearing community.
- Target Progress FY2014-FY2016: FY14—12 programs and/or activities per year in coordination with the CILs; FY15—24 programs and/or activities per year in coordination with the CILs; FY16—36 programs and/or activities per year in coordination with the CILs.
- Activities: 1) Facilitating connections, training opportunities, and IL programs among the Deaf and hard of hearing community, the CILs, ADRCs, and AAAs.
- Lead Organization: CILs
- Partners: DARS, DADS, ADRCs, AAAs
- Resources: \$8,310,229 (estimated annual General CIL Operations funding)
- Funding Sources: Part B, Part C, SSA-VR, State General Revenue, Program income

Objective 3.3: Youth with disabilities, including those who qualify for protection under Sec. 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, in transition toward community integration, employment, or higher education access available IL resources, peer-support, and mentoring programs.

- Measurable Indicators: 1) Five CILs participating in youth outreach and mentoring programs. 2) 3% increase in youth consumers served by CILs annually (as compared to youth consumers served in FY12). 3) 12 young adults identified as emerging leaders in the IL community. 4) The young adults identified will receive stipends to attend the annual statewide IL conference and/or the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) conference. Scope: Statewide

- Target Performance Levels for 2016: 1) Five CILs participating in youth outreach and mentoring programs. 2) 9% increase in youth consumers served by CILs. 3) 12 young adults identified as emerging leaders in the IL community. 4) 12 young adults receive stipends to attend the annual statewide IL conference and/ or the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) conference.
- Target Progress FY2014-FY2016: FY14—1) 1 CIL participates in youth outreach and mentoring programs. 2) 3% increase in youth consumers served by CILs. 3) 4 young adults identified as emerging leaders in the IL community. 4) 4 young adults receive stipends to attend the annual statewide IL conference and/ or the APRIL conference; FY15—1) 3 CILs participate in youth outreach and mentoring programs. 2) 6% increase in youth consumers served by CILs. 3) 8 young adults identified as emerging leaders in the IL community. 4) 8 young adults receive stipends to attend the annual statewide IL conference and/ or the APRIL conference; FY16—1) 5 CILs participate in youth outreach and mentoring programs. 2) 9% increase in youth consumers served by CILs. 3) 12 young adults identified as emerging leaders in the IL community. 4) 12 young adults receive stipends to attend the annual statewide IL conference and/ or the APRIL conference.
- Activities: 1) Facilitating soft skills, social skills, and employment readiness training at CILs for youth. 2) Establishing and/or expanding youth outreach and mentoring programs at CILs. 3) Promoting young advocates for leadership positions at CILs, non-profit organizations, state boards, etc.
- Lead Organization: CILs
- Partners: Local school districts, Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities (TCDD)
- Resources: \$8,310,229 (estimated annual General CIL Operations funding)
- Funding Sources: Part B, Part C, SSA-VR, State General Revenue, TCDD

Goal #4—The IL Network coordinates on advocacy, training, and educational opportunities to promote systems change.

Objective 4.1: The network of CILs uses new and existing reporting systems and unified descriptions of services when reporting SPIL activities to the SILC, DARS, and RSA.

- Measurable Indicators: 1) 100% of CILs participate in submitting IL activities and consumer data recorded in the 704 report to the SILC and RSA or DARS. 2) The SILC tracks SPIL activities on a quarterly basis and reports overall SPIL progress. 3) 80% of CILs are represented at workgroup meetings on reporting methods and unified descriptions of services.
- Scope: Statewide network of CILs

- Target Performance Levels for 2016: 1) 100% of CILs participate in submitting IL activities and consumer data recorded in the 704 report to the SILC and RSA or DARS. 2) The SILC tracks SPIL activities on a quarterly basis and reports overall SPIL progress. 3) 80% of CILs are represented at workgroup meetings on reporting methods and unified descriptions of services.
- Target Progress FY2014-FY2016: FY14—1) 100% of CILs participate in submitting IL activities and consumer data recorded in the 704 report to the SILC and RSA or DARS, 2) The SILC tracks SPIL activities on a quarterly basis and reports overall SPIL progress, 3) Majority of CILs are represented at workgroup meetings on reporting methods and unified descriptions of services; FY15—1) 100% of CILs participate in submitting IL activities and consumer data recorded in the 704 report to the SILC and RSA or DARS, 2) The SILC tracks SPIL activities on a quarterly basis and reports overall SPIL progress, 3) Majority of CILs are represented at workgroup meetings on reporting methods and unified descriptions of services; FY16—1) 100% of CILs participate in submitting IL activities and consumer data recorded in the 704 report to the SILC and RSA or DARS, 2) The SILC tracks SPIL activities on a quarterly basis and reports overall SPIL progress, 3) 80% of CILs are represented at workgroup meetings on reporting methods and unified descriptions of services.
- Activities: 1) Coordinating data collection by working with new and existing software systems used at CILs. 2) Formulating unified descriptions of services with the input of the SILC, DARS, and the CILs. 3) Facilitating workgroup meetings with the CILs on reporting methods and unified descriptions of services. 4) Developing a reporting schedule at the workgroup sessions by SILC and CIL staff. 5) Holding discussions with the National Council on Independent Living and RSA on systems change.
- Lead Organization: SILC, CILs
- Partners: TACIL, CILs, DARS
- Resources: Amount listed in SILC Resource Plan and “Other SPIL Activities” in Section 1.3A
- Funding Sources: Part B

Objective 4.2: Policymakers and key stakeholders have return on investment and funding justification data for IL services and programs.

- Measurable Indicators: 1) Return on investment (ROI) calculation, justification scenarios, or other measuring methods are created and approved by the IL network. 2) An education campaign and outreach plan for policymakers and key stakeholders are created and implemented.
- Scope: Network of CILs
- Target Performance Levels for 2016: 1) ROI, justification scenarios, or measuring methods determined. 2) Education and outreach plan implemented. 3) Project outcomes reviewed.
- Target Progress FY2014-FY2016: FY14—1) Research ROI calculations, justification scenarios, or other measuring methods and plan for implementation;

FY15—1) Continued implementation of calculations and methods, 2) Creation of education and outreach plan for policymakers and key stakeholders; FY16—1) Review project outcomes, 2) Education and outreach continues for policymakers and key stakeholders.

- Activities: 1) Researching return on investment (ROI) calculations, justification scenarios, or methods to measure outcomes in the IL network that other states or organizations have used. 2) Coordinating with CILs and DARS on proposed funding calculations, justification scenarios, and methods to measure outcomes. 3) Adjusting reporting requirements to ensure appropriate data and tracking information is available from the CILs to the SILC and DSU. 4) Creating an education campaign and outreach plan for policymakers and key stakeholders. 5) Implementing said strategy and disseminating ROI or justification data to the network of CILs, DARS, and the SILC.
- Lead Organization: SILC, CILs
- Partners: DARS, TACIL, Disability Policy Consortium
- Resources: Amount listed in SILC Resource Plan and “Other SPIL Activities” in Section 1.3A
- Funding Sources: Part B, Part C, Program funds, Unrestricted funds

1.2B Describe the steps planned regarding outreach to populations in the State that are unserved or underserved by programs under title VII, including minority groups and urban and rural populations. This section of the SPIL must:

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

Feedback from a Comprehensive Needs Assessment conducted by the Rehabilitation Council of Texas with the assistance of the SILC along with comments from the public, individual CILs, TACIL, and SILC dialogue reflected the need to reach out to the populations listed below regarding IL services. A representative from the SILC serves on the Rehabilitation Council of Texas and is assigned to the Needs Assessment Committee.

Populations:

Disabilities:

- Intellectual disabilities, cognitive disorders
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Autism
- Dual Diagnosis

- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Developmental Disabilities
- Mental illness

Groups:

- Individuals with guardians
- Adults residing with their parents or other family members
- Individuals residing in long-term residential care facilities
- Ex-offenders
- Homeless
- Individuals who do not meet DARS eligibility criteria
- Veterans

Ages:

- Students transitioning to IL services and incorporating into the community
- Older adults aging into disabilities

Geographic Areas of Targeted Populations:

- Rural areas, including Colonias
- Unserved areas (see section 3.2)

Needs of Minorities with Disabilities:

- Hispanic
- Asian
- Non-English speaking

Strategies to address the IL needs of individuals from above populations, minority groups, and geographic areas will include:

- Continuing to focus on transition services for youth, both through DARS and the CILs. This strategy is reflected in Objective 3.3 regarding youth with disabilities. Specifically, this objective includes providing outreach, IL resources, peer supports, and mentoring for this population to assist them in transition toward community integration, employment or higher education.
- Targeted outreach to blind and low vision and Deaf and hard of hearing populations, particularly in rural areas. This strategy is reflected in Objective 3.1 and 3.2, respectively. Objective 3.1 focuses on outreach to the blind and low vision population to ensure they receive IL training. Objective 3.2 includes targeted outreach strategies to reach out to the Deaf and hard of hearing populations regarding access and awareness of IL services.
- Analyzing and promoting the availability of services to individuals of diverse racial and ethnic groups. CILs actively participate and develop culturally appropriate

outreach and service delivery strategies to meet the needs of growing minority populations with disabilities.

- Increasing public awareness of Independent Living through outreach and education activities to both rural and urban areas.
- Expanding the network and capacity of the CILs. The strategy for helping address the need to expand the geographic scope of the network as well as the capacity of the network is reflected in Objectives 2.1, 2.2, 4.1, and 4.2. Specifically, Objective 2.1 encourages CIL partnership with ADRCs and AAAs to coordinate IL services in their communities. In addition, Objective 2.2 reflects the need for the coordination of additional grants and outside funding opportunities to expand consumer services and promote the value and services of CILs. To help strengthen and build capacity in the network of CILs, Objective 4.1 ensures the SILC can help make certain the network is unified in information gathering and reporting activities in order to better report the progress and success of the CILs. Objective 4.2 expands upon this information gathering effort and allows the SILC, DARS, and the network to increase and promote the value of CILs at the local, state, and federal levels by coordinating funding justifications for IL services and programs.

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

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

1.3A Financial Plan Tables

Complete the financial plan tables covering years 1, 2 and 3 of this SPIL. The first column in each of the tables lists the potential SPIL funding sources. The four other columns represent the potential uses of funds. For each funding source, provide estimated dollar amounts anticipated for the applicable uses. To the extent possible, the tables and narratives must reflect the applicable financial information from centers for independent living. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about completing the financial tables and narratives.

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

Year 1

| Sources | Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | SILC Resource Plan | IL Services | General CIL Operations | Other SPIL Activities |
| Title VII Funds | | | | |
| Chapter 1, Part B | \$395,083 | \$1,092,957 | | |
| Chapter 1, Part C | | | \$5,609,746* \$5,250,722** | |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|--|
| Chapter 2, Individuals Who are Older Blind | | \$1,551,616 | | |
| Other Federal Funds | | | | |
| Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion) | | | | |
| Other | | \$4,981,929 | \$1,439,283 | |
| Non-Federal Funds | | | | |
| State Funds (GR) | | \$1,616,625 | \$1,250,000 | |
| Other | | | \$4,161,537 | |

IL Services

Other Federal Funds SSA-VR Funds (approximated from previous experience)

General CIL Operations

Other Federal Funds SSA-VR Funds (approximated from previous experience)

Other Non-Federal Funds Relocation funds from DADS (approximated from previous experience)

*As reported by the CILs in the FY12 704 reports

**Includes the Budget Control Act of 2011 sequestration amount of 6.4%

Year 2

| Sources | Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | SILC Resource Plan | IL Services | General CIL Operations | Other SPIL Activities |
| Title VII Funds | | | | |
| Chapter 1, Part B | \$395,083 | \$1,092,957 | | |
| Chapter 1, Part C | | | \$5,609,746* \$5,250,722** | |
| Chapter 2, Individuals Who are Older Blind | | \$1,551,616 | | |
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|--|
| Other Federal Funds | | | | |
| Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion) | | | | |
| Other | | \$4,981,929 | \$1,439,283 | |
| Non-Federal Funds | | | | |
| State Funds (GR) | | \$1,616,625 | \$1,250,000 | |
| Other | | | \$4,161,537 | |

IL Services

Other Federal Funds SSA-VR Funds (approximated from previous experience)

General CIL Operations

Other Federal Funds SSA-VR Funds (approximated from previous experience)

Other Non-Federal Funds Relocation funds from DADS (approximated from previous experience)

*As reported by the CILs in the FY12 704 reports

**Includes the Budget Control Act of 2011 sequestration amount of 6.4%

Year 3

| Sources | Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | SILC Resource Plan | IL Services | General CIL Operations | Other SPIL Activities |
| Title VII Funds | | | | |
| Chapter 1, Part B | \$395,083 | \$1,092,957 | | |
| Chapter 1, Part C | | | \$5,609,746* \$5,250,722** | |
| Chapter 2, Individuals Who are Older Blind | | \$1,551,616 | | |
| | | | | |
| Other Federal Funds | | | | |
| Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion) | | | | |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|--|
| Other | | \$4,981,929 | \$1,439,283 | |
| Non-Federal Funds | | | | |
| State Funds (GR) | | \$1,616,625 | \$1,250,000 | |
| Other | | | \$4,161,537 | |

IL Services

Other Federal Funds SSA-VR Funds (approximated from previous experience)

General CIL Operations

Other Federal Funds SSA-VR Funds (approximated from previous experience)

Other Non-Federal Funds Relocation funds from DADS (approximated from previous experience)

*As reported by the CILs in the FY12 704 reports

**Includes the Budget Control Act of 2011 sequestration amount of 6.4%

1.3B Financial Plan Narratives

1.3B(1) Specify how the Part B, Part C and Chapter 2 (Older Blind) funds, if applicable, will further the SPIL objectives.

Part B, Part C, and Chapter 2 Funds Furthering SPIL Objectives:

These funds support the framework through which SPIL objectives are realized. The SPIL describes the IL service network in Texas and anticipated results. Specific SPIL objectives are delineated for DARS (DRS and DBS), CILs and the SILC I. Details about funding and objectives are noted in Section 1.2(A) of the SPIL.

SILC Resource Plan: Specifically, the SILC is the lead organization for Objectives 4.1 and 4.2, in which the resources to fulfill these objectives are designated in the SILC Resource plan in Financial Plan table.

Objective 4.1 is centered on reporting consumer-related activities to the SILC and DARS so that they may track SPIL progress and advocate at the local, state, and national level for the CIL network. Specifically, the SILC, DARS, and the network of CILs will create unified descriptions of services to ensure consistency of reporting throughout the network. In addition, the SILC will work with the network of CILs to use new and/or existing reporting systems within each CIL to ensure consumer activities and SPIL activities data is reported regularly. This will help ensure the SILC has accurate and consistent information to track, monitor, and report SPIL activities in a timely manner.

Objective 4.2 will work off of the improved information gathering activities in Objective

4.1. The SILC will work with DARS and the network of Centers to create mutually agreed upon return on investment or funding justification data for IL services and programs. The SILC will research and create calculations, justifications, scenarios, and methods to measure outcomes in the IL network. As part of this effort, the SILC will create an education campaign and outreach plan for policymakers and key stakeholders to ensure outcomes measures are appropriately communicated.

Funding for Services to Individuals Who Are Blind:

The Division of Blind Services, a division of DARS, provides services to those that are blind or have low vision. The figures listed in the Financial Plan Tables (Section. 1.3A) for IL Services includes the funding figures for both DRS and DBS combined. The funding breakdown between DRS and DBS for IL Services is as follows:

- Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds—\$254,832 DBS; \$838,125 DRS: Total \$1,092,957
- Title VII, Chapter 2, Individuals Who are Older Blind—\$1,551,616 DBS
- SSA-VR— \$3,985,637 DRS; \$996,292 DBS: Total \$4,981,929
- State GR—\$1,416,625 DRS; \$200,000 DBS: Total: \$1,616,625

1.3B(2) Describe efforts to coordinate Federal and State funding for CILs and IL services, including the amounts, sources and purposes of the funding to be coordinated.

Budget resources for the SPIL cycle are delineated in 1.3A. These funds are coordinated in the execution of SPIL activities. Federal and state funds are used to maximize the availability of IL services in Texas. For example, DADS anticipates providing approximately \$4,161,537 in state funding each year for relocation contracts held by the CILs and other entities (funding is dependent on appropriations of funds from the legislature). In addition, each year DARS uses reimbursements from SSA-VR to fund CIL operations (\$1,439,283) and to fund IL services (\$4,981,929), which helps sustain funding.

1.3B(3) Describe any in-kind resources including plant, equipment or services to be provided in support of the SILC resource plan, IL services, general CIL operations and/or other SPIL objectives.

In-kind contributions support the framework of IL services in Texas. The DSU provides operational support as needed for SILC, CIL, and SPIL related activities—e.g. multi-media assistance, reproduction of materials in alternate formats, space for meetings, and technical support particularly regarding administrative issues. Contingent on available funds, the SILC provides stipends for CIL Consumers and Board members to attend the annual statewide conference and sponsors a yearly training for CIL personnel. CILs provide support by circulating outreach materials and needs assessments developed by the SILC and by cosponsoring the annual conference. A spirit of collaboration is encouraged to maximize use of resources.

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

The primary funding for operation of the SILC originates with the Rehabilitation Services Administration, which grants Title VII, Part B funds to DARS, which, in turn, allocates a portion of these funds to the Council. The State Independent Living Council also pursues funding from other sources, both public and private, for additional activities to accomplish its mission, further SPIL objectives, and address IL needs identified throughout the state. The SILC also locates resources for the network of CILs to allow them to pursue capacity building activities. These activities do not impair or interfere with the SILC's ability to perform its statutory duties. The SILC has established and maintains fiscal and fund accounting controls ensuring proper separation between federal and non-federal funds. The following describes the SILC's funding sources and activities outside of its statutory authority:

Health and Fitness Project:

Getting Fit to Live, Work, and Play! develops health and fitness programs for people with disabilities in the Brazos Valley and West Texas areas by providing them with the ability to gain access to health and wellness programs and physical fitness education. The programs are funded by the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) and housed and operated by SILC partners, the Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living and LIFE/RUN Center for Independent Living. These partnerships ensure that services are designed, directed, and delivered by qualified individuals with disabilities themselves.

Texas Statewide Independent Living Conference:

The SILC implements an annual, innovative, statewide, cross-disability, multi-agency Conference to promote advocacy and awareness about the Independent Living philosophy. The Texas Statewide Independent Living Conference is an important opportunity for people in the disability community to come together and learn more about the services that people with disabilities use to maintain independent lives. Conference planning and activities are funded by DARS. TCDD, through the Leadership, Development, and Advocacy Skills Training grant, provides stipends for consumers to attend the Conference as well as funding to support a Project Advisory Committee.

Transportation Works Project:

Transportation Works is a pilot project funded by the Texas Department of Transportation and is in partnership with the ABLE Center for Independent Living. The project focuses on improving transportation options for people with disabilities living in rural counties near Midland and Odessa. The Transportation Works pilot program will develop a comprehensive online consumer resource guide used by people with disabilities, CILs, local businesses, and regional non-profits to highlight local economic and transportation services available to the disability community. In addition, the project will initiate and implement alternative forms of transportation for individuals with disabilities with employment-related transportation needs.

Transportation Works—Assess and Deliver Project:

Transportation Works: Assess & Deliver, which is funded by the Texas Department of Transportation, expands the scope of the original Transportation Works project to include all rural and small urban areas of Texas. Specifically, the Texas SILC will adhere to the Independent Living philosophy by identifying service, infrastructure, and other barriers to the use of existing public transportation in rural and small urban areas by individuals with disabilities. Understanding barriers to the use of accessible public transportation in rural areas will help in addressing the overall employment gap that hinders independence. In addition, the project will educate and provide technical training to CIL leadership and regional transportation providers seeking to implement additional transportation programs or service to improve employment opportunities.

1.4 Compatibility with Title VII and the CIL Work plans – 34 CFR 364.42(c) and (e)

1.4A Describe how the SPIL objectives are consistent with and further the purpose of Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Act as stated in section 701 of the Act and 34 CFR 364.2.

SPIL objectives noted in 1.2A are the means by which the above stated criteria will be satisfied. In summary, the objectives will:

Goal I: Texans with disabilities establish and maintain an integrated, independent lifestyle.

- Maximizing the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of society.
- Promoting a philosophy of Independent Living.

Goal II: IL Services network builds capacity and sustains expansions.

- Providing assistance to develop and support a Statewide network of CILs.
- Advocating for improved working relationships among the various entities providing services to and for people with significant disabilities.

Goal III: Persons underserved and underrepresented in the IL network have an increased presence within the network.

- Promote a philosophy of Independent Living to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities.
- Maximizing the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

Goal IV: The network coordinates on advocacy, training, and educational opportunities to promote systems change.

- Providing assistance to develop and support a statewide network of CILs.
- Advocating for improved working relationships among the various entities providing services to and for people with significant disabilities.
- Promoting a philosophy of Independent Living to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities.

1.4B Describe how, in developing the SPIL objectives, the DSU and the SILC considered and incorporated, where appropriate, the priorities and objectives established by Centers for Independent Living under section 725(c)(4) of the Act.

Focus has been on identifying critical areas affecting the lives of Texans with disabilities within the scope of the IL legislation. The resulting document is a representative picture of a commonly-shared vision regarding IL services in the state.

The SPIL goals and objectives were developed based on extensive dialogue through SILC meetings, public hearings, and input from attendees at the 2013 Statewide IL Conference. In preparation for development of the SPIL, the SILC held four public hearings to solicit input from local residents with disabilities and other interested parties. These hearings were conducted in Wichita Falls, Big Spring, Liberty, and Corpus Christi. Other opportunities for input included workgroup sessions held in Dallas and El Paso, public comment invited at all regularly scheduled meetings of the Council, and sessions related to the SPIL as part of the SILC annual Conference.

Special meetings, conference calls, and public hearings were held specifically to discuss the goals, objectives, and specific actions to be accomplished through the SPIL by all partners. CIL Directors and staff, DARS, SILC members, and other stakeholders reviewed and made recommendations regarding the SPIL. The CIL network has a representative on the SILC who brings concerns and priorities of the CILs to the attention of the Council. Drafts were made available and input was also solicited from all CILs and more than 50 percent of CILs participated in these discussions.

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

Describe the steps that will be taken to maximize the cooperation, coordination and working relationships among:

- a) The SILS program, the SILC, and centers; and**
- b) The DSU, other State agencies represented on the SILC, other Councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues, and other public and private entities determined to be appropriate by the SILC.**

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

A strong, collaborative framework is already in place to promote unity and singleness of purpose among the SILC, the DSUs, and the CILs. The SILC composition includes the representative appointed by TACIL, as well as Ex-Officio members from DARS. Activities related to Council meetings, interim workgroups, and shared priorities provide understanding of respective programs, collective support, and promotion of IL services statewide. The SILC makes every effort to include all CILs in Texas in SPIL activities.

State agencies represented on the SILC as Ex-Officio members include the Division for

Blind Services and Division for Rehabilitation Services through the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services and the Department of Aging and Disability Services. A SILC representative is a liaison to the Rehabilitation Council of Texas. The SILC Director also participates in the Texas Disability Policy Consortium.

Activities defined for SPIL objectives cite a number of entities with whom coordination will be important to achieve objectives — the Aging and Disability Resource Centers, the Texas Division of Aging and Disability Services, the Federal Transit Administration, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living, the Regional Transportation Service Planning committees, the Area Agency on Aging network, Easter Seals, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the Department of State Health Services.

1.6 Coordination of Services – 34 CFR 364.27

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

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

Centers for Independent Living:

Centers for Independent Living are community organizations that, under Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, serve cross-disability populations. CILs provide four core services (information and referral, individual and system advocacy, peer support, and Independent Living skills training and enhancement.) Each CIL's local community needs define its service priorities. Examples of community services CILs provide are: assistance with accessing benefit programs, managing housing voucher programs, coordinating transportation services, providing clothing closets, and obtaining utility assistance.

In addition, some CILs coordinate relocation of individuals from nursing facilities to the community. DADS provides contracts to CILs to coordinate the assistance necessary for individuals with severe disabilities to transition into the community. This has been a major service to people with disabilities and has saved the state money each year. These individuals require services from CIL staff in order to be successful in transitioning. According to DADS, with DADS' funding for relocation and the core services of the IL staff, individuals have a lower failure rate than individuals receiving relocation services from providers who do not use the IL philosophy.

Division of Rehabilitative Services:

DRS Independent Living services target individuals with significant physical, mental, or cognitive disabilities who have difficulty functioning in their homes, with their families, or in their communities because of the severity of their disabilities. Twelve DRS ILS counselors help ILS consumers obtain needed rehabilitation technology, assistive devices, and equipment and other services.

Partnerships between Texas CILs and DRS ILS counselors maximize use of funds and resources to serve Texans needing Independent Living services. Examples include:

- Counselors referring applicants to CILs for information and referral, advocacy, peer counseling, Independent Living skills training, and other needed services available from the CILs.
- CILs referring applicants to counselors for rehabilitation technology, assistive devices and equipment and other needed services available through DRS that are not available through the CILs.
- Cases where services available from both DRS ILS counselors and CILs are needed to enable Consumers to become or remain independent.

The DRS enters into appropriate cooperative arrangements with, and utilizes the services and facilities of, various federal, state, and local agencies and programs. DRS coordinates with other agencies and programs to ensure people with disabilities receive appropriate services. These agencies and programs include:

- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission, for the purpose of creating administrative efficiencies and better services to consumers of health and human services statewide. Initiatives include co-location of offices across the HHS enterprise for improved access by consumers and to reduce administrative costs;
- The Texas Education Agency and Education Service Centers, for the purpose of coordinating services to transition age students with disabilities;
- The Texas Department of Insurance's Division of Workers' Compensation, for the purpose of enhanced referrals for return-to-work efforts;
- The Social Security Administration, for the purpose of collaboration on employment incentives and supports and the maximization of SSA/VR reimbursement activity through the Ticket to Work;
- The Department of Veterans Affairs, to save case service funds through better access to comparable benefits. A Memorandum of Agreement provides for concurrent employment plans to enhance case management, while avoiding duplication of services;
- The Texas Workforce Commission, for the purpose of facilitating for Texas businesses the electronic verification that job applicants for the Work Opportunities Tax Credit program are receiving or have received vocational rehabilitation services under an individualized plan for employment;
- The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services and the Department of Social and Health Services, for the purpose of reducing duplication and

fragmentation of employment services provided to the shared client population of DARS and DADS;

- Other federal, state, and local public agencies for providing services related to the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. For example, to provide services to eligible consumers, DRS participates in Community Resource Coordination Groups (known as CRCGs), which are local interagency groups comprised of public and private providers who come together to develop individual service plans for children, youth, and adults whose needs can be met only through interagency coordination and cooperation;
- Other private and public, for-profit and not-for-profit entities, corporations, partnerships, and sole proprietorships, for the purpose of providing a number of rehabilitation services purchased only from entities that have been approved as Community Rehabilitation Programs. Contracts with these providers reference the DRS Standards for Providers and specify the terms and conditions of the relationship, including approved services, expected outcomes, fees, staff qualifications, and required documentation.

Division of Blind Services:

DBS IL services target individuals who are blind and have unique challenges in addressing the impact of vision loss. Program services focus extensively on understanding and experiencing the possibilities of living without fear and/or dependence on others for daily activities. The primary approach is based on the Consumer handling their own daily living activities, rather than someone doing the task for them, and thus, service methodologies are designed to reduce or diminish the need for long-term care. Examples include: learning to travel using a cane, preparing one's meals, identifying medications, using Braille to record and read information, managing one's financial records, and participating in recreation and other community events. As needed, individuals are referred to other community resources. Individuals who, through becoming more independent, realize their potential for returning to work are referred for VR services. DBS staff offers a "train the trainer" service to institutional settings to promote independence. Services are available statewide.

Department of Aging and Disability Services:

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

DADS provides an array of services to persons over 60 through the network of local Area Agencies on Aging (benefits counseling, help for caregivers, health information counseling, state ombudsman related to nursing homes). In addition, the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), which are funded through DADS, provide local

services complementary to those available via CILs and DARS. Through collaboration at the Central office level, meetings have delineated specific plans for cross training of respective staff in DARS, DADS, and the network of ADRCs and AAAs.

The Promoting Independence Initiative focuses on relocation from institutions to community. This has been and continues to be a major initiative. The Manager of the Promoting Independence Initiative administered by DADS is an Ex-Officio member of the SILC and in this capacity is the conduit for information between the two entities.

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs:

TDHCA is leading an effort to coordinate with CILs and other community stakeholders to facilitate additional housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities by effectively utilizing existing federal, state, and local housing resources.

Texas Department of Transportation:

TxDOT 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 SILC and several CILs to facilitate specific programs and projects and further local efforts to facilitate options for their communities.

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

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

This plan includes specific goals and objectives related to older individuals who are blind:

Goal #3—Persons underserved and underrepresented in the IL network have an increased presence within the Network.

Objective 3.1: Older Texans who are blind or have low vision receive IL training.

- Measurable Indicators: 1) 5 additional training contracts executed. 2) 225 consumers receive IL contract services.
- Scope: Statewide
- Target Performance Levels for 2016: 1) 5 training contracts executed. 2) 225 consumers receive IL contract services.
- Target Progress FY2014-FY2016: FY14—1 training contract executed, 50 consumers receive IL contract services; FY15—2 training contracts executed, 125 consumers receive IL contract services; FY16—5 training contracts executed, 225 consumers receive IL contract services.
- Activities: 1) Recruiting the necessary contractors to conduct IL training for individuals who are blind or have low vision. 2) Executing contracts with qualified

vendors to perform IL contract services. 3) Conducting outreach to CILs, ADRCs, AAAs, and other stakeholders to identify consumers to receive training.

- Lead Organization: DBS
- Partners: DARS, CILs, DADS, ADRCs, AAAs
- Resources: \$250,000 per year
- Funding Sources: SSA-VR

With limited resources in relation to its target population, DBS has focused on the introduction and assimilation of various service delivery strategies to enhance IL services. Among the more successful strategies currently employed by DBS are:

- Use of the Independent Living Resource Guide as a critical information and referral opportunity early in the rehabilitation process to promote self-advocacy.
- Expansion of group skills training opportunities to promote confidence building, experiential training in daily living skills related to vision loss, and peer support.
- Concentration on networking to increase awareness of and maximize appropriate referrals from and to DBS and other community programs that can benefit older Texans who are blind.
- Expansion of a vendor network for contracted services related to Independent Living skills training, so that more blind Texans have access to services in a timely manner across the state.

In addition, focus will continue to be directed during this SPIL cycle to strengthening the opportunities for employment for individuals interested in returning to the workforce. Many individuals in our society today opt to continue employment past the age when they are eligible for retirement. It has been DBS' experience that some individuals, after participating in various training opportunities, come to realize that their vision loss does not need to be a deterrent to returning to work and decide to request vocational rehabilitation services.

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services

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

2.1A Check the appropriate boxes in the SPIL Instrument table indicating the types of IL services to be provided to meet the objectives identified in section 1.2 of this SPIL, and whether the services will be provided by the CILs or by the DSU (directly and/or through contract or grant).

| Table 2.1A(1): Independent Living services | Provided by the DSU (directly) | Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant) | Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/ grants) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Core Independent Living Services, as follows: | | | |
| - Information and referral | X | X | X |
| - IL skills training | X | X | X |
| - Peer counseling | X | X | X |
| - Individual and systems advocacy | X | X | X |
| Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services | X | X | X |
| 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 significant disabilities) | X | X | X |
| Rehabilitation technology | X | X | X |
| Mobility training | X | X | X |
| Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services | X | X | X |
| Personal assistance services, including attendant care, and the training of personnel providing such services | | X | X |
| Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services | X | X | X |
| 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 | X | X | X |
| Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities | X | X | X |
| Supported living | | | |
| Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation | X | X | X |
| Physical rehabilitation | | X | |
| Therapeutic treatment | | X | |

| Table 2.1A(1): Independent Living services | Provided by the DSU (directly) | Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant) | Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/grants) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices | | X | |
| Individual and group social and recreational services | | X | X |
| 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 | X | X | X |
| Services for children with significant disabilities | X | X | X |
| Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with significant disabilities | X | X | X |
| Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future | X | X | X |
| Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities | X | X | X |
| Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act | X | X | X |

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

DARS, the SILC, and the network of CILs have further identified an array of services that will be necessary to address the needs of those unserved and underserved populations referenced in section 1.2. Such services are listed below and, when applicable, include strategies to achieve these service priorities. The SILC will continue to explore methods for expanding access to these and other services in Texas through Objective 2.2.

- Peer support and information and referral resources to individuals who are Deaf and hard of hearing to enable them to locate needed IL services (Objective 3.2, Objective 1.4)
- Employment counselors assisting IL Consumers to obtain suitable employment

(Objectives 1.3, 3.3)

- Independent Living Skills Training (Objectives 1.3, 1.2, 1.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
- Availability and awareness of accessible housing (Objective 1.1)
- Managed care services (Objective 2.1)
- Transition services and advocacy training for youth (Objective 3.3)
- Comprehensive service coordination to facilitate deinstitutionalization (Objectives 1.1, 2.1)
- Accessible public transportation, especially in rural areas (Objective 1.2)

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

- a) **Any consideration of financial need is applied uniformly so that all individuals who are eligible for IL services are treated equally; and**
- b) **Written policies and Consumer documentation required by 34 CFR 364.59(d) will be kept by the service provider.**

Indicate N/A if not applicable.

DRS and DBS have protocols regarding Consumer participation in the cost of services. More specific information can be found in the DRS Rehabilitation Policy Manual (<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/rpm/default.htm>) and the DBS Rehabilitation Policy Manual (<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dbs/vr/default.htm>).

To enable DRS to use its limited funds to serve the maximum number of eligible Consumers, all Consumers and their families are asked to participate in the cost of services, regardless of the Consumer's financial resources.

Consumers whose net income or liquid assets exceed established basic living requirements (BLR) are required to participate in the cost of services, unless participation would keep the Consumer from receiving a necessary service.

DRS Consumers are not required to participate in the cost of:

- Services paid or reimbursed by a source other than DRS;
- Assessments for determining eligibility and determining Independent Living needs, including any associated maintenance and transportation;
- Counseling, guidance, and referral provided by DRS staff;
- Personal assistant services;
- Auxiliary aids (except hearing aids) or services, e.g.,
 - Interpreter services,
 - Reader services, and
 - Translator services.

All Consumers of the Division for Blind Services, and their families, are asked to participate in the cost of services, regardless of the Consumer's financial resources, in order to maximize use of limited program funds. Consumer participation in the cost of services is based on the economic resources of all persons in the individual's family who have a legal obligation of support for the applicant/Consumer, compared to 200% of US Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines. Program manuals delineate service categories where participation is required when individuals exceed the maximum allowable amounts, as well as those categories of goods and services not subject to Consumer participation.

DBS Consumers exceeding the maximum allowable amounts are required to participate in cost of the following services:

- Prosthetic devices,
- Maintenance (excludes maintenance for diagnostic services),
- Transportation (excludes transportation for diagnostic services),
- Adaptive aids/appliances over \$50, and
- Teacher supplies over \$100.

Texas CILs do not ask Consumers to participate in cost of services.

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

2.2A If the DSU will provide any of these IL services through grants or contractual arrangements with third parties, describe such arrangements.

DARS Standards for Providers (<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/ProviderManual/default.htm>) outlines the details, rules and guidance for specified DRS providers who provide services under contracts.

DBS IL Services utilizes contracts for certain services provided to consumers. The *Standards Manual for Consumer Services Contract Providers* provides information regarding provider contracts, the scope of services, rules, reimbursement rates, as well as documentation and billing requirements.

(http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dbs/standards/sm_dbs/default.htm)

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

DARS includes, in the DARS Standards for Providers, direction for CILs that a Center staff person will document determination of eligibility. Routine on-site monitoring visits by DARS helps ensure CIL compliance with this requirement.

Section 3: Design for the Statewide Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Network – 34 CFR 364.25

3.1A Provide an overview of the existing network of Centers, including non-Part C-funded Centers that comply with the standards and assurances in section 725 (b) and (c) of the Act, and the geographic areas and populations currently served by the Centers.

ABLE Center for Independent Living (ABLE)

1931 East 37th, Ste. 1, Odessa, TX 79762

Counties Served with Disability Population:

Andrews, 2,571

Crane, 762

Ector, 20,163

Martin, 869

Midland, 20,295

Upton, 609

Ward, 1,831

Total: 47,100

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hawaiian, White, Hispanic

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C; Other federal sources

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

Austin Resource Center for Independent Living, Austin (ARCIL-Austin)

825 East Rundberg Lane, Suite E6, Austin, TX 78753

Counties Served with Disability Population:

Bastrop, 11,161

Lee, 2,465

Travis, 90,894

Total: 104,520

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: Asian, Black, White, Hispanic

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, Other federal sources, fees for service

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

Anderson, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Delta, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood, Angelina, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Coryell, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Grimes, Hamilton, Hill, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Limestone, Madison, McLennan, Mills, Robertson, San Saba, and Washington

Funding; DADS Relocation Contract

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

Austin Resource Center for Independent Living, Round Rock (ARCIL-Round Rock)

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

Counties Served with Disability Population:

Bell* 40,133
Burnet, 7,387
Milam, 3,641
Williamson, 42,946
Total: 94,107

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: Asian, Black, White, Hispanic, Two or more races

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, Other federal sources

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

Anderson, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Delta, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood, Angelina, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Coryell, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Grimes, Hamilton, Hill, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Limestone, Madison, McLennan, Mills, Robertson, San Saba, and Washington

Funding; DADS Relocation Contract

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

**Austin Resource Center for Independent Living, San Marcos (ARCIL-San Marcos)
618 South Guadalupe, Suite 103, San Marcos, TX 78666**

Counties Served with Disability Population:

Blanco, 1,820
Caldwell, 5,703
Comal*, 14,994
Hays, 16,664
Total: 39,181

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Black, White, Hispanic

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, Other Federal Funds

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

Anderson, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Delta, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood, Angelina, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Coryell, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Grimes, Hamilton, Hill, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Limestone, Madison, McLennan, Mills, Robertson, San Saba, and Washington

Funding; DADS Relocation Contract

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

**Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living (BVCIL)
1869 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, TX 77802**

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Brazos, 19,808
Burleson, 3,102
Madison, 2,465
Robertson, 3,013
Washington, 6,065
Total: 34,453

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: Asian, Black, White, Hispanic, Unknown

Funding Sources: Other federal funds

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (CBCIL)

1537 Seventh Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78404

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Aransas, 5,102
Bee, 6,959
Brooks, 1,360
Duval*, 2,584
Jim Wells, 8,953
Kenedy, 79
Kleberg, 6,062
Live Oak, 2,519
McMullen, 155
Nueces, 62,668
Refugio, 1,611
San Patricio, 12,145
Total, 110,197

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hawaiian, White, Hispanic, Unknown

Funding Sources: State, Title VII, Part C, Other federal funds, Foundations, Private

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

Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval*, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Refugio, San Patricio, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Lavaca, Karnes, Victoria, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Starr, Web, Willacy, and Zapata.

Funding sources: Title VII, Part C, City of Corpus Christi, DADS (Relocation, ADRC, and CLASS Medicaid Waiver Program), Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs, Texas Department of Transportation, and Superior and United Healthcare, Managed Care Organizations in STAR+PLUS.

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

Coalition for Barrier Free Living/Houston Center for Independent Living (CBFL/HCIL)

6201 Bonhomme Road, Suite 150 South, Houston, TX 77036

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Harris, 378,254

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, White, Hispanic

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, Other federal funds, Private, Program Income

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

Harris, Austin, Brazoria Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

Funding Source: DADS relocation

Geographic Type: Urban

Coalition for Barrier Free Living/ Fort Bend Center for Independent Living (CBFL/FBCIL)

12946 Dairy Ashford Road, Suite 110, Sugarland, TX 77478

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Austin, 5,189

Colorado, 3,581

Fort Bend, 41,934

Waller, 4,975

Wharton, 7,060

Total: 62,739

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, White, Hispanic, Unknown

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, other federal funds, fees for service, other resources

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

Coalition for Barrier Free Living/Brazoria County Center for Independent Living (CBFL/BCCIL)

1104 D East Mulberry, Angleton, TX 77515

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Brazoria, 40,512

Matagorda, 6,290

Total: 46,802

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, White, Hispanic, Unknown

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, other federal funds, fees for service, other resources

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living (CRCIL)

1020 East Loop 304, Crockett, TX 75835

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Freestone, 3,792

Houston, 4,419

Leon, 3,035
Panola*, 4,322
Polk, 8,528
Rusk*, 9,764
Sabine, 2,267
San Augustine, 1,847
Shelby, 5,323
Trinity, 2,741
Tyler, 4,529
Total: 50,567

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Black, White, Hispanic

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, Other federal funds

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

Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Gregg, Hardin, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Jasper, Jefferson, Kaufman, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Navarro, Newton, Orange, Rains, Red River, San Jacinto, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood

Funding Source: WIPA

Geographic Type: Rural

East Texas Center for Independent Living (ETCIL)

4713 Troup Highway, Tyler, TX 75703

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Camp, 2,689
Cherokee*, 9,261
Gregg, 18,734
Harrison, 10,084
Henderson, 16,045
Marion, 2,271
Panola*, 4,322
Rains, 2,377
Rusk, 9,764
Smith*, 30,686
Upshur, 8,516
Van Zandt, 11,338
Wood, 9,097
Total: 135,184

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, White, Hispanic, Two or more races, Unknown

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, Private donations, Fee for service

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

Hopkins, Delta, Lamar, Franklin, Red River, Titus, Morris, Bowie, Cass and Anderson

Funding Sources: DADS, DARS Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Sign Language Interpreting Coordinating Program (self-sustaining, unrestricted program)

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

Heart of Central Texas Independent Living (HOCTIL)

222 East Central or P.O. Box 636, Belton, TX 76513

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Bell*, 40,133

Coryell, 8,231

Hill, 6,717

McLennan, 32,930

Total: 88,011

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hawaiian, White, Hispanic,

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, other federal funds, private, fees for service

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

LIFE/RUN

8240 Boston Avenue, Lubbock, TX 79423

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Crosby, 949

Floyd, 995

Garza, 1,005

Hale, 5,600

Hockley, 3,559

Lamb, 2,159

Lubbock, 41,653

Lynn, 915

Terry, 1,957

Total: 58792

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hawaiian, White, Hispanic, Two or more races, Unknown

Funding Sources: State, Title VII, Part C, Other federal funds, local government, fees for service

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

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

Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio
Funding Source: DADS relocation
Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

LIFE/RUN Not Without Us! (LIFE/RUN NWU)

3303 North 3rd, Suite B, Abilene, TX 79603

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Callahan, 2,226

Eastland, 3,030

Jones, 3,856

Shackelford, 644

Stephens, 1,829

Taylor, 21,253

Total, 32,838

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hawaiian, White, Hispanic, Two or more races, Unknown

Funding Sources: State

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

LIFE/RUN Disability Connections (LIFE/RUN DC)

3184 Executive Drive, San Angelo, TX 76904

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Coke, 451

Concho, 740

Irion, 287

Menard, 403

Runnels, 1,884

Schleicher, 628

Sterling, 206

Tom Green, 15,114

Total, 19,713

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision,

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, White, Hispanic, Two or more races, Unknown

Funding Sources: State, Other federal funds, fee for service

Mounting Horizons Center for Independent Living (MHCIL)

501 Gulf Freeway, Suite 104, League City, TX 77573

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Galveston, 35,024

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Multiple

Race Categories Served: Black, White, Hispanic

Funding Sources: State

Geographic Type: Urban

Panhandle Independent Living Center (PILC)

417 West 10th Ave., Amarillo, TX 79101

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Armstrong, 238

Briscoe, 204

Carson, 776

Castro, 1,015

Childress, 881

Collingsworth, 383

Dallam, 852

Deaf Smith, 2,449

Donley, 458

Gray, 2,827

Hall, 416

Hansford, 708

Hartley, 758

Hemphill, 481

Hutchinson, 2,761

Lipscomb, 416

Moore, 2,770

Ochiltree, 1,302

Oldham, 258

Parmer, 1,303

Potter, 15,230

Randall, 12,115

Roberts, 117

Sherman, 382

Swisher, 982

Wheeler, 679

Total, 50,761

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: Asian, Black, Hawaiian, white, Hispanic, Unknown

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, Other federal funds, Private, Fees for service

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

Palestine Resource Center for Independent Living

421 Avenue A, Palestine, TX 75801

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Anderson, 11,907

Angelina, 14,613

Cherokee*, 9,261

Nacogdoches, 10,925

Smith*, 30,686

Total, 77,392

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple,
Race Categories Served: Asian, Black, White, Hispanic, Two or more races, Unknown
Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, Other federal funds
Counties served and funding source(s) for areas outside Title VII, Part C agreement:
Van Zandt, Henderson, Bursleson, Madison, Brazos, Robertson, Grimes, Limestone
Funding Source: DADS relocation
Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

**REACH-Rehabilitation, Education and Advocacy for Citizens with Handicaps
(Disabilities), Dallas (REACH, Dallas)**

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

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Dallas, 232,580

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple,
Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hawaiian, White, Hispanic,
Two or more races, Unknown

Funding Sources: State, Title VII, Part C, Other federal funds, Fee for service

Geographic Type: Urban

**REACH-Rehabilitation, Education and Advocacy for Citizens With Handicaps
(Disabilities), Denton (REACH, Denton)**

404 South Elm, Suite 202, Denton, TX 76201

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Denton, 52,823

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Black, White, Hispanic

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, Other federal funds

Geographic Type: Urban

**REACH-Rehabilitation, Education and Advocacy for Citizens With Handicaps
(Disabilities), Ft. Worth
(REACH-Ft. Worth)**

1000 Macon Street, Suite 200, Fort Worth, TX 76102

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Tarrant, 187,080

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Vision, Multiple

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hawaiian, White, Hispanic

Funding Sources: State, Title VII, Part B, Fees for service

Geographic Type: Urban

**REACH-Rehabilitation, Education and Advocacy for Citizens With Handicaps
(Disabilities), Plano
(REACH-Plano)**

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

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Collin, 50,069

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, White, Hispanic

Funding Sources: State

Geographic Type: Urban

RISE Center for Independent Living (RISE)

755 South 11th Street, Suite 101, Beaumont, TX 77701

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Hardin, 10,309

Jefferson, 42,590

Orange, 15,332

Total, 68,231

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, White, Hispanic, Two or more races

Funding Sources: Title VII, Part C, Private, Fee for service

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

Jasper, Newton, Tyler, Polk, San Jacinto, San Augustine, and Sabine

Funding Source: DADS Relocation

Geographic Type: Urban

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS)

1028 South Alamo, San Antonio, TX 78210

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Atascosa, 8,790

Bandera, 3,587

Bexar, 236,410

Calhoun, 3,767

Comal*, 14,994

De Witt, 3,866

Dimmit, 1,529

Edwards, 306

Frio, 3,000

Gillespie, 4,337

Goliad, 1,402

Gonzales, 3,839

Guadalupe, 18,199

Jackson, 2,442

Karnes, 2,864

Kendall, 5,912

Kerr, 8,622

Kinney, 549

La Salle, 1,065

Lavaca, 3,280
Maverick, 8,369
Medina, 8,065
Real, 506
Uvalde, 4,042
Val Verde, 7,492
Victoria, 15,108
Wilson, 8,467
Zavala, 1,789
Total, 382,598

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: American Indian, Asian, Black, White, Hispanic, Two or more races, Unknown

Funding Sources: State, Title VII, Part C, Local Government, Fee for service, private

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

Valley Association for Independent Living-Rio Grande Valley (VAIL-Rio Grande Valley)

3016 North McColl, Suite B, McAllen, TX 78501

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Cameron, 52,483
Hidalgo, 110,168
Starr, 11,524
Willacy, 4,206
Total, 178,381

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: Asian, Black, White, Hispanic

Funding Sources: State, Title VII, Part C, Other federal funds, Local government, Fee for service

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

Valley Association for Independent Living- South Texas (VAIL-South Texas)

1419 Corpus Christi Street, Laredo, TX 78040

Counties Served With Disability Population:

Duval*, 2,584
Jim Hogg, 1,000
Webb, 33,944
Zapata, 2,671
Total, 40,199

Disability Populations Served: Mental, Physical, Hearing, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Served: White, Hispanic

Funding Sources: State

Geographic Type: Rural/Urban Mix

Volar Center for Independent Living
1220 Golden Key Circle, Suite C, El Paso, TX 79925

Counties Served With Disability Population:

El Paso, 99,067

Disability Populations Served: Cognitive, Mental, Physical, Hearing, Vision, Multiple

Race Categories Served: Asian, Black, White, Hispanic

Funding Sources: State, Title VII, Part C, Other federal funds, Local government, Fee for service

Geographic Type: Urban

The preceding CIL-specific data was compiled by reviewing FY12 704 Reports of each CIL within the network. The disability populations for each county are as reported by the Texas Workforce Investment Council in *People With Disabilities: A Public Profile* and were developed by the DARS. The estimates were calculated by compiling U.S. Census American Community Survey data, and for the counties not represented on the survey, allocation factors developed by the Missouri Census were used to align public use microdata areas with Texas counties.

***Indicates counties that are served by more than one CIL.**

3.2 Expansion of Network – 34 CFR 364.25

3.2A Describe the design for the further expansion of the network, including identification of the unserved and underserved areas in the State and the order of priority for serving these areas as additional funding becomes available (beyond the required cost-of-living increase).

The SILC, DARS, and the network of CILs worked together to identify a strategy for completing the network of CILs in the state. The determination was that fourteen additional CILs are needed to complete the network. Based on 2010 U.S. Census Data, there are an estimated half a million state residents with disabilities currently living in areas that are not served by a CIL.

Underserved Counties and Populations:

The SILC has become increasingly concerned about the high percentage of underserved areas within the existing network of CILs. Close examination of recent 704 reports submitted by CILs throughout the state revealed that, even where CILs exist, individuals with disabilities are dramatically underserved by population and/or geographic area. The following data was compiled by reviewing FY12 704 Reports of each CIL within the network.

ABLE Center for Independent Living

Counties Underserved: Andrews, Crane, Martin, Midland, Upton, Ward

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: Asian, White, Two or More Races

Austin Resource Center for Independent Living, Austin

Counties Underserved: Bastrop, Lee

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, Hispanic, Two or more races

Austin Resource Center for Independent Living, Round Rock

Counties Underserved: Burnet, Milam, Bell*

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, Hispanic, Two or more races

Austin Resource Center for Independent Living, San Marcos

Counties Underserved: Blanco, Comal*

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: Asian, Black, Hawaiian, Hispanic, Two or more races

Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living

Counties Underserved: Burleson, Madison, Robertson, Washington

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, Hispanic, Two or more races

Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living

Counties Underserved: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval*, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Refugio, San Patricio

Disability Populations Underserved: Cognitive, Hearing, Vision

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hawaiian, White, Two or more races

Coalition for Barrier Free Living/Houston Center for Independent Living

Counties Underserved: N/A

Disability Populations Underserved: Cognitive, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: Hawaiian, White, Hispanic, Two or more races

Coalition for Barrier Free Living/Brazoria County Center for Independent Living, Angleton

Counties Underserved: Matagorda

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: Asian, Hawaiian, Hispanic, Two or more races

Coalition for Barrier Free Living/ Fort Bend Center for Independent Living

Counties Underserved: Austin, Colorado, Waller, Wharton

Disability Populations Underserved: Cognitive, Hearing, Multiple

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Hawaiian, White, White, Hispanic, Two or more races

Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living

Counties Underserved: Freestone, Leon, Shelby, Trinity, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, Panola*, Rusk*

Disability Populations Underserved: Mental, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Underserved: Asian, Hawaiian, Hispanic, Two or more races

East Texas Center for Independent Living

Counties Underserved: Camp, Cherokee*, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola*, Rains, Rusk,

Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood

Disability Populations Underserved: Cognitive, Hearing, Vision

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, Hispanic, Two or more Races

Heart of Central Texas Independent Living

Counties Underserved: Coryell, Hill, McLennan

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, White, Hispanic, Two or more races

LIFE/RUN

Counties Underserved: Crosby, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lynn, Terry

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, White, Hispanic, Two or more races

LIFE/RUN Not Without Us!

Counties Underserved: Calhahan, Eastland, Jones, Stephens, Shackelford,

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: Asian, Black, Hispanic, Two or more races

LIFE/RUN Disability Connections

Counties Underserved: Runnels, Coke, Concho, Irion, Menard, Scheicher, Sterling

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hawaiian, Hispanic, Two or more races

Mounting Horizons Center for Independent Living

Counties Underserved: N/A

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, Hispanic, Two or more races

Panhandle Independent Living Center

Counties Underserved: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam,

Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb,

Moore,

Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Wheeler

Disability Populations Underserved: Mental, hearing, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hispanic, Two or more races

Palestine Resource Center for Independent Living

Counties Underserved: Angelina, Nacogdoches, Smith*

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, Hispanic

REACH-Rehabilitation, Education and Advocacy for Citizens With Handicaps (Disabilities), Dallas

Counties Underserved: N/A

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Hispanic, Two or more races

REACH-Rehabilitation, Education and Advocacy for Citizens With Handicaps (Disabilities), Denton

Counties Underserved: N/A

Disability Populations Underserved: Cognitive, Hearing, Other

Race Categories Underserved: Asian, Black, Hawaiian, Hispanic, Two or more races

REACH-Rehabilitation, Education and Advocacy for Citizens With Handicaps (Disabilities), Ft. Worth

Counties Underserved: N/A

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, White, Hispanic, Two or more races

REACH-Rehabilitation, Education and Advocacy for Citizens With Handicaps (Disabilities), Plano

Counties Underserved: N/A

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, White, Hispanic, Two or more races

RISE Center for Independent Living

Counties Underserved: Hardin, Orange

Disability Populations Underserved: Hearing, Multiple, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, Hispanic, Two or more races

San Antonio Independent Living Services

Counties Underserved: Atascosa, Bandera, Calhoun, Comal*, De Witt, Dimmit, Edwards, Frio, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Jackson, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr,

Kinney, La Salle, Lavaca, Maverick, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Wilson, Zavala

Disability Populations Underserved: Cognitive, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, White, Two or more races

Valley Association for Independent Living-Rio Grande Valley

Counties Underserved: Starr, Willacy

Disability Populations Underserved: Mental, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, White, Two or more races

Valley Association for Independent Living- South Texas

Counties Underserved: Duval, Jim Hogg, Zapata

Disability Populations Underserved: Cognitive, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hawaiian, White, Two or more races

Volar Center for Independent Living

Counties Underserved: N/A

Disability Populations Underserved: Cognitive, Vision, Other

Race Categories Underserved: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hawaiian, White, Two or more races

Underserved race categories were calculated by comparing the FY12 704 Report data for each CIL to the race categories in the state, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. Those race categories served by a CIL, which were below the statewide race categories, were listed as underserved. Counties underserved were calculated by comparing the FY12 704 Report data for each CIL to the disability populations of each specific county. Those counties in which the CIL served less than 1% of the disability population were listed as underserved. Disability Population Underserved was determined by reporting the three populations that received the lowest service percentage by that CIL.

Unserved Counties:

The following list represents the list of unserved counties. Should new state or federal funds become available for the purpose of establishing a new CIL, these areas would be eligible for such funding. Within the first year, the SILC, in coordination with the network of CILs, will determine a list of priority areas within the list of targeted expansion areas.

In addition, the SILC, in collaboration with DARS, has designated some counties as “stray counties” due to their geographic location not falling near other unserved counties, or within a current CIL service area. These counties may be absorbed by an existing CIL, should state or federal funds become available for future negotiation.

Targeted Expansion Areas:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Archer, 1,591 | Grayson, 20,080 | Montgomery, 52,265 |
| Baylor, 649 | Grimes, 4,805 | Morris, 2,614 |
| Borden, 115 | Hamilton, 1,447 | Navarro, 9,165 |
| Bosque, 2,982 | Hardeman, 725 | Nolan, 2,895 |
| Bowie, 15,842 | Haskell, 1,117 | Palo Pinto, 5,372 |
| Brewster, 1,595 | Hood, 8,450 | Parker, 15,796 |
| Brown, 6,479 | Hopkins, 7,125 | Pecos, 2,673 |
| Cass, 5,223 | Howard, 6,303 | Presidio, 1,349 |
| Chambers, 5,092 | Hudspeth, 601 | Reagan, 610 |
| Clay, 1,883 | Hunt, 15,456 | Red River, 2,590 |
| Coleman, 1,516 | Jack, 1,588 | Reeves, 2,381 |
| Comanche, 2,279 | Jeff Davis, 402 | Rockwall, 9,150 |
| Cooke, 6,372 | Johnson, 17,246 | San Jacinto, 5,000 |
| Crockett, 670 | Kaufman, 12,002 | San Saba, 1,044 |
| Culberson, 413 | Kimble, 832 | Scurry, 3,232 |
| Dawson, 2,487 | Knox, 647 | Somervell, 1,408 |
| Delta, 1,063 | Lamar, 10,053 | Sutton, 746 |
| Ellis, 20,791 | Lampasas, 3,388 | Terrell, 169 |
| Erath, 6,202 | Liberty, 10,847 | Throckmorton, 311 |
| Falls, 3,421 | Limestone, 4,480 | Titus, 6,577 |
| Fannin, 6,036 | Llano, 3,298 | Walker, 2,659 |
| Fisher, 751 | Mason, 723 | Wichita, 20,775 |
| Foard, 233 | McCulloch, 1,493 | Wilbarger, 2,373 |
| Franklin, 2,152 | Mills, 839 | Wise, 10,520 |
| Gaines, 3,065 | Mitchell, 1,789 | Young, 3,245 |
| Glasscock, 220 | Montague, 3,456 | |

Stray Counties:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bailey, 1,122 | Jasper, 7,419 | Newton, 2,982 |
| Cochran, 485 | Kent, 152 | Stonewall, 282 |
| Cottle, 263 | King, 44 | Winkler, 1,234 |
| Dickens, 377 | Loving, 14 | Yoakum, 1,234 |
| Fayette, 3,634 | Motley, 186 | |

Expansion of the Network:

Efforts to expand and strengthen the network of CILs in Texas will involve working closely with state and federal entities toward the allocation of additional funding for the establishment and operation of CILs. Should funding become available, a competitive process will be conducted, which will define criteria for selection. The network will not accept expansion funds if it will potentially jeopardize the stability of the existing network. Priority will be given to applicants with a cross-disability board in place that have filed for incorporation and obtained, or are in the process of obtaining, 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Such applicants will be in a position to initiate programming more readily.

Strengthen the Network:

In addition to adding CILs to the network, the SILC and DSU are committed to pursuing increased funding that will allow for financial support to bring existing CILs up to a baseline level to be determined by the SILC and DSU. Funding will also be pursued to expand the capacity of CILs to reach underserved populations and regions within existing coverage areas.

Funding Priorities:

The priorities for the designation of additional funds will be determined as funding becomes available through a process of negotiation among DARS, the SILC and the CILs in the network. These basic guidelines will be employed to make such determinations:

- Funds Below Regular Allocation: Funds under the determined amount of the regular Title VII, Part C allocation and/or are from a source that includes a provision for continuation, will be used first to bring existing CILs whose funding is below the baseline up to baseline. Funds will be distributed based on the order of greatest to least disparity between current funding and the designated amount. Eligible CILs will receive the percentage of the available funds that corresponds with their levels of funding disparity. Once all CILs have reached the baseline level, any additional funds will be distributed among existing CILs in the same proportion as their regular Part C appropriation.
- Funds Above Regular Allocation: Funds above the determined amount of the regular Title VII, Part C allocation that are from a source that includes a provision for continuation, or, if non-sustaining and will not jeopardize the Part C funding of existing CILs, will be used for the establishment of new CILs, provided a need in one or more priority areas has been identified.
- Short Term Funding: Funds that are short-term in nature and do not have a provision for ongoing sustainability, beyond those used to establish a new CIL if doing so does not jeopardize the Part C funding of existing CILs, will be used to expand the capacity of existing CILs consistent with the goals and objectives of the SPIL, with particular emphasis on under-served areas and populations. Such funds will be distributed among existing CILs in the same proportion as their regular Part C appropriation.

Funding Requirements for CIL Start-Up:

The Independent Living Research Utilization program conducted a nationwide study of urban and rural CILs to determine the minimum budget for a Center. For comparison purposes, they assumed that a typical start-up CIL would need a director, bookkeeper, secretary, and two IL specialists to be able to meet Title VII, Part C requirements. The study reviewed the line item budgets of ten rural and ten urban CILs to determine the annual operating costs for their communities. The general findings are below and they include figures that have been adjusted for inflation.

Rural communities average annual cost: \$227,991 in 1999, which when adjusted for inflation is \$318,548.

Urban communities average annual cost: \$272,231 in 1999, which when adjusted for inflation is \$380,360.

National Average average annual cost: \$250,111 in 1999, which when adjusted for inflation is \$349,454.

According to an analysis by the SILC, the annual average funding levels (adjusted for inflation) stated in this study are consistent with federal funding recently awarded to establish a new CIL and the budgetary realities the newly funded Center continues to face as a start-up CIL. It is expected that any start-up Center, whether or not it is established by federal or state funds,

would require similar funding levels to provide services as required under Title VII, Part C in their designated catchment area. It is expected that future funding sources may include Title VII, Part C funding, or state funding resources as a base funding level. Traditionally, the network of Centers have had to secure additional funding from other federal, state, and/or private sources in order to provide services because base funding provided for Centers from the state and federal government have generally not kept pace with rising costs and inflation.

Funding Reductions:

With the recent implementation of the sequestration of federal funds as required by the Budget Control Act of 2011, the SILC encourages the development of contingency plans, should there be an unexpected reduction or rescission of state or federal funds. It is expected that such reductions may impact the quantity and quality of services offered by a Center. Should this be the case, the SILC and DARS encourage the CILs to focus on providing the four 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. In addition, Centers are also encouraged to diversify their funding sources to help lessen the impact of a sudden reduction of funding from one entity or program. Should general funding for CILs be reduced at the State level, the network of Centers should receive a proportional funding reduction, rather than consider the closing of 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 SILC, DARS, and the network of Centers will coordinate on the distribution of funds previously allocated to the Center. Should such funds remain available for use in the State, funding will be distributed based on the priorities mentioned previously in this section. Of note, however, is that the areas and populations previously served by the now-closed center will be considered unserved areas for purposes of determining priorities as outlined previously in this section.

3.3 Section 723 States Only – 34 CFR 364.39

3.3A If the State follows an order of priorities for allocating funds among Centers within a State that is different from what is outlined in 34 CFR 366.22, describe the alternate order of priority that the DSU Director and the SILC Chair have agreed upon. Indicate N/A if not applicable.

N/A

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

N/A

Section 4: Designated State Unit (DSU)

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

4.1A Describe the administrative support services to be provided by the DSU for the SILS (Part B) program and, if the State is a Section 723 State, for the CIL (Part C) program. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about administrative

support services.

DARS provides financial/technical assistance and resources in planning, budget development, budget management and evaluation of CIL activities. Financial management supports include: audits, trainings, recordkeeping activities, and administrative support.

In-kind administrative support is available, and the DARS Standards for Providers includes these requirements. Compliance is reviewed as part of routine contract monitoring activities via DRS and DBS staff involved as Ex-Officio members of SILC. They actively participate in plan development, SILC meetings, and ongoing collaborations. DARS provides funding for SILC operations with proportionate participation by DRS and DBS. DARS also channels funds to CILs to facilitate operations for the independent CIL network.

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

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 Resource plan – 34 CFR 364.21(i)

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

For the duration of this state plan, the primary support for the SILC will be an annual grant from Title VII, Part B of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and administered by DARS. The SILC has approved the following budgets for expenditure of these funds. While the SILC anticipates the receipt of additional revenues, only Title VII, Part B funds are detailed in these budgets. Unrestricted funds are used to cover expenses not allowed through Title VII, Part B grants and to provide a safety net. Ten percent of the proposed expenditures can be reclassified by the SILC without the need for amendment. The budgets can be revised by mutual agreement of the SILC and DARS. This is the proposed budget and is contingent on available funds.

Texas State Independent Living Council Resource Development Plan

| | FY 2014 | FY2015 | FY2016 |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Salary & Wages | \$153,164 | \$153,164 | \$153,164 |
| Fringe Benefits | \$43,356 | \$43,356 | \$43,356 |
| Travel | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 |
| Equipment | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Supplies | \$3,800 | \$3,800 | \$3,800 |
| Contractual | \$77,063 | \$77,063 | \$77,063 |
| Conference | \$35,500 | \$35,500 | \$35,500 |
| Other | \$7,200 | \$7,200 | \$7,200 |
| Total | \$395,083 | \$395,083 | \$395,083 |

5.1B Describe how the following SILC resource plan requirements will be addressed:

- **The SILC's responsibility for the proper expenditure of funds and use of resources that it receives under the resource plan.**
- **Non-inclusion of conditions or requirements in the SILC resource plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC.**
- **Reliance, to the maximum extent possible, on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the State plan.**

The SILC has established fiscal policies and procedures that govern the expenditure of funds. Proper use of fiscal resources is routinely monitored through DARS. This includes: review of SILC billings for reimbursements, discussion of budget status at quarterly SILC meetings, and compliance with established protocols, should budget changes be requested. Additional monitoring activities include annual independent audits and periodic self-assessment of SILC operations in relation to standards and indicators.

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

5.2 Establishment and Placement – 34 CFR 364.21(a)

5.2A Describe how the establishment and placement of the SILC ensures its independence with respect to the DSU and all other State agencies.

The SILC was established following revisions to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1992, when the SILC requirement was introduced. The SILC was established and created as an independent council (40 Tex. Admin. Code § 101.401). In the formative years, DARS worked closely with the SILC to establish required processes and protocols consistent with federal requirements. The SILC received its 501(c)(3) status in 1998. The current structural reference for the SILC is found in Texas Administrative Code Title 40, Part 2, Chapter 101, Subchapter D, Rule §101.603.

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

While the SILC has a very effective collaborative working relationship with DARS and other state agencies, the organization is recognized and operates as an independent entity with autonomy in its daily operations, development and implementation of the SPIL, and advocacy for Independent Living issues for Texans with disabilities.

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

5.3A Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b).

Members of the SILC are appointed by the Governor and serve on a voluntary basis. Potential

nominees meeting established criteria for cross-disability representation, geographic coverage, knowledge of Independent Living, etc. are submitted for consideration to the Governor's Office when vacancies arise. SILC bylaws address selection of Chair and Executive Committee (by SILC vote) and also define term limits.

While the SILC may identify and make recommendations of potential candidates for Council membership to the Governor's appointments office, the SILC does not have the power to nominate members. Composition of the SILC is reflected in Attachment 3, which is used as a tool to track compliance with the requirements for SILC composition defined in the Rehabilitation Act.

5.4 Staffing – 34 CFR 364.21(j)

5.4A Describe how the following SILC staffing requirements will be met:

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

The SILC will regularly apprise employees of their job performance and employer expectations. All employees of the SILC shall receive a periodic written evaluation of their job performance. Employees shall be evaluated upon completion of the probationary period. Formal written evaluation shall be conducted at least annually thereafter. The SILC and/or the Executive Director may conduct employee evaluations at any time. Responsibilities for supervision and evaluation of the SILC Executive Director lie primarily with the SILC Chair. An annual evaluation is standard protocol with input from the SILC Executive Committee.

Particular attention is paid regarding assignments to avoid any conflict of interest in relation to carrying out SILC-related duties. This is especially true in consideration of individuals selected, for example, for review of technical assistance grants to CILs.

Section 6: Service Provider Requirements

Describe how the following service provider requirements will be met:

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

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

for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy.

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

DRS has 12 ILS Counselor positions and DBS has 22 IL Worker positions that provide IL services to Consumers. Program Specialists within DARS provide technical assistance in developing and support the state network of CILs. Service Coordinators within the CILs are qualified to provide the four core services.

Both IL programs within the DSU have staff development activities from orientation of new personnel (caseload and administrative staff) to ongoing trainings. Similarly, CILs, in accordance with requirements of the Rehabilitation Act, provide training opportunities for personnel internally and through workshops and conferences in the community, such as the annual statewide IL Conference. Contingent on available funds, the SILC sponsors a yearly training for CIL personnel that is targeted to the administrative staff of CILs and addresses operational issues.

DARS and CIL staff receive training at service delivery and management levels that address essential components of these staffing requirements:

- Awareness of IL network (including DSU and CILs).
- Emphasis on awareness of and application of IL philosophy.
- Ability to effectively communicate and provide services to individuals needing alternate communication styles for reasons such as hearing or vision loss or because of varying native languages.
- In areas where staff is unable to provide such accommodations, professionals are hired to meet the need.

CILs also adhere strongly to affirmative action practices to employ, and advance in employment, individuals with significant disabilities. The majority of CIL staff are individuals with disabilities.

6.2 Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting – 34 CFR 364.34

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

These requirements are included in the DARS Standards for Providers. Compliance with requirements is examined during the application process before contracts are authorized. Compliance is reviewed as part of routine contract monitoring activities.

CILs that are federally-funded comply with RSA fiscal regulations and with OMB Circulars A-110, A-122, and A-133.

6.3 Record-Keeping, Access and Reporting – 34 CFR 364.35; 34 CFR 364.36; 34 CFR 364.37

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

The DARS Standards for Providers includes these requirements. Compliance is reviewed as part of routine contract monitoring activities.

Federally funded CILs are required to meet standards established by RSA for record keeping, access and reporting. These requirements are reflected in each entity's operational policies and procedures.

6.4 Eligibility – 34 CFR 364.40; 34 CFR 364.41

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

The DARS Standards for Providers includes these requirements. Compliance is reviewed as part of routine contract monitoring activities.

Centers supported through federal grants use the criteria for service eligibility defined in the Rehabilitation Act. Determination of disability is self-verifying.

6.5 Independent Living Plans – 34 CFR 364.43(c)

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

The DARS Standards for Providers includes these requirements. Compliance is reviewed as part of routine contract monitoring activities.

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

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

- **Use of accessible formats to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under Chapter 1 of Title VII about the availability of the CAP program, the purposes of the services provided under the CAP, and how to contact the CAP.**

The DARS Standards for Providers includes these requirements. Compliance is reviewed as part of routine contract monitoring activities.

All Consumers of federally funded CILs are informed of the availability of and the purpose and contact information for the Client Assistance Program. This notification is provided in alternate formats. Consumers provide signed verification that they have received such information.

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

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

The DARS Standards for Providers includes these requirements. Compliance is reviewed as part of routine contract monitoring activities.

Federally-funded CILs comply with confidentiality requirements established by RSA. No information concerning a Consumer, including a photo of a Consumer, is released to another individual or entity without signed authorization from the Consumer. Consumer service records are maintained in secured files.

Section 7: Evaluation

7.1A Describe the method that will be used to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the plan in meeting the objectives established in Section 1. The description must include the State's evaluation of satisfaction by individuals with significant disabilities who have participated in the program. 34 CFR 364.38

Specific activities and indicators have been identified for each goal and objective cited in the SPIL. The SILC will annually, as well as quarterly, review its progress through its regular meetings via input from DARS representatives, reports from the network of CILs, joint preparation and review of federal reports, and feedback from other entities regarding Independent Living issues and concerns for Texans with disabilities.

Additional opportunities for assessing effectiveness include acquisition of input from Consumers through:

- Inviting public comment during each regularly scheduled meeting of the SILC;
- Posting a copy of the SPIL on the Internet and providing a method for Consumer and public comment;

- Reviewing public input collected by other entities, including but not limited to, DSUs and CILs;
- Presenting up-to-date information on the implementation of the SPIL at the annual independent living conference and soliciting public comment.

Consumer satisfaction is addressed through several methods. DARSs has established processes to solicit feedback from Consumers served to identify satisfaction with services and their IL program experience. Data is collected and compiled by independent evaluators and reviewed by the SILC. A SILC representative participates as a standing member of the State Rehabilitation Council, affording the opportunity for dialogue, input, updates, and annual reporting and review regarding SILC activities.

The network of CILs in Texas has implemented a standard Consumer Satisfaction Questionnaire that is distributed to Consumers. Analysis of responses is included in the 704 reports, which are provided to the SILC for review. Consumers are invited to express satisfaction or concerns with the IL service delivery system at all SILC meetings. Consumers are informed of the availability of the Client Assistance Program as a means of resolving concerns.

Section 8: State-Imposed Requirements

8.1A Identify any State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL.

Indicate N/A if not applicable.

To receive IL services in Texas from DRS or DBS, a Consumer must be in the United States legally. DARS policy manuals require Consumers to provide original documents to establish identification and to indicate that the Consumer legally resides in the United States. If the Consumer is unable to provide appropriate documentation at application, the Consumer is allowed to complete the application and the counselor counsels the Consumer on the need for the documentation before DRS or DBS can determine eligibility for services. CILs do not require Consumers to provide proof of legal status.

Both DARS and DBS have established protocols regarding Consumer participation in the cost of services as described in 2.1.C.

Division for Rehabilitation Services ILS Waiting List Description

Because most requests for Independent Living services from the DRS ILS program in Texas are for rehabilitation technology, assistive equipment and devices, funds have not been sufficient to provide purchased services immediately. It became necessary for the program to implement a list of all ILS Consumers waiting to receive purchased services. This became the ILS waiting list, which consists of all Consumers from initial contact through plan/waiver-initiated statuses who have not yet received purchased services.

The DRS Rehabilitation Policy Manual, Chapter 8, provides guidance to ILS counselors regarding waiting list procedures.

The purpose of the ILS Waiting List is to:

- Identify who is to be served next when funds become available,
- Track timeliness of service provision,

- Track the number of Consumers who are waiting, and
- Identify the estimated amount of additional funds needed.

The ILS waiting list is available to counselors on the DRS Intranet by caseload, with Consumers sorted by initial contact date, ILS status, and readiness status (ready or not ready to receive services). A Consumer is automatically added to the waiting list when initial contact information for that consumer is entered in DARS electronic case management system .

ILS Waiting List Procedure

Following development of a plan or waived plan, and upon becoming ready to receive purchased services, Consumers on the waiting list are served within each caseload in order of earliest initial contact date.

First Served

The first Consumer to receive purchased services on the waiting list is the Consumer on a caseload who has earliest initial contact date who has a plan or waived plan and is ready for services. The Consumer receives all services agreed to on the plan or waived plan.

When there are not enough funds to serve the first Consumer ready for services, services are provided to the Consumer with the next oldest initial contact date that has a plan or waived plan and is ready for services. The first Consumer maintains his or her next-to-be-served status and is served when adequate ILS funds become available.

Not Ready for Services

A Consumer with a plan or waived plan may not be ready to receive services for a variety of reasons:

- Medical —for example, the Consumer may need hospital treatment for a minor illness or a complication of his or her disability;
- Vehicle (van) not ready for modifications, perhaps:
 - not yet purchased,
 - not delivered,
 - not inspected, or
 - needs mechanical work; or
- Consumer reports:
 - personal reasons, or
 - family problems.

The counselor documents:

- The reasons a Consumer is not ready, and
- A projected date when the Consumer may be ready.

Services provided to Consumers while on the ILS Waiting List include:

- Counseling and guidance,
- Information and referral,
- Referral to a CIL,
- Information about comparable benefits, (for example, Medicaid or Medicare), and
- Services paid for by other resources.

Contact and Documentation

ILS counselors maintain regularly scheduled contact as needed by the Consumer, but at least every 60 days, to:

- Provide updates and progress reports, and
- Request additional information.

PART III: EXHIBITS

Attachment 1 - SILC Standards & Indicators Developed at SILC Congress 2004

SILC Standards and indicators Developed at SILC Congress 2004 Preamble

These standards and indicators are intended to assist states to fully implement the requirements outlined in Title VII of the Rehab Act.

They are intended as a guide for states in administering programs and services in compliance with the Act and Independent Living values and principles.

Definitions

Consumer Control- The term "Consumer control" means, with respect to a SILC, that the SILC vests power and authority in individuals with disabilities regarding decision making, SPIL Development and approval, establishment of policies, direction, management and operations of the SILC.

Disability-The term "disability" means a person who has a physical, mental, cognitive, and/or sensory impairment, which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities as a record of such impairment or is regarded as having such impairment.

SILC Philosophy

Standard #1

The purpose of the SILC is to promote the philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of Consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and systems advocacy, in order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

SILC membership shall always remain at or above 51% people with significant disabilities who represent a broad range of disabilities and are knowledgeable about CIL's and Independent Living services.

Indicators

1. The SILC will provide statewide representation, represent a broad range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds, and consist of individuals who are knowledgeable about CILs and Independent Living Services.
2. The majority of voting SILC membership shall consist of individuals with disabilities who are not employed by any state agency or CIL.
3. In a state in which one or more projects are carried out under section 121, at least one representative of the directors of the projects; additional members may include other representatives from centers for independent living, parents and guardians of individuals with disabilities, advocates of and for individuals with disabilities, representatives from private

businesses, representatives from organizations that provide services for individuals with disabilities, and other appropriate individuals

The SILC will develop a method for recruiting applicants and receiving applications and, on at least an annual basis, forward a list of qualified, knowledgeable, and diverse candidates to be appointed by the Governor or designee.

The SILC will provide training to its members, CILs, other providers, and Consumers on the Rehab Act and Independent Living
Minimum Standard: once a year
Acceptable Standard: twice a year
Optimal Standard: three times a year

The SILC shall provide each newly appointed member with training and orientation prior to voting.

Every SILC shall complete and submit an assessment of the SILC training needs to RRCEP, RTC (ILRU) on an annual basis.

Standard #2

SILC has an active and equal role in the development of the State Plan.

Indicators

1. A majority vote of the SILC membership is required to approve the State Plan.
2. Any revisions and changes made to the SPIL by the DSU Director, Staff, SILC Chair, SILC Committee or any other entity will be submitted and approved by the full SILC, prior to inclusion in the final approved SPIL.

Standard #3

The SILC has the freedom to advocate for issues of its own choice as evidenced in the state plan and in a list of advocacy issues that will be developed annually.

Indicators

1. The SILC will, on an annual basis, develop a list of advocacy issues.
2. Minutes of SILC meetings, public forums, 704 Report, member activity reports will be collected and compiled at least annually to demonstrate evidence of advocacy action and accomplishments.

SILC Relationship with CILs

Standard #1

In partnership with CILs, the SILC will maximize cooperation, coordination, and working relationships to strengthen independent living within the state.

Indicators

1. The SILC will have as a voting member at least one CIL director chosen by the directors of CILs that comply with Section 725 in that state.

2. The SILC will provide opportunities for CILs to acquire technical assistance and training.
3. The SILC will participate only as technical assistants in RSA site reviews at the request of CIL Directors.

Standard #2

The SILC will collaborate with CILs in the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of the SPIL.

Indicators

1. The SILC will work with CILs to conduct public forums and other mechanisms to gather information from people with disabilities in the development of the state plan.
2. The SILC will utilize CIL 704 reports and other tools to identify the trends for development of the state plan.
3. The SILC will cooperate, collaborate, and coordinate with CILs in the development of the design of the statewide network of CILs.
4. The SILC and CILs will collaborate on the design and implementation of tools to assess Consumer satisfaction with the state plan.

Autonomy

Standard # 1:

The SILC shall not be established as an entity within a state agency.

Indicator:

The SILC

- Develops its own vision and mission statement
- Reviews and monitors its own progress
- Controls the appointment process by recommending members
- Has freedom to advocate about issues of its own choice
- Develops statutory authority, procedures and other systematic methods for gaining, maintaining and protecting its autonomy
- Accounts for its decisions and actions
- The SPIL describes the status of the Council and how that status demonstrates the autonomy of the Council
- Has a code of ethical behavior for Council members
- Has a conflict of interest policy for Council members
- Has a plan for training/mentoring of new members
- Is responsible and accountable for the actions of the SILC

Standard # 2

The SILC shall prepare, in conjunction with the DSU, a plan for the provision of such resources as may be necessary and sufficient to carry out the functions of the Council.

Indicator:

The SILC

- Develops, adopts and controls its own budget
- Develops, implements and maintains sound fiscal policies and procedures

Standard # 3

Each SILC shall, consistent with state law, supervise and evaluate personnel necessary to carry out the functions of the Council.

Indicator:

The SILC develops, implements, and maintains sound personnel policies and procedures in accordance with its organizational structure.

Standard # 4

The SILC shall jointly develop and sign (in conjunction with the DSU) the SPIL.

Indicators:

The SILC:

- Develops, implements and monitors its SPIL
- Chairperson shall sign the SPIL upon a majority vote of the Council
- Has a process for reviewing and determining if the SPIL has been implemented

SILCs as System Advocates

Standard #1:

The Council shall direct and develop the resources (including but not limited to funds, staff, volunteers, Council members, and partners) necessary to implement advocacy for systems change.

Indicators:

1. The Council will identify in the SPIL the resources to carry out advocacy efforts towards systems change.
2. The Council will identify in the SPIL a contingency process to address unexpected emerging issues.
3. The Council will identify in the SPIL the process of expanding resources to carry out advocacy efforts which are addressed by the SPIL but are unfunded due to limited SILC resources.
4. The Council will report the percentage of their resources being used to implement advocacy efforts for systemic change.

Standard #2:

The Council will develop and implement advocacy efforts that promote the IL philosophy and results in meaningful and measurable systemic change.

Indicators:

1. The Council will identify priority systems change issues through statewide Consumer input.

2. The Council will develop a specific action plan for implementation of advocacy efforts toward their priority systems change issues.

3. The Council will establish a method for annual evaluation of the effectiveness of their action plan.

Standard #3:

The Council will develop and strengthen the network of CILs, including supporting their advocacy efforts.

Indicators:

1. The Council will work with the CILs to create statewide advocacy efforts toward systemic change.

2. The Council will share with CILs statewide Consumer input, including input from Consumers in unserved and underserved areas and populations, regarding systems change issues that need to be addressed by the network of CILs.

3. The Council will jointly plan with the CILs and DSU to determine systems change issues.

Standard #4:

The Council shall set forth the steps that will be taken to maximize the cooperation, coordination, and working relationships with other advocates working toward systemic change.

Indicators;

1. The Council will work with the CILs to establish statewide advocacy networks that partnership with coalitions and others who are addressing common systemic change issues.

2. The Council will identify the partners in the SPIL that they are working with in advocacy efforts to address systemic change issues.

3. The Council will outreach to additional organizations and partners in order to effectively address system change issues.

4. The Council will provide evidence in their role of the partnerships in the resource plan and evaluation process.

Attachment 3 – SILC Council Members & Staff

Council Members

Saul Herrera, Chairperson
County: Midland
Term: Expires on October 24, 2013
Position: Person with a disability

Randell Resneder, Vice-Council
Chairperson
County: Lubbock
Term: Expires on October 24, 2015
Position: Person with a disability

Karen Swearingen, Secretary
County: Dallas
Term: Expires on October 24, 2013
Position: Parent of person with a disability

Jim Batchelor, Council Member
County: Delta
Term: Expires on October 24, 2014
Position: Person with a disability

Shannon Alexander, Council Member
County: Brazos
Term: Expires on October 24, 2014
Position: Person with a disability

Calvin Turner, Council Member
County: Travis
Term: Expires on October 24, 2013
Anna Hundley, Council Member
Position: Person with a disability

County: Dallas
Term: Expires on October 24, 2014
Position: Advocate

Richard Couder, Council Member
County: El Paso
Term: Expires on October 24, 2015
Position: Advocate

Jim Brocato, Council Member
County: Jefferson
Term: October 24, 2015
Position: CIL Director

John Hobgood, Council Member
County: Lubbock
Term: October 24, 2015
Position: Person with a disability

Marc Gold, DADS
Position: Ex-Officio

Amy Kantoff, DARS
Position: Ex-Officio

Laurie Pryor, DBS
Position: Ex-Officio

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