

State Plan For Independent Living (SPIL)

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

Part B - INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

Part C - Centers for Independent Living

State: South Carolina

FISCAL YEARS: 2025-2027

Effective Date: 10/01/2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The South Carolina State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) is a three-year plan (federal fiscal Years 2025-2027) that directs the goals, objectives, and activities for the framework for Independent Living Services provided in South Carolina. South Carolina's SPIL focuses on strengthening the South Carolina Independent Living Network while advancing disability representation, equity and inclusion throughout the state.

The South Carolina Independent Living Network is grounded in the unwavering belief that all people with disabilities must have the right to decide about their lives. The Network, comprised mostly of professionals with disabilities, understands that disabled people are the best experts for their own needs. Consequently, the Network ensured that we heard from the disability community in South Carolina by conducting a Statewide Needs Assessment survey before drafting the SPIL. Therefore, the goals were compiled from South Carolinians with disabilities only. We did not include the perceptions from providers, family members, or anyone who was not disabled as we are a disability-led movement that focuses on consumer-driven impact.

The Needs Assessment was distributed via an online platform, Alchemer, that was specifically selected for its accessibility features. Paper copies were also made available to select partners upon request. A Spanish version of the survey was also developed and distributed. The questions were developed using plain language. The survey asked 42 questions regarding the individual's demographics, type of disability, and availability of services within South Carolina, sharing their perceptions on various aspects of their life and identifying their top barriers. Open-ended options were also made available to allow individuals to provide additional feedback. A total of 716 people responded to the survey either partially or fully.

The survey was initially open to the public from October 24, 2022 through November 30, 2022. Upon notice of a one-year extension for submission of the SCSILC state plan, the survey was extended until May 1, 2023 with a specific focus for completion during the South Carolina Advocacy Day for

Access and Independence Day.

Respondents were made aware of the electronic survey through the use of social media (Facebook, Instagram, Linked In, and Twitter) and email blasts from each of the member organizations. The paper copies of the survey were made available to consumers of the three CILs to distribute directly to consumers so that internet access was not a barrier.

The drafted SPIL goals were published for public comment from March 23, 2024 to April 23, 2024. The public comment survey was distributed via Alchemer and shared with the SPIL development committee. Feedback was received from a total of 635 individuals provided comments with a range between 94% to 98% of individuals agreeing with the proposed goals.

Additional partners in the SPIL Development Committee included the following:

- Centers for Independent Living: Able South Carolina, AccessAbility, and Walton Options for Independent Living. All three of the Center's executive directors served on the SPIL Planning and Development Committee.
- The South Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council monitors the SPIL. The SCSILC's chair was an active member of the Planning and Development Committee.

The developed plan reflects a state with strong disability leadership representation, cohesiveness among all Centers for Independent Living, and a clear vision of ensuring that South Carolina is equitable for all individuals with disabilities. The goals are ambitious, yet realistic, and provide a pathway toward integrating disability representation in all aspects of our shared community.

Section 1: Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Activities

1.1 - MISSION

Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL

The mission of the state plan of independent living (SPIL) is a disability-led network of organizations creating equitable opportunities for South Carolinians with disabilities.

1.2 - GOALS

Goals of the SPIL

Goal #1: South Carolina's Independent Living systems will implement a statewide education campaign to challenge stereotypes about people with disabilities.

Goal #2: South Carolinians with disabilities are accepted and included in the community.

Goal #3: IL services are available and operate effectively.

Goal #4: South Carolinians with disabilities have the support needed to live independently and safely in the community of their choice.

1.3 - OBJECTIVES

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

Goal #1: South Carolina's Independent Living systems will implement a statewide education campaign to challenge stereotypes about people with disabilities.

Objective #1.1: South Carolina's Independent Living Systems will execute a statewide advocacy and education outreach campaign to enhance the public's perception of all persons with disabilities - those apparent and hidden.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.1.1: Outreach plan execution launch by 3rd Quarter of Year One of State Plan.

Indicator #1.1.2: At least 1 million people view the Disability Next Door Campaign across website / social media channels.

Indicator #1.1.3: Pre/Post focus groups for targeted populations measuring changes in community perception.

Indicator #1.1.4: Using an established public perception baseline, demonstrate measurable improvement in public perception of Persons with Disabilities accessible, recorded, and live-streamed.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #1.1.1: ACTIVITIES:CILs and SCSILC will partner with an outside entity to develop a multi-media, integrated statewide Outreach plan for the promotion of Disability Next Door.

Objective Info #1.1.2: ACTIVITIES:Will develop an integrated marketing campaign using merged in-kind/ external supports from internal staff shared among partnering agencies.

Objective Info #1.1.3: ACTIVITIES:Multi-media Outreach plan launched to target identified areas across the state.

Objective Info #1.1.4: ACTIVITIES:Appropriate resources based on availability will be allocated to ensure target reach.

Objective Info #1.1.5: ACTIVITIES:CILs and SCILS will collaborate for promotion videos across identified areas.

Objective Info #1.1.6: ACTIVITIES:Launch Public Perception Survey.

Objective Info #1.1.7: DESIRED OUTCOME:This goal was developed as a repeated theme within the Statewide Needs Assessment. South Carolinians with disabilities reported that one of the most significant barriers is overall public perception regarding the capacities of persons with disabilities. This objective allows for the execution of the Disability Next Door campaign developed during the last state plan. LEAD AGENCIES:CILs and the SCSILC Accessibility Committee

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #1.2: South Carolina's Independent Living systems work collaboratively with other entities to promote disability representation, awareness, access, equity, and inclusion for all individuals with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.2.1: Disability organizations will collaborate to share informed, timely, and data-informed education about barriers impacting South Carolinians with disabilities. The SC Access and Independence Network will produce the annual advocacy day materials for distribution to the public and elected officials.

Indicator #1.2.2: Meeting minutes /agenda will be shared with the SPIL Oversight Committee and DSE.

Indicator #1.2.3: At least 400 people annually will participate in Advocacy Day for Access and Independence activities.

Indicator #1.2.4: Surveys will be distributed to attendees to measure the event's outcome from partners and participants, along with the opportunity for feedback for quality assurance. The event will be fully accessible, recorded, and live-streamed.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #1.2.1: ACTIVITIES:Continue facilitating the South Carolina Access and Independence Network. The Network's mission is to unlock the barriers for South Carolinians with disabilities.

Objective Info #1.2.2: ACTIVITIES:Coordinate and implement an all-inclusive Advocacy Day for Access and Independence to raise public awareness regarding barriers impacting South Carolinians with disabilities.

Objective Info #1.2.3: ACTIVITIES:Collaborate to address at least one (1) key state / national public policy area per year from areas as identified by the Needs Assessment.

Objective Info #1.2.4: ACTIVITIES:Develop policy champions from each represented CIL area to advance identified areas across legislative platforms.

Objective Info #1.2.5: ACTIVITIES:CILs will provide a public update of issue areas following the conclusion of the General Assembly.

Objective Info #1.2.6: DESIRED OUTCOME: For the past 10 years, South Carolina's Advocacy for Access and Independence has served as the premier multi-disability outreach and awareness day for the SC General Assembly. The needs assessment identified several prominent barriers that call for attention to the General Assembly. This objective seeks to broaden legislative support to address these barriers appropriately.75% of General Assembly reports improved knowledge of disability areas. To be captured via an annual survey distributed to the General Assembly. LEAD AGENCIES: Able SC in collaboration with AccessAbility and WOIL and the Advocacy Day for Access and Independence partners.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #2: South Carolinians with disabilities are accepted and included in the community.

Objective #2.1: South Carolinians with disabilities have access to emergency services.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.1.1: At least four (4) targeted trainings will be provided by SC Disability Partners in Coalition to assist state leaders during and after an emergency. Meeting minutes and collaboration success will be shared with SCSILC and the DSE.

Indicator #2.1.2: Develop a training packet/video for distribution for emergency shelters and volunteers. To be available via all social channels.

Indicator #2.1.3: Developed training will reach 150 individuals on emergency management officials.

Indicator #2.1.4: Annual fact sheets detailing the impact and strategies for inclusive, accessible practices of emergencies on PWD will be distributed to emergency management offices and local, state, and federal elected officials via the SCSILC banner.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #2.1.1: ACTIVITIES:CILs will lead the SC Disability Partners in Disaster Coalition to advance efforts to coordinate accessible emergency services.

Objective Info #2.1.2: ACTIVITIES:Collectively, CILs will develop and provide uniform training targeted for state and local emergency providers to provide at least three (3) consumer emergency preparedness trainings per year.

Objective Info #2.1.3: ACTIVITIES:The SCSILC will develop shared resources for media officials for emergency preparedness.

Objective Info #2.1.4: ACTIVITIES:Develop a unified, shared training protocol to be advanced from each respective CIL for local emergency divisions.

Objective Info #2.1.5: DESIRED OUTCOME:CILs and the disability community will lead the efforts to educate emergency officials about the needs of persons with a disability before, during, and after an emergency event.Much progress was made in the last state plan to coordinate resources and services for individuals with disabilities during times of emergency. This objective seeks to codify that progress and formalize relationships into standard operating procedures for emergency management agencies. LEAD AGENCIES: Able SC will report on and lead the efforts of the SC Disability Partners in Disaster activities. All CILs will report on their portion of the additional objectives and activities.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #3: IL services are available and operate effectively.

Objective #3.1: The SCSILC has the administrative framework to operate effectively.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.1.1: SCSILC will adopt operating procedures by the 2nd Quarter of FY25.

Indicator #3.1.2: CIL members report greater access to operational procedures and access to information.

Indicator #3.1.3: CA continuity plan is established for leadership / SCSILC membership.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #3.1.1: ACTIVITIES:SCSILC will develop and share written administrative procedures documenting the organization's standard operating practices.

Objective Info #3.1.2: ACTIVITIES:Developed procedures will document shared compliance measures and expectation standards for members.

Objective Info #3.1.3: ACTIVITIES:SCSILC will develop an orientation of progress made, past entity history, and institutional knowledge to be shared with new members/staff of SCSILC and CIL organizations. Information will document past collaborative statewide initiatives/programs to ensure understanding and continuity of past work.

Objective Info #3.1.4: ACTIVITIES:Establish a shared information network to house administrative documents, policies, procedures, and other relevant information.

Objective Info #3.1.5: DESIRED OUTCOME:The CIL agencies have a continuity of knowledge of past

activities, and administrative actions to transfer to emerging leaders within the SCSILC network. LEAD AGENCY:Able SC will lead with support from CIL agencies and SCSILC.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #3.2: South Carolina CILs are financially supported and Part B Independent Living funding will be distributed among the three SC CILs based on service areas.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.2.1: Six (6) unserved Part C counties will continue to be served by an existing CIL.

Indicator #3.2.2: CILS will contract with DSE and divide the funding based on service area.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #3.2.1: ACTIVITIES:Fund counties with Part B funds via existing CIL, WOIL, and the current level until Part C funds become available. WOIL Lowcountry will receive no more than \$100,000 of the Part B funding. If Part B funding is decreased to \$275,000 per year, the SPIL will be revised to ensure goals are achievable and the funding allocation is reviewed. 2024, 2025, 2026.

Objective Info #3.2.2: ACTIVITIES:Remaining Part B funds would be divided between the three (3) Part C CILs according to counties served (AbleSC, 50% of remaining funds; Accessibility 25% of remaining funds; WOIL, 25% of remaining funds) to assist with providing general IL services and/or implementing the SPIL goals.

Objective Info #3.2.3: DESIRED OUTCOME:Increased capacity to serve consumers. LEAD AGENCIES: WOIL will be the lead on the WOIL Lowcountry report. All CILs will report on Part B activities. GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE:Statewide activities as listed within the SPIL.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #4: South Carolinians with disabilities have the support needed to live independently and safely in the community of their choice.

Objective #4.1: SCSILC and CILs forge new opportunities to expand individuals with disabilities to access services in their homes and communities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.1.1: MOU with SC HHS exploring Pay for Success model with Money Follows the Person program

Indicator #4.1.2: (5) Trainings provided that are catered to SC ADA Coordinators and encourage disability representation.

Indicator #4.1.3: SC CILs will apply for IL-based services via Medicaid Waivers and supported services.

Indicator #4.1.4: CILs will consistently provide pre-employment services throughout SC and will be funded by SCVRD, SCCB and SC DOE.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #4.1.1: ACTIVITIES:SCSILC and CILs to collaborate with SC DHHS to collaborate on the SC Home Again program.

Objective Info #4.1.2: ACTIVITIES:SCSILC and CILs to develop collaborative partnerships for expanded transportation and housing opportunities.

Objective Info #4.1.3: ACTIVITIES:Advocate for state ADA Coordinator and implementation across state agencies

Objective Info #4.1.4: ACTIVITIES:SC CILs will pursue a funded partnership with SC Medicaid Agency.

Objective Info #4.1.5: ACTIVITIES:SC CILs will be funded to provide and expand Pre-Employment Transition Services to youth with disabilities.

Objective Info #4.1.6: DESIRED OUTCOME:People with disabilities are living in the community of their choice with appropriate resources. LEAD AGENCIES:CILs and DSE

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #4.2: South Carolinians with disabilities will have the support needed to access competitive and integrated employment.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.2.1: The Employment Coalition will foster active partnerships by sharing annual service gap / best practices between employee-serving agencies.

Indicator #4.2.2: CILs will demonstrate IL philosophy and serve as knowledge and experts to the SC Disability Employment Coalition and other employee-serving agencies.

Indicator #4.2.3: Recruitment strategies by boards/ commissions and other agencies promoting membership of individuals with disabilities.

Indicator #4.2.4: Formal disability representation on the SC Coordinating Council on Workforce Development.

Indicator #4.2.5: A minimum of six (6) trainings will be provided b to state administrative offices via established networks regarding the hiring of persons with disabilities. Able SC will complete 50% of trainings.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #4.2.1: ACTIVITIES:SCSILC and CILs will address employment barriers by developing sustainable systems change via the SC Disability Employment Coalition.

Objective Info #4.2.2: ACTIVITIES:CILs and SCSILS will establish an operating MOU with the Governor's Office, Department of Administration, or other appropriate entities to promote ADA title II requirements.

Objective Info #4.2.3: ACTIVITIES:Promote disability representation on applicable boards/committees/ commissions or agencies serving individuals with disabilities.

Objective Info #4.2.4: ACTIVITIES:Promote state adoption of incentives for hiring people with disabilities.

Objective Info #4.2.5: DESIRED OUTCOME: South Carolina will improve its unemployment rate for people with disabilities. LEAD AGENCIES:Able SC will lead the employment coalition efforts and all CILs will participate and report on activities.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

1.4 - EVALUATION

The SPIL Oversight Committee has the responsibility of evaluating the SPIL's effectiveness and ensuring the attainment of established goals, objectives, and activities. This evaluation process relies on quarterly updates from each CIL, which are then integrated into the Oversight Committee's comprehensive report. Consumer satisfaction is gauged in alignment with individual SPIL goals and objectives. Whenever feasible, CIL satisfaction data is incorporated into SPIL consumer satisfaction data and reviewed as outlined in the evaluation plan. The CILs created a shared consumer satisfaction survey during the previous SPIL. The current proposed SPIL will integrate this survey when finalized into daily operating practices.

To facilitate ongoing monitoring and adjustment, each CIL records monthly updates regarding consumer satisfaction results, and progress on goals, objectives, and activities. These updates are included in reimbursement reports submitted to the DSE. The Oversight Committee reviews quarterly reports utilizing a standardized template, detailed in Appendix B, which assesses goal status, activity summaries, and data collection.

To maintain alignment with objectives, the Oversight Committee provides feedback to CILs as necessary to ensure progress on SPIL deliverables. Additionally, all CILs share their Program Performance Reports annually with ACL, the SC SILC, and the SPIL Oversight Committee to ensure the integration of the most recent information into SPIL updates on services. Each CIL also reports its satisfaction rate in its PPR, with all three CILs collectively sharing this information with the full SCSILC for a comprehensive review. Specifically for SPIL activities, updates are shared through quarterly reports.

1.4 - EVALUATION

Goal #1: South Carolina's Independent Living systems will implement a statewide education campaign to challenge stereotypes about people with disabilities.

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
Q1, FY24	South Carolina's Independent Living Systems will execute a statewide advocacy and education outreach campaign to enhance the public's perception of all persons with disabilities - those apparent and hidden.	Documentation related to the Selection of the agency	Quarterly Report	CIL, SILC

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
FY24-FY27	South Carolina's Independent Living systems work collaboratively with other entities to promote disability representation, awareness, access, equity, and inclusion for all individuals with disabilities.	Meeting notes.	Quarterly Report	CIL, SILC

Goal #2: South Carolinians with disabilities are accepted and included in the community.

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
FY24-FY27	South Carolinians with disabilities have access to emergency services.	CILs and the disability community will lead the efforts to educate emergency officials about the needs of persons with a disability before, during, and after an emergency event.	Quarterly Reports	CIL, SILC

Goal #3: IL services are available and operate effectively.

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
Q3, FY24	The SCSILC has the administrative framework to operate effectively.	Operating procedures adopted by SILC	Quarterly Report	CIL, SILC
FY 24-FY27	South Carolina CILs are financially supported and Part B Independent Living funding will be distributed among the three SC CILs based on service areas.	Six (6) unserved Part C counties will continue to be served by an existing CIL.	Quarterly Report	CIL, SILC

Goal #4: South Carolinians with disabilities have the support needed to live independently and safely in the community of their choice.

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
FY24-FY27	SCSILC and CILs forge new opportunities to expand individuals with disabilities to access services in their homes and communities.	MOU with SC HHS exploring Pay for Success model with Money Follows the Person program	Quarterly Report	CIL, DSE, SILC
FY24-FY27	South Carolinians with disabilities will have the support needed to access competitive and integrated employment.	SC CILs will apply for IL-based services via Medicaid Waivers and supported	Quarterly Report	CIL, SILC

1.5 - PART I: FINANCIAL PLAN

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

Fiscal Year(s): 2025 - 2027

October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2027

Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses					
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Admin. Costs	TOTAL
Title VII Funds						
Chapter 1, Part B	\$41865	\$100000	\$0	\$206195	\$0	\$348060
Chapter 1, Part C	\$0	\$0	\$1126528	\$0		\$1126528
						\$1474588
Other Federal Funds						
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Social Security Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300000		\$300000
						\$300000
Non-Federal Funds						
Part B State Match	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$34806	\$0	\$34806
Other State Match for Funds in SPIL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$3368	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3368
						\$38174

TOTAL	\$45233	\$100000	\$1126528	\$541001	\$0	\$1812762
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1.5.2 - PART II: FINANCIAL PLANNING NARRATIVE

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

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) serves as the Designated State Entity responsible for receiving, accounting for, and disbursing Part B funding in accordance with section 704 (c) of the Act. The South Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council (SCSILC) is funded solely by Part B. Despite having a higher than national level of citizens with disabilities, South Carolina's Independent Living Program is funded at a lower level compared to other states. Additionally, South Carolina does not receive required Innovation & Expansion funding from the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD), but the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) do receive funding through contracts and other partnerships with SCVRD. The South Carolina Independent Living Network does not receive Social Security reimbursements or Home and Community-Based Services contracts. In conclusion, the SCSILC operates with limited funding and conservative budgets to better support the CILs and South Carolinians with disabilities.

The three CILs are funded with Part B, C, and other sources of funding, which is secured via each CIL. Each CIL is a separate private, non-profit organization with its own board of directors and funding sources, including grants, fee-for-service programs, and individual fundraising efforts. WOIL has an office in the Lowcountry that only receives Part B funding and other sources, with no Part C funding covering the six counties in that area. Able SC receives WIPA funding to operate the statewide WIPA program for South Carolina. Additionally, South Carolina has a Disability Innovation Grant via the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) through the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDOE), in which all three CILs are involved, and Pre-Employment Transition Services through the SCVRD.

Part B and C funding furthers the SPIL goals, general CIL operations, and independent living services. Each CIL has contracts with SCDHHS to implement the SPIL which outlines the SPIL goals that each CIL are responsible for. SCDHHS receives the Part B funding as the DSE; SCDHHS provides a 10 percent match with state funding. SCDHHS can use five percent of the Part B funds for administrative costs but chooses against that option. Part B funding supports the resource plan and administrative contract, serves unserved counties via a contract with an existing CIL, and contracts with all CILs to assist with implementing the work required to meet the goals and objectives of the SPIL, as well as general Independent Living services. Part B funding is divided based on service area and is agreed upon via all CILs. It is as follows:

Income:

- Part B Funding Award: \$348,060
- State SCDHHS Funding Match: \$34,806
- Private Donations: \$3,368

Expenses:

- SCSILC Resource Plan: \$45,233
- WOIL Part B supported CIL: \$100,000
- Able SC (50% of the remaining funds): \$120,500
- AccessAbility (25% of the remaining funds): \$60,250.50
- WOIL (25% of the remaining funds): \$60,250.50

Note: the above amounts are subject to change if Part B funding changes.

Note: A significant deviation from this projected financial plan regarding Chapter 1, Part B funds of more than 25% from the original projected plan will require a substantial amendment. Deviations of

less than 25% may be reported with a technical amendment.

Notes regarding Sources:

- Other Federal Funds include, but are not limited to, Title I funds available under section 101(a)(18) of the Act, Social Security payments, funding from Housing and Urban Development, and funding received from other Federal programs such as the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program.
- Non-Federal Funds include, but are not limited to, State and local government funds as well as non-government funds from individual donors, foundations, corporations, and community organizations. State government funds include matching funds in compliance with section 712(b) of the Act, general revenue funds and funds made available through other State programs such as Medicaid reimbursements, Aging and Developmental Disabilities Councils, etc.
- Complete the table below - indicate the fiscal year(s) for the table - table can cover 1 year, 2 years, or all 3 years. If you anticipate the same sources, amounts, and uses of funding for the full, 3-year SPIL period, only complete the table once. If you anticipate any differences, complete a separate table for each year with differences. Include dollar amounts, in whole dollars, for each source and use of funds.
- If more than 30% of the Part B appropriation is to be used for the SILC Resource Plan, a justification must be included in section 5.2.
- NOTE: The DSE may not retain more than 5% of the Part B appropriation (for this purpose, the DSE shall include the state match in the "Part B appropriation") for administrative costs. For example, if the state's Part B appropriation is \$90,000, and the state match is \$10,000, then the DSE may retain no more than 5% of \$100,000 (because \$90,000 plus \$10,000 is \$100,000), which is \$5,000.

Contract/Project Management

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DSE) awards contracts to service providers through the independent living program. These service providers, known as Centers for Independent Living (CILs), receive financial assistance under Part B and/or C of Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Act. The service providers must adhere to the standards and assurances outlined within the act. Before entering into contracts, the CILs submit proposals to meet the goals of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), along with a detailed budget outlining allowable expenses.

Additionally, the DSE contracts with the South Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council (SCSILC) to manage the administrative functions of the SCSILC and the Resource Plan.

The SCDHHS has several staff members involved in contract monitoring. Their duties include reviewing a CIL's records, business processes, deliverables, and activities to ensure compliance with the contract's terms and conditions.

CILs submit SPIL monthly and/or quarterly reports are received by SCDHHS, detailing the SPIL activities and objectives accomplished via contracts. Reimbursement requests, accompanied by all necessary supporting documentation, are regularly sent to the DSE. The DSE, in its crucial role, ensures that all Part B funding is spent in strict accordance with state and federal regulations, thereby meeting the objectives of the SPIL.

All Part B funding can be rolled over any unexpected balance from one fiscal year to the next within DSE approval if allowable under state and federal law. At the end of the fiscal year, SCDHHS will reallocate any unspent Part B funds to the same contractor they were allocated through a contract amendment. Any unexpended balance or rollover funds must be spent by the end of the next fiscal year.

Review Status: Approved

Section 2: Scope, Extent and Arrangements

of Services

2.1 - SERVICES

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

Core Independent Living Services: Information and referral

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

Core Independent Living Services: IL skills training

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

Core Independent Living Services: Peer counseling

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

Core Independent Living Services: Individual and systems advocacy

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

Transition Services: Transition from nursing homes & other institutions

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

Transition Services: Diversion from institutions

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

Transition Services: Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life

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

Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with disabilities)

Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.

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

Rehabilitation technology

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

Mobility training

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

Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services

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

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

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

Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation and other support services

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

Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and independent living services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act

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

Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities

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

Supported living

Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL

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

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

Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL

Individual and group social and recreational services

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL

Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with significant disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options

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

Services for children

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

Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance, of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities

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

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

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

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

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

Such other necessary services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act

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

2.1 - OPTIONAL MAP ATTACHMENT

Uploaded Document Name: SC-Coverage-Area-Map.jpg

2.2 - OUTREACH TO UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

South Carolina's three Centers for Independent Living provide services in 37 of the 46 counties with Part B and/or Part C funding. The SPIL Oversight Committee reviews each of the CILs PPR data annually. The data consists of the total number of consumers served, age of consumers, types of disabilities, race/ethnicity, and geographical data to determine the underserved population and to help determine the base level of funding. Information from the PPRs along with available state and federal data is used to determine the outreach needs of our community

Underserved counties are defined by the SPIL as all counties where core services provided by CILs are restricted due to limited funding that is not proportional to the county population or the population of people with disabilities.

CILs also identify their own underserved community in regard to disability and race. They consider the underserved populations based on the number of consumers in both categories compared to their community. Underserved counties and communities are determined yearly and the outreach plan to those counties and communities are included in each CILs PPR. The SPIL does not determine the underserved or unserved populations for each CIL.

As of 2021, there were 1,160,293 people with disabilities in South Carolina, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is 1 in 3 people in South Carolina living with a disability. In the 2022 fiscal year, 2,328 Consumer Service Records (CSR) were active during the year (1,053-AbleSC, 908-AccessAbility, 367 WOIL) and receiving service by a CIL. This likely does not accurately capture the scope of work done by CILs in SC, only those who have signed or waived an independent living plan. For example, Able SC served 2,488 unduplicated people throughout all programs throughout the state. CILs also engage in significant systems change, programs, and community activities as outlined in each of the CILs PPR.

Within the SPIL, the entire state of South Carolina is underserved. While the three CILs continue to seek to diversify their funding, the consumer demands still outweigh existing capacity. However, we have outlined the significantly underserved counties in the state below.

All three CILs continue to seek and secure additional funding to ensure they can serve the needs of the growing disability community. All organizations report underserved populations with reaching deaf consumers.

The unserved counties are those without Part B or C funding which is outlined below:

Unserved Counties:

Currently, the northeast corner of South Carolina is primarily unserved by a CIL by either Part C or B funding. The nine unserved counties include:

Chesterfield

Darlington

Dillon

Florence

Georgetown

Horry

Lancaster
Marion
Marlboro

The composition of the unserved counties consists of 6,187 square miles and 19.1% of the total SC population. While these nine counties are without a CIL with Part B or C funding, Able SC and AccessAbility both provide services in the unserved areas with other funding sources.

Underserved populations are those living in rural areas in SC, specifically the counties listed below:

Rural Populations

Rural counties are defined by the Census in Part B and C service areas, and the people living in rural counties have been identified as underserved. Those counties include:

Abbeville
Allendale
Bamberg
Barnwell
Cherokee
Chesterfield
Clarendon
Colleton
Greenwood
Hampton
Lee
McCormick
Newberry
Oconee
Orangeburg
Williamsburg

The current network collaborates to provide services to unserved counties using funds other than Part C. The three CILs collectively offer statewide Pre-Employment Transition Services. Able SC also offers statewide programs, including WIPA, RSA Disability Innovation Fund, EQUIP, Supported Decision Making Project, leads several coalitions, and organizes the Youth Leadership Forum, all through collaboration within the CIL Network. Advocacy efforts are also statewide.

Able SC engages in direct lobbying with unrestricted funding, leading to the passage of groundbreaking disability legislation and the development of systems change in the states.

Additionally, Able SC provides consulting services at the national and international levels and currently operates one national program.

Minority Groups

In 2022, the majority of the consumers served by CILs were considered minorities (56.6%) (AbleSC, 52%; AccessAbility, 61%; WOIL, 57%). Therefore, the Network will continue its current efforts to ensure outreach to all minorities with disabilities continues.

Statewide Outreach Efforts:

All three CILs have their outreach plan and strategies to meet the needs of their respective community. The SPIL includes additional goals to ensure their outreach goals are being met with statewide efforts. The SILC and CILs will continue providing aggressive outreach, which includes statewide events/campaigns; presentations; websites; social network platforms; listing in resource directories; providing community education, coalition work, trainings and accessibility assessments; public service announcements and other media coverage; agency contracts; newsletters; listservs; exhibits/displays during resource fairs; committee work; community meetings; and other innovative outreach efforts. All SPIL goals impact the state of South Carolina. Aggressive outreach is being made via SPIL goals such as Advocacy Day for Access and Independence, the Disability Next Door Campaign, the education being provided to the state, and efforts to recruit SCSILC members. The CILs are at every possible table to represent the disability community and developed several

coalitions to meet the community's needs.

2.3 - COORDINATION

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

The South Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council meets at least quarterly and the SCSILC committees meet either monthly, quarterly, or as needed to accomplish needed tasks. The DSE has appointed a representative who attends quarterly SCSILC meetings and provides contract updates. The SCSILC Committees are open to SCSILC members, CIL staff, and the public and are listed below. The SCSILC's meeting dates are listed on the SCSILC's website and shared with partners. The complete SCSILC membership and committee rosters are available in Appendix B.

- *Membership Committee* - The Membership Committee is responsible for recruiting, nominating, and orienting new members for the SCSILC.
- *Governance Committee* - The Governance Committee examines how the Council is functioning, how members communicate and ensures compliance.
- *SPIL Oversight Committee* - The SPIL Oversight Committee monitors and evaluates provisions for the State Plan for Independent Living.
- *Accessibility Committee* - The Accessibility Committee addresses access issues throughout the state.
- *Administrative Committee* - The Administrative Committee addresses the day-to-day administrative functions of the SCSILC.
- *Executive Committee* - The Executive Committee comprises members/administrative members who make decisions collectively about relevant subjects related to the SCSILC's proper functioning. The committee meets monthly.

The three CILs work together and include each other in grant applications designed to provide statewide services to consumers. They are all active with statewide advocacy initiatives. The CILs make concerted efforts to use existing programs to gain maximum benefits of Part B and C funding. The SCSILC and CILs will continue to ensure IL representation with other entities as necessary to maximize strong relationships that will benefit efforts to achieve the mission and goals of the SPIL. A representative from the SCSILC meets with the DSE monthly to discuss contracts, the SPIL, Program Performance Reports (PPRs), and other relevant topics. Additionally, the network, CILs, and SCSILC collaborate on efforts and opportunities. While CILs work independently with the DSE as they are the State's Medicaid Agency, CILs also advocate for access to Medicaid services, which the DSE is receptive to, leading to collaboration in removing barriers to appropriate Medicaid services. At least one DSE representative attends every SCSILC meeting.

All three CIL Executive Directors, or their designee, attend quarterly meetings. An elected CIL representative is selected by the CIL Executive Directors and appointed by the Governor.

There is not a state agency impacting persons with disabilities that CILs are not collaborating with. Through our collaborative efforts, several vital statewide CIL initiatives have unified disability organizations, state agencies, and other providers to improve disability rights and services throughout South Carolina. The impact of CIL-run initiatives ensures that people with disabilities are included in efforts to improve the system. Recently CIL-supported initiatives are highlighted below. Organizational membership for each entity is featured in Appendix C.

- *SC Disability Employment Coalition (SCDEC)*: Created by Able SC, the SCDEC was formed in the fall of 2014, through funding from the SC Development Disabilities Council, to address employment barriers impacting South Carolinians with disabilities. The SCDEC stakeholders represent South Carolina employers, state and private agencies, and individuals with disabilities. SCDEC members meet quarterly. The SCDEC has four committees that meet monthly and are represented by more than 50 stakeholder organizations and individuals. All three CILs participate in the group.

- *SC Access and Independence Network (SCAIN)*: Created by Able SC in 2014 via the SPIL, the Network represents 50-plus organizations united to raise awareness to unlock the barriers for people with disabilities in South Carolina. All three CILs are active members. SCAIN members also assist in planning Advocacy Day for Access and Independence. All three CILs participate in Advocacy Day for Access and Independence.
- *SC Disability Partners in Disaster Coalition*: The coalition meets once quarterly to receive resources and instruction for & by the disability community concerning preparation, response, and recovery from emergencies and natural disasters. Recognizing that disabled people are 2-to-4 times more likely to die or be injured in emergencies and natural disasters than those without disabilities, this group collaborates to further disability integration into all emergency services. During a disaster, the group meets daily to address unmet needs, make adjustments to improve response accessibility, and address any barriers that arise for individuals with disabilities or those with access and functional needs. The coalition is typically organized daily around active response and following the State's OP-CON readiness levels. Typically, the scheduled calls are part of SCEMD's Operational rhythm. The group is open to any organization interested in disability, access and functional needs, and emergency response. Notable participating organizations include ESF-6 Mass Care, ESF-8 Medical, SCEMD Recovery, FEMA (when we meet a FEMA declaration), American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Disability Rights SC (formally Protection & Advocacy South Carolina), AccessAbility, WOIL, and ADA Coordinators for local government entities. Able South Carolina coordinates this effort with AccessAbility and WOIL to address any barriers before the increasing dangers caused by an emergency can worsen. Numerous local and national partners have lauded the group for quickly addressing the imminent needs of individuals with disabilities during times of emergency.
- *SC Disability Public Health Task Force*: The SC Disability Public Health Task force was founded in January 2023. Its mission is to increase positive health outcomes for South Carolinians with disabilities. The task force works collaboratively to prevent barriers to healthcare faced by people with disabilities. Task force members include people with disabilities, leadership from numerous disability-led organizations and state agencies and organizations including The SC Dept. of Health & Environmental Control, SC Department of Mental Health, the Department of Social Services, among others. The task force meets every other month via Zoom on the last Wednesday of the month.

Nationally, the SC IL Network has multiple members who are active with the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU), Liberators 4 Justice, and Southeast Center Director's Association (SECDA), among others. The SC IL Network has a representative who is a past board member of NCIL, and other national committees and is a designated disability expert from the U.S. Department of State advising leaders from different countries on the development and implementation of disability rights policies.

SC CILs do not duplicate services, primarily due to how services are delivered using the independent living philosophy SC and CILs are the only disability-related organizations that serve people with all types of disabilities and are disability-led. There is not another entity in the state providing such a comprehensive, holistic approach. The CILs are unique in that they are governed, managed, and staffed by most people with disabilities and relate to the consumers they serve like no other agency. CILs are the only entities that have programs that believe that people with disabilities are in the best position to understand what services are needed and how to assist and advocate in the independent living process. CILs are also disability-led which naturally puts us apart from any other organizations serving disabled people.

Review Status: Approved

Section 3: Network of Centers

3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

Current Centers for Independent Living including: legal name, geographic area and counties served, and source(s) of funding. Oversight process, by source of funds, and oversight entity.

3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

Able South Carolina

Counties Served: Abbeville, Anderson, Calhoun, Cherokee, Chester, Clarendon, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Kershaw, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, York, Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Chesterfield, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lancaster, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Williamsburg

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DSE) awards contracts to service providers through the independent living program. These service providers, known as Centers for Independent Living (CILs), receive financial assistance under Part B and/or C of Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Act. The service providers must adhere to the standards and assurances outlined within the act. Before entering into contracts, the CILs submit proposals to meet the goals of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), along with a detailed budget outlining allowable expenses. Additionally, the DSE contracts with the South Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council (SCSILC) to manage the administrative functions of the SCSILC and the Resource Plan. The SCDHHS has several staff members involved in contract monitoring. Their duties include reviewing a CIL's records, business processes, deliverables, and activities to ensure compliance with the contract's terms and conditions. CILs submit SPIL monthly and/or quarterly reports are received by SCDHHS, detailing the SPIL activities and objectives accomplished via contracts. Reimbursement requests, accompanied by all necessary supporting documentation, are regularly sent to the DSE. The DSE, in its crucial role, ensures that all Part B funding is spent in strict accordance with state and federal regulations, thereby meeting the objectives of the SPIL. All Part B funding can be rolled over any unexpended balance from one fiscal year to the next within DSE approval if allowable under state and federal law. At the end of the fiscal year, SCDHHS will reallocate any unspent Part B funds to the same contractor they were allocated through a contract amendment. Any unexpended balance or rollover funds must be spent by the end of the next fiscal year.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: All programs undergo a monthly review and a bi-annual internal audit in addition to an annual A133 financial single audit. Financials are reported to the board of directors quarterly and annually via outside CPA. Reporting and oversight vary among funders.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: All programs undergo a monthly review and a bi-annual internal audit in addition to an annual A133 financial single audit. Financials are reported to the board of directors quarterly and annually via outside CPA. Reporting and oversight vary among funders. Funders include: Public Health (ACL) Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance (Self-Advocacy / YLF / Supported Decision Making (SCDDC) SPIL (SCDHHS) Paralysis Resource Center (National Foundation for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention) Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services (National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) AmeriCorps (SC Commission on National and Community Service) Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to End Violence Against Women (US DOJ) Social Security - Work Incentives Planning & Assistance Program (WIPA) Snap2Work Nutrition Assistance Program (US Department of Agriculture) Southeast ADA Center (NIDLRR) Disability Innovation Fund: SC Pathways Project (US Department of Education)

State Funds

Oversight Process: All programs undergo a monthly review and a bi-annual internal audit in addition to an annual A133 financial single audit. Financials are reported to the board of directors quarterly and annually via outside CPA. Reporting and oversight vary among funders. Funders include: Education Curriculum (SCDOE) Pre-ETS Services (SCVRD) Disability Rights Training & TA (SCDHHS) Disability Training (SCVRD) Disability Training and Capacity Training (SC Arts Commission)

Other Non-Federal Funds

Oversight Process: All programs undergo a monthly review and a bi-annual internal audit in addition to an annual A133 financial single audit. Financials are reported to the board of directors quarterly and annually via outside CPA. Reporting and oversight vary among funders. Funders include: Various local funding sources (United Ways, local foundations, municipalities, University of South Carolina, fee-for-service programs).

Oversight Entity: DSE, DSE and ACL/OILP, ACL/OILP, Other (Various local funding sources: United Ways, local foundations, municipalities, University of South Carolina, fee-for-service programs.)

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Abbeville (Full Services)

Anderson (Full Services)

Calhoun (Full Services)

Cherokee (Full Services)

Chester (Full Services)

Clarendon (Full Services)

Fairfield (Full Services)

Greenville (Full Services)

Greenwood (Full Services)

Kershaw (Full Services)

Laurens (Full Services)

Lee (Full Services)

Lexington (Full Services)

Newberry (Full Services)

Oconee (Full Services)

Orangeburg (Full Services)

Pickens (Full Services)

Richland (Full Services)

Saluda (Full Services)

Spartanburg (Full Services)

Sumter (Full Services)

Union (Full Services)

York (Full Services)

Aiken (Limited Services)

Allendale (Limited Services)

Bamberg (Limited Services)

Barnwell (Limited Services)

Beaufort (Limited Services)

Berkeley (Limited Services)

Charleston (Limited Services)

Chesterfield (Limited Services)

Colleton (Limited Services)

Darlington (Limited Services)

Dillon (Limited Services)

Dorchester (Limited Services)
Edgefield (Limited Services)
Florence (Limited Services)
Georgetown (Limited Services)
Hampton (Limited Services)
Horry (Limited Services)
Jasper (Limited Services)
Lancaster (Limited Services)
Marion (Limited Services)
Marlboro (Limited Services)
McCormick (Limited Services)
Williamsburg (Limited Services)

disAbility Resource Center (dba) AccessAbility

Counties Served: Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Orangeburg, Williamsburg, Georgetown, Horry, Marion

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DSE) awards contracts to service providers through the independent living program. These service providers, known as Centers for Independent Living (CILs), receive financial assistance under Part B and/or C of Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Act. The service providers must adhere to the standards and assurances outlined within the act. Before entering into contracts, the CILs submit proposals to meet the goals of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), along with a detailed budget outlining allowable expenses. Additionally, the DSE contracts with the South Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council (SCSILC) to manage the administrative functions of the SCSILC and the Resource Plan. The SCDHHS has several staff members involved in contract monitoring. Their duties include reviewing a CIL's records, business processes, deliverables, and activities to ensure compliance with the contract's terms and conditions. CILs submit SPIL monthly and/or quarterly reports are received by SCDHHS, detailing the SPIL activities and objectives accomplished via contracts. Reimbursement requests, accompanied by all necessary supporting documentation, are regularly sent to the DSE. The DSE, in its crucial role, ensures that all Part B funding is spent in strict accordance with state and federal regulations, thereby meeting the objectives of the SPIL. All Part B funding can be rolled over any unexpended balance from one fiscal year to the next within DSE approval if allowable under state and federal law. At the end of the fiscal year, SCDHHS will reallocate any unspent Part B funds to the same contractor they were allocated through a contract amendment. Any unexpended balance or rollover funds must be spent by the end of the next fiscal year.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: Internally, all funding for AccessAbility is reviewed monthly. An internal audit is performed annually, accompanied by quarterly reviews. All reporting and oversight are followed in accordance with funder requirements and all policies and procedures established by AccessAbility. Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Internally, all funding for AccessAbility is reviewed monthly. An internal audit is performed annually, accompanied by quarterly reviews. All reporting and oversight are followed in accordance with funder requirements and all policies and procedures established by AccessAbility. Other Federal funds include: Public Health (ACL)

State Funds

Oversight Process: Internally, all funding for AccessAbility is reviewed monthly. An internal audit is performed annually, accompanied by quarterly reviews. All reporting and oversight are followed in accordance with funder requirements and all policies and procedures established by AccessAbility. Other State funds include: WIO-PRE-ETS-SCVRD & SCCB

Other Non-Federal Funds

Oversight Process: Internally, all funding for AccessAbility is reviewed monthly. An internal audit is performed annually, accompanied by quarterly reviews. All reporting and oversight are followed in accordance with funder requirements and all policies and procedures established by AccessAbility. Other Non-Federal funds include: Various local funders throughout five (5) counties, fundraising, TASC, YLF (Able SC), and fee-for-service programs.

Oversight Entity: DSE, DSE and ACL/OILP, ACL/OILP, Other (Various local funders throughout five (5) counties, fundraising, TASC, YLF (Able SC), and fee-for-service programs.)

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Berkeley (Full Services)

Charleston (Full Services)

Dorchester (Full Services)

Orangeburg (Full Services)

Williamsburg (Full Services)

Georgetown (Limited Services)

Horry (Limited Services)

Marion (Limited Services)

Walton Options for Independent Living, Inc.

Counties Served: Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Colleton, Edgefield, Hampton, Jasper, McCormick

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DSE) awards contracts to service providers through the independent living program. These service providers, known as Centers for Independent Living (CILs), receive financial assistance under Part B and/or C of Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Act. The service providers must adhere to the standards and assurances outlined within the act. Before entering into contracts, the CILs submit proposals to meet the goals of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), along with a detailed budget outlining allowable expenses. Additionally, the DSE contracts with the South Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council (SCSILC) to manage the administrative functions of the SCSILC and the Resource Plan. The SCDHHS has several staff members involved in contract monitoring. Their duties include reviewing a CIL's records, business processes, deliverables, and activities to ensure compliance with the contract's terms and conditions. CILs submit SPIL monthly and/or quarterly reports are received by SCDHHS, detailing the SPIL activities and objectives accomplished via contracts. Reimbursement requests, accompanied by all necessary supporting documentation, are regularly sent to the DSE. The DSE, in its crucial role, ensures that all Part B funding is spent in strict accordance with state and federal regulations, thereby meeting the objectives of the SPIL. All Part B funding can be rolled over any unexpected balance from one fiscal year to the next within DSE approval if allowable under state and federal law. At the end of the fiscal year, SCDHHS will reallocate any unspent Part B funds to the same contractor they were allocated through a contract amendment. Any unexpended balance or rollover funds must be spent by the end of the next fiscal year.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: Monthly reviews/reports, Annual A-133 Single Audit, board financial reviews, ACL PPR review, annual SCVRD review.

State Funds

Oversight Process: Monthly reviews/reports, Annual A-133 Single Audit, board financial reviews, ACL PPR review, annual SCVRD review. Other State funds include: WIO-PRE-ETS-SCVRD & SCCB

Other Non-Federal Funds

Oversight Process: Monthly reviews/reports, Annual A-133 Single Audit, board financial reviews,

ACL PPR review, annual SCVRD review. Other State funds include: Local foundation, YLF (Able SC), Fundraising.

Oversight Entity: DSE, DSE and ACL/OILP, ACL/OILP, Other (Local foundation, YLF (Able SC).)

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Aiken (Full Services)

Allendale (Limited Services)

Bamberg (Limited Services)

Barnwell (Full Services)

Beaufort (Limited Services)

Colleton (Limited Services)

Edgefield (Full Services)

Hampton (Limited Services)

Jasper (Limited Services)

McCormick (Full Services)

3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

CIL Network

Explain the criteria for defining the CIL network, bearing in mind that those CILs included in the network should be those eligible to sign the SPIL.

South Carolina has three Part C CILs and one CIL funded with Part B funding via a Part C CIL. Together, the CILs serve 37 of the 46 counties. All three CILs are independent nonprofit organizations governed by a separate board of directors. The information about each CIL is as follows:

Able South Carolina (Able SC)

- Geographical Area: Twenty-three (23) counties throughout the Midlands and Upstate. The counties represent 14,643 square miles; 12 of the 23 are designated as rural via the 2020 Census.
- Number of Offices: The organization has two (2) offices; one in Columbia and one in Greenville.
- Staff: 50 FTEs
- Staff with Disabilities: 41
- Executive Director with Disability: Yes
- Percentage of state population: 54.6%

AccessAbility

- Geographical Area: Five (5) counties throughout the Lowcountry. The counties comprise 5,228 square miles; 2 of the 5 counties are designated rural via the 2020 census.
- Number of Offices: The organization has one (1) office in North Charleston.
- Staff: 7.5 FTEs
- Staff with Disabilities: 5.5
- Executive Director with Disability: Yes
- Percentage of state: 16.95%

Walton Options for Independent Living, Inc.

- Geographical Area: Four (4) counties. The counties make up 2,538 square miles; 2 of the 4 counties are designated rural via the 2020 census. WOIL also has a Center operated via Part B funding. Geographical area for that center is: Six (6) counties. The counties are 3,780 square miles; 5 of the six counties are considered rural via the 2020 census.
- Number of offices: The organization has (1) one office in North Augusta and one (1) office operated by Part B funding in Walterboro.
- Staff: 12
- Staff with Disability: 12
- Executive Director with Disability: Yes

- Percentage of State: 9.4% (Part C CIL: 4.26%; Part B CIL: 5.14%)

3.2 - EXPANSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF NETWORK

Plan and priorities for use of funds, by funding source, including Part B funds, Part C funds, State funds, and other funds, whether current, increased, or one-time funding, and methodology for distribution of funds. Use of funds to build capacity of existing Centers, establish new Centers, and/or increase the statewide reach of the Network. (Follow the instructions in Title VII, Part C of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.)

Definition of served, unserved, and underserved.

Population estimates show South Carolina is anticipated to grow by another 748,490 citizens up to 6.2 million population by 2035, a 13.67% increase from the current population. Therefore, our expansion planning includes anticipated growth.

Able SC served counties are expected to grow in population by 23% by 2035 with significant expansion in Anderson County (+10%), Greenville County (+16%), Lexington County (+21%), Spartanburg County (+15%), and York County (26%). Significant population declines are anticipated in Calhoun County (-13%), Clarendon (12%), Fairfield (-15%), and Lee County (-21%).

Of the above, Clarendon and Lee counties are already classified as rural.

AccessAbility served counties are expected to grow by 16% by 2035 with significant population growth in Berkeley County (+24%), Charleston County (+14%), and Dorchester County (+18%). Noted population declines are expected in Orangeburg County (-15%) and Williamsburg County (-25%).

Orangeburg and Williamsburg Counties are both classified as rural areas.

WOIL served counties are anticipated to decline in population by 35% by 2035. Significant changes are from Barnwell County (-16%), and McCormick County (-23%). Both of these are considered rural counties.

WOIL Part B serviced counties are anticipated to decline by 35% by 2035. Significant changes are projected from Allendale County (-29%), Bamberg County (-25%), Beaufort County (+17%), Hampton County (-17%), and Jasper County (22%). Allendale, Bamberg, and Hampton are already classified as rural areas.

Current unserved counties are anticipated to have a total 3% growth in population by 2035. Though there is wide fluctuation in county population. Marion County and Marlboro County are expected to face declines of 13% and 19% respectively. The area is also anticipated to have the two largest growth areas in the state by 2035 with Lancaster County (+30%) and Horry County (+32%) growth. See Section 2.2 Outreach regarding the definition of served, unserved, and underserved populations.

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

While the goal is to expand the CIL Network to all unserved areas of the state, it is equally important to recognize that all three CILs need adequate funding. South Carolina does not have designated state funding for independent living, and compared to other states, our state resources are sparse, yet we have a larger than national rate of citizens with disabilities. Therefore, we are committed to pursuing efforts to increase the existing CILs' capacity and redefine base-level funding. The existing SC CILs vary in population and service area size. The largest CIL serves 23 of the 46 counties, and the smallest CIL serves 4 of the 46 counties. Therefore, each existing CIL has a separate base level of funding that adequately supports services within the CIL service area, populations, expected growth and disability needs. The agreed upon base-level funding for each existing Part C CIL is:

- Able South Carolina (23 Counties): \$1,600,000
- AccessAbility (5 Counties): \$750,000

- Walton Options for Independent Living (4 Counties): \$600,000

The above reflects the cost to operate a CIL per service area/population (see section 3.1 for information about the population and geographic size).

Existing CILs supported with Part B funding transitions to a Part C CIL:

After the existing CILs are at base-level funding and additional Title VII, Part C funding is available, the next step to expansion would be to transition the CIL funded by Part B funding, Walton Options Lowcountry, to a Part C CIL. WOIL Lowcountry serves six counties in the Lowcountry of South Carolina using Part B funding. It would be preferred that WOIL expand into those counties using increased Part C funding without a competitive process since they already have a presence in those counties that provide Part B and WIOA/Pre-ETS services and it would be more efficient and less costly as leadership and CIL infrastructure would already be in place. The base level of funding for this CIL would be \$500,000. If a competitive process is required, the base level of funding for this CIL would be \$600,000. Once the CIL operating with Part B funding is fully funded, then Part B funding would then become available to expand into unserved counties (which would be split for Area A and Area B).

Priorities for establishment of new CIL(s).

Since South Carolina is a geographically small state and is more manageable with the current network, it is preferred that no additional CILs open - though the current CILs expand. This will allow for more consistency among services due to established leadership and programming. It is noted that the CIL acquiring additional counties would need to be in good standing by ACL and the DSE.

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

If an existing CIL (funded with Part B or C) grant is relinquished or terminated, the funding would be distributed to one of the current existing CILs, The CIL selected would need to have approval by the CIL's own board of directors prior to this consideration going to the SCSILC for SPIL amendments. Until the grant process is completed, the CIL network will work together to ensure that consumers in the service area are adequately served by temporarily dividing the closed CIL's Part B/C funding until the grant process is completed. Since South Carolina is a geographically small state and has been more manageable, it is preferred that no additional CILs open - though the current CILs expand. This will allow for more consistency among services due to established leadership and programming. It is noted that the CIL acquiring additional counties would need to be in good standing by ACL and the DSE.

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

If reductions occur, the SC CIL Network is committed to providing the five core services to consumers in the Center's service area to ensure their status as Center for Independent Living under Title VII, Part C is not jeopardized. If Part B funding is decreased to less than \$275,000 per year, the SPIL will be reviewed and/or revised to ensure achievable goals and the appropriate funding allocation to support the CILs. It is noted that any reductions are harmful to the CILs' goals of providing a solid quality of services to South Carolinians with disabilities. Additionally, CILs continue to find it challenging to meet service demand without increased funding. Therefore, if reductions occur, the quality of services is at risk. The IL Network is committed to doing everything possible to prevent this from occurring. It is noted that the CIL acquiring additional counties would need to be in good standing by ACL and the DSE

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

Expand CIL services to unserved counties:

Once the CIL that is funded by Chapter B transitions to a Chapter C CIL and increases Title VII, Part C funding will be available, and new CILs will be developed in the nine unserved counties. The counties would be broken up by counties in "Area A" and "Area B" below. It would be preferred that Able SC and AccessAbility assume additional unserved counties via increased funding; this approach would be more efficient and less costly as the current leadership in the CILs already exists. Both CILs also provide services in these counties via other funding sources. If this is not possible, then a competitive process would occur.

Area A would serve Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Lancaster, and Marlboro counties. It is preferred that Able SC expand to the above counties with base-level funding of \$500,000.

However, if a competitive process is required, then the base level of funding would be \$600,000. An additional office would open in Florence County.

Area B would serve Georgetown, Marion, and Horry counties. Horry County is expected to be one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is preferred that AccessAbility expands to the following counties with base-level funding of \$600,000. However, if a competitive process is required, then the base level of funding would be \$700,000. An additional office would open in Horry County.

If the minimum funding level required to establish a new Center cannot be met, it is requested that the distribution of additional Part C funds are distributed to existing CILs via the prescribed Part C funding formula. In recent years, inflationary administrative costs have further stressed the ability for organizations to effectively operate day-to-day operations. Along with increased state population, each organization is further restricted in reaching desired populations. Any potential service expansion must account for anticipated cost fluctuations in administrative capacities to include, but not limited to, rent, insurance, utilities, and other rising expenses.

Part B Funded Distribution:

As listed in objective 3.2, it is essential that the current CILs are supported and have adequate resources to meet the SPIL goals and to serve as many consumers as possible. Therefore, the counties served with Part B funding via WOIL Low Country will continue to be funded at the current level until Part C funds become available. WOIL will receive no more than \$100,000 of the Part B funding for WOIL Lowcountry. If Part B funding is decreased to less than \$275,000 per year, the SPIL will be revised to ensure goals are achievable, and the funding allocation will be amended in efforts to reduce negative impacts on consumer services. The remaining Part B funding will be distributed to existing CILs via contracts to implement the SPIL and provide IL services. The distribution is based on a formula regarding service area/population. Therefore, Able SC will receive 50% of the remaining funding, AccessAbility will receive 25% of the funding, and WOIL will receive 25% of the funding. If Part B funding increases due to the cost of living, all three CILs will receive a percentage based on the amount of their contract. In summary, when the DSE gets the notice of award regarding Part B funding, the process described above is used to determine funding for each CIL.

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

In the event of one-time funding, the funding shall be distributed based on Part C formula distribution (outlined in The Act at section 721). No new CIL will be developed via a one-time funding source due to uncertainty in sustainability. If one-time Part B funding becomes available, all CILs will divide the funding based on the formula established for Part B funding (Able SC 50%; AccessAbility 25%; WOIL 25%).

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

If reductions occur, the SC CIL Network is committed to providing the five core services to consumers in the Center's service area to ensure their status as Center for Independent Living

under Title VII, Part C is not jeopardized. If Part B funding is decreased to less than \$275,000 per year, the SPIL will be reviewed and/or revised to ensure achievable goals and the appropriate funding allocation to support the CILs. It is noted that any reductions are harmful to the CILs' goals of providing a solid quality of services to South Carolinians with disabilities. Additionally, CILs continue to find it challenging to meet service demand without increased funding. Therefore, if reductions occur, the quality of services is at risk. The IL Network is committed to doing everything possible to prevent this from occurring. It is noted that the CIL acquiring additional counties would need to be in good standing by ACL and the DSE.

Plan for changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels to accommodate expansion and/or adjustment of the Network. State the needed change(s) as concretely and succinctly as possible.

No changes are needed within the current structure of the network.

Temporary Changes (if applicable) Other (if applicable)

In the event of one-time funding, the funding shall be distributed based on Part C formula distribution (outlined in The Act at section 721). No new CIL will be developed via a one-time funding source due to uncertainty in sustainability. If one-time Part B funding becomes available, all CILs will divide the funding based on the formula established for Part B funding (Able SC 50%; AccessAbility 25%; WOIL 25%).

One-time state funding:

The SPIL funding distribution will be followed within the funding time limits.

Project Based Funding:

In the event that the IL Network is funded to perform a specific task via a project, the SPIL funding distribution formula will be followed. If the funding is statewide, the CILs will adopt the counties as outlined in the expansion section of the SPIL.

One-Time Federal Title VII Funding or Related:

If South Carolina receives funding that is deemed one-time and not sustainable to fund a Center for Independent Living long-term, it will be distributed by the SPIL funding distribution for each CIL.

Temporary service area changes and support:

South Carolina is a state known to have emergency disasters. Temporary Service Area Changes In the case of an emergency or disaster in South Carolina, in following the ACL/ILA Policy on Independent Living Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response Services, the SC IL Network will adopt the following:

* CILs can offer Title VII independent living (IL) services to people with disabilities affected by a disaster or emergency, living within the designated service area, and evacuating into the service area.

* CILs will partner with each other to share assistive technology and provide staffing support as needed.

- CILs work together to coordinate IL services and meet the needs of South Carolinians with disabilities through the SC Disability Partners in Disaster Planning Coalition.

* If a CIL does not cover the area affected, the three CILs will work together to provide services to affected individuals with disabilities. Activities and services in this situation must be documented and reported to ACL, OOD, and SILC.

* In an area affected by a disaster where a Center for Independent Living (CIL) is already providing services but needs additional help, the CIL that wants to provide disaster response services will work together with the existing CIL serving the area to offer assistance.

Review Status: Approved

Section 4: Designated State Entity

4.0 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

South Carolina Department Health & Human Services will serve as the entity in South Carolina designated to receive, administer, and account for funds made available to the state under Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Act on behalf of the State.

4.1 - DSE RESPONSIBILITIES

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

4.2 - ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING: DSE ASSURANCES

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE.

The DSE provides an ex officio to sit on the SCSIC. Two additional DSE staff regularly attend the SCSILC meetings. The DSE staff provides administration of all contracts and financial management. Other support services are provided through DSE staff from the Legal and Procurement departments. The DSE will carry out roles and responsibilities as outlined in the assurances and does not make any decisions on behalf of the SCSILC's work performance. No activities within the SCSILC and/or SPIL will cause a conflict of interest related to the DSE. The SCSILC, CILs, and DSE will not financially benefit from the relationship.

It is noted that the DSE does provide a 10 percent match and does not retain any Part B funding.

4.3 - STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS

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

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

There are no state-imposed requirements on IL.

4.4 - GRANT PROCESS & DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

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

Instructions: Describe the processes, policies, and procedures to be followed by the DSE in the awarding of grants of Part B funds including: (all of the following are required)

Process for soliciting proposals

The SPIL designates part B funding for the South Carolina IL Network and follows the funding formula as outlined in the SPIL. The DSE issues Part B funds to the SCSILC and all 3 of the CILs as

outlined in the SPIL's plan to distribute Part B funding on a federal fiscal year basis (October 1-September 30). Before the contracts, all CILs submit a proposal with a detailed budget to the DSE. The proposed activities support the implementation of the SPIL.

Development of format for proposals

The proposals that the CILs submit to the SCSILC and DSE include a scope of services, budget and budget narrative.

Process for reviewing proposals and who reviewers will be

The CILs work together to designate the SPIL activities they will lead based on their capacity and expertise. From there, they develop a scope of services with a detailed budget for how the Part B SPILs will support the SPIL. The CILs submit this to the DSE and the full SCSILC. It is preferred that disability-led entities contract with the SILC.

Continuation Awards:

The eligible CILs will receive contracts with funding amounts based on the SPIL distribution plan. The DSE will allocate Part B through annual contracts. The DSE notifies the CILs of their award amount before preparing a budget for approval. After approval, they can request up to 25% advance payment. Subsequently, they will submit monthly invoices for prompt electronic payment after review.

New Awards:

For allocating new awards to CILs, the process described in Section 3.2 will be followed to determine their funding availability. The eligible CIL will develop a proposal and submit to the SCSILC. The proposal development process will comply with relevant state policies and procedures for soliciting proposals.

Proposal Review:

If CILs can expand, the DSE will establish a review committee in collaboration with the SCSILC to review the proposal and plan for the expansion. The review will emphasize the proposal's adherence to the philosophy of Independent Living, including consumer control, disability-led, capacity of existing CIL, all core service provision, and have demonstrated compliance with Section 725 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Process for evaluating performance and compliance of grantees

The SPIL Oversight Committee evaluates the grantees and ensures the attainment of established goals, objectives, and activities. This evaluation process relies on quarterly updates from each contractor, which are then integrated into the SPIL Oversight Committee's comprehensive report. To facilitate ongoing monitoring and adjustment, each contractor records monthly updates regarding the progress of activities. These updates are included in reimbursement reports submitted to the DSE. The Oversight Committee reviews quarterly reports utilizing a standardized template that assesses goal status, activity summaries, and data collection. The DSE provides oversight over all Part B funds and the SCSILC Treasurer and full SCSILC provides oversight for the SILC's Resource Plan.

SPIL contracts are renewed annually based on performance and the contractor's status. Currently, SCSILC only awards contracts to contractors within the SC IL Network, one outside web developer, and one public relations firm. Any contractors outside of activities of the SPIL are only issued contracts for one year and are monitored by the SCSILC and DSE. The SCSILC has few bids due to limited funding, as the primary funding source is Part B.

4.5 - OVERSIGHT PROCESS FOR PART B FUNDS

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

SPIL monthly and/or quarterly reports are received by SCDHHS regarding SPIL activities and objectives accomplished via contracts. Reimbursement requests are regularly sent to the DSE with

all supporting documentation. The DSE ensures that all Part B funding is spent per state and federal regulations and meets the objectives of the SPIL.

4.6 - 722 VS. 723 STATE

722 State

Review Status: Approved

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 - ESTABLISHMENT OF SILC

How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.

The SCSILC is established under Section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended. There are no separate South Carolina codes of executive orders. The SCSILC dates back to 1996 and, in 2002, was incorporated as the South Carolina Independent Living Council. It is a 501(c)(3) organization located in the state's capital, Columbia, SC. The SCSILC is independent of all state agencies, including the DSE. The SCSILC is an established entity that meets the requirements of section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act and is registered with the SC Secretary of State's Office per the SC Non-profit Corporate Act of 1994. The SCSILC functions under its own bylaws. Due to the small size of the IL Network, the SCSILC has proven to be more successful and efficient with the committee structure and SCSILC members leading the organization without staff.

5.2 - SILC RESOURCE PLAN

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

Funding sources may include "Innovation and Expansion (I&E) funds authorized by 29 U.S.C. 721(a)(18); Independent Living Part B funds; State matching funds; [state allotments of Vocational Rehabilitation funding;] other public funds (such as Social Security reimbursement funds); and private sources."

The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) operate independently from each other and from the South Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council (SCSILC). However, they often collaborate on initiatives through joint grant applications. One of the three CILs typically leads the grant application process when the initiatives are shared with the network and involve statewide services. When it comes to state appropriations, the CILs collectively request funding. While the SCIL Network has not received appropriations in the past two years, efforts to secure funding will continue, potentially utilizing unrestricted funding for lobbying purposes.

The SCSILC only receives funding through Part B funding. Over the next three years, there will be discussions about securing additional funding and resources for the SCSILC. Since the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) is not the DSE for South Carolina, the process for securing funding for innovation and expansion would be more complex. The SCSILC currently has sufficient resources to fulfill its requirements and has been able to thrive as a Network, but will actively seek funding opportunities, including fundraising, to enhance its operations and further develop the capacity of its members

The SCSILC's Resource Plan is 10.9% of the Part B funding which funds overall SCSILC expenses and the contract for administrative services. The SILC Resource Plan funds include the following expenditures based on the needs of the operations of the SCSILC:

- Contractual Services
 - Contractual services may include: contracted administrative support, personal assistants, interpreting services, website developers, legal representation, accounting services, etc. Typical contractual services are rendered by individuals or firms who possess specialized knowledge, experience, and expertise.
- Dues & Subscriptions
 - Dues & Subscription for national Independent living organizations and the state nonprofit organization.
- Travel/Meeting Expense
 - Travel/Meeting expenses include in and out of state mileage, parking, conference fees, lodging, flight, per diem expenses, and any food expenses associated with Council meetings.
- Insurance
 - Provides financial protection of the directors and officers of the SC Independent Living Council in the event of a lawsuit in conjunction with the performance of the Council's administrative and business activities. Coverage includes Directors & Officers Liability insurance.
- Database Fees
 - Annualized cost to sustain the SCSILC's accounting software, QuickBooks Online.
- Technical Support
 - Costs incurred by the contractor to maintain/upgrade technology. Typical maintenance includes computer, printer, and scanner maintenance for the Council.
- Program Supplies
 - Costs incurred specific to the SCSILC that are charged directly to the program.
- Occupancy
 - The annualized lease cost of the office location at 720 Gracern Rd., Suite 106, Columbia, SC necessary to carry out the organization's work.

The SCSILC determines its annual budget for all resources allocated for its use. It assures that all expenditures are appropriate for the purpose and funding period of the specific funding sources. The budget is approved during a publicly held SCSILC meeting where time is allotted for any public input, comments, recommendations, opposition, suggestions, etc. The SCSILC also provides quarterly financial reports during its meetings to be transparent and accountable. The DSE records and processes SCSILC funding, including providing the necessary reports to federal and state entities, as the SCSILC's fiscal partner. The SCSILC and the DSE reconcile all accounting reports regularly but at a minimum quarterly as a means of checks and balances.

The DSE will ensure that as funding is available, all contractors will receive their reimbursements on time to prevent undue hardship for any of the contractors, as outlined in 7.8.

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

The Resource Plan was developed by the SCSILC with input from the DSE in accordance with Section 705(e)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act. The plan includes funding to ensure sufficient operations to perform the duties of the SCSILC. All funds included in the plan are based on previous years' financial information.

The organization's annual budget of \$45,233 for the resource plan is prepared and approved annually by the SCSILC. The budget is prepared by the SCSILC Treasurer and is approved by the Council and the DSE prior to the start of each fiscal year. The budget is revised during the year only if approved by the Council and the DSE.

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

The DSE will ensure that funding is available, all contractors will receive their reimbursements on time to prevent undue hardship for any of the contractors, as outlined in 7.8. Justification if more than 30% of the Part B appropriation is to be used for the SILC Resource Plan.

Not application as the resource plan is 10.9% of the appropriations.

5.3 - MAINTENANCE OF SILC

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

Instructions: Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b). Indicate who appoints members to the SILC, how the State ensures that the SILC composition and qualification requirements are met, how the chair is selected, how term limits are maintained, and how SILC vacancies are filled. Describe how the specific SILC-staffing requirements listed in the SPIL Instrument will be addressed. Concisely describe or cite relevant written policies, procedures, by-laws, technical assistance, and monitoring activities, or other practices.

Describe how the State will ensure that: (all of the following are required)

The SILC is established and operating

The SCSILC is a 13-member Council. All SCSILC members are Governor-appointed and most of its members are South Carolinians with disabilities, including the Chair. The SCSILC makes a concentrated effort to recruit members from across the state, with attention to unserved and underserved areas.

The SCSILC does not have its own staff due to limited funding, past issues and the existing needs of South Carolinians with disabilities. Instead, the SCSILC contracts with Able SC for administrative support. The decision to contract was made in 2014 by the IL network, (excluding Able SC to avoid a conflict of interest). All SCSILC members, CILs, and DSE agreed and this is all outlined in the two previous SPILs, including this one. The SCSILC operates independently, and like the DSE, the contractor does not make any decisions on behalf of the SCSILC. By contracting out to a like minded disability-led organization and not utilizing the DSE, this ensures autonomy further and ensures the nonprofit status of the SCSILC remains active and current. The SCILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in *45 CFR 1329.14*. The SCSILC ensures that the contractor complies with state and federal laws and meets the contract's requirements. By contracting for administrative support, the SCSILC has been able to maintain the necessary resources to fulfill its statutory duties. Furthermore, due to limited funding and a small network size with significant needs for South Carolinians with disabilities, more Part B funding can be allocated to the CILs and SPIL implementation.

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

Maintaining a balanced membership is crucial, and the selection of potential members while considering geographic diversity, cross-cultural and cross-disability elements; a variety of backgrounds, and knowledge of independent living as well as following the guidelines in the Act are all significant. The SCSILC's Membership Committee leads the efforts in the recruitment and appointment process. The following method is followed:

- The Membership Committee, CILs, SCSILC members, and community partners recruit individuals for the SCSILC. Anyone can also apply via the SCSILC's website.
- Potential candidates are contacted and provided information about the SCSILC and the application process.
- The Executive Committee reviews completed applications, and a member of the SCSILC calls the applicant for an interview.
- If the applicant is qualified, their application is referred to the full council for a vote.

- Following the council's favorable recommendation, nominations are submitted to the Governor's Boards and Commissions Office for appointment.
- The Governor's office sends a separate application to the nominated council member. Once the applicant submits the required documentation, the Governor's office performs a full background and credit check.
- If appointed, the applicant and the SCSILC are issued an appointment letter from the Governor.
- Once the applicant is appointed, the new SCSILC member's term officially commences. The appointment is for three years and may be renewed for an additional three years.
- New members sign a member agreement regarding their responsibilities and required policy information.

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

The SCSILC does not have its own staff due to limited funding, past issues, and the existing needs of South Carolinians with disabilities. Instead, the SCSILC contracts with Able SC for administrative support. The decision to contract was made in 2014 by the IL network, (excluding Able SC to avoid a conflict of interest). All SCSILC members, CILs, and DSE agreed and this is all outlined in the two previous SPILs, including this one. The SCSILC operates independently, and like the DSE, the contractor does not make any decisions on behalf of the SCSILC. By contracting out to a like-minded disability-led organization and not utilizing the DSE, this ensures autonomy further and ensures the nonprofit status of the SCSILC remains active and current. The SCILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in *45 CFR 1329.14*. The SCSILC ensures that the contractor complies with state and federal laws and meets the contract's requirements. By contracting for administrative support, the SCSILC has been able to maintain the necessary resources to fulfill its statutory duties. Furthermore, due to limited funding and a small network size with significant needs for South Carolinians with disabilities, more Part B funding can be allocated to the CILs and SPIL implementation.

The SILC has the autonomy necessary to fulfill its duties and authorities, including “[working] with CILs to coordinate services with public and private entities, . . . conducting resource development, and performing such other functions . . . as the [SILC] determines to be appropriate

SCSILC Autonomy means that the SILC is not established as an entity within a State agency (Sec. 705(a)), that the SILC supervises and evaluates its own staff (Sec. 705(e)(2); §1329.15(e)), manages its own budget and is responsible for proper expenditure of funds and use of resources (§1329.15(c)(5)), that the SILC resource plan includes resources necessary and sufficient for the SILC to carry out its duties and authorities (§1329.12(b)(2)), that no conditions or requirements may be included in the SILC's resource plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC (§1329.15(c)(4)), that while assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties, staff are not assigned any duties by the DSE (or any other agency of the State) that create a conflict of interest (Sec. 705(e)(3)), and that the SILC is independent and autonomous from the DSE and all other state agencies (1329.14(b)).

The ongoing autonomy of the SCSILC is assured by the structure and placement of the Council. Since the SILC does not exist within any other state agency or within the DSE, the SILC operates under approved bylaws and operating policies created and approved by the members of the SILC. The Executive Director of the SILC is appointed by and reports only to the SILC. Additional staff of the SILC are hired by and report to the Executive Director. There are no conditions or requirements that are imposed by the DSE or any other entity that may compromise the independence of the SILC. The SILC and the DSE work hard to maintain the independence of the SILC by not having language in grant award agreements that may inadvertently compromise the SILC's autonomy. They have worked cooperatively at the state level to educate legislators and key staff in the Office of Budget and Management that Ohio SILC is an independent program.

Necessary and sufficient resources are provided for the SILC Resource Plan to ensure the SILC has

the capacity to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities

By contracting for administrative support, the SCSILC has been able to maintain the necessary resources to fulfill its statutory duties. Furthermore, due to limited funding and a small network size with significant needs for South Carolinians with disabilities, more Part B funding can be allocated to the CILs and SPIL implementation. This is effective for South Carolina's IL Network.

Review Status: Approved

Section 6: Legal Basis & Certifications

6.1 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

The state entity/agency designated to receive and distribute funding, as directed by the SPIL, under Title VII, Part B of the Act is South Carolina Department Health & Human Services. Authorized representative of the DSE Margaret Alewine. Title: SCDHHS Director.

6.2 - STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

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

6.3 - CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CILS)

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

Able South Carolina
disAbility Resource Center (dba) AccessAbility
Walton Options for Independent Living, Inc.

6.4.A

The SILC is authorized to submit the SPIL to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living.

Yes

6.4.B

The SILC and CILs may legally carryout each provision of the SPIL.

Yes

6.4.C

State/DSE operation and administration of the program is authorized by the SPIL.

Yes

Review Status: Approved

Section 7: DSE Assurances

DSE ASSURANCES

Margaret Alewine acting on behalf of the DSE South Carolina Department Health & Human Services located at:

Street: 1801 Main Street

City: Columbia

State: South Carolina

Zip Code: 29201

7.1

The DSE acknowledges its role on behalf of the State, as the fiscal intermediary to receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State to support Independent Living Services in the State based on the plan;

7.2

The DSE will assure that the agency keeps appropriate records, in accordance with federal and state law, and provides access to records by the federal funding agency upon request;

7.3

The DSE will not retain more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for administrative expenses;

7.4

The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in 45 CFR 1329.14;

7.5

The DSE will not interfere with the business or operations of the SILC that include but are not limited to:

1. Expenditure of federal funds
2. Meeting schedules and agendas
3. SILC board business
4. Voting actions of the SILC board
5. Personnel actions
6. Allowable travel
7. Trainings

7.6

The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff:

1. If the SILC informs the DSE that the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff, the DSE assures that management of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC is the sole responsibility of the SILC in accordance with Sec. 705(e)(3) of the Act (Sec. 705(e)(3), 29 U.S.C.796d(e)(3)).

7.7

The DSE will fully cooperate with the SILC in the nomination and appointment process for the SILC in the State;

7.8

The DSE shall make timely and prompt payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs:

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

DSE SIGNATURE SECTION

Margaret Alewine

Name of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Bureau Chief - Policy

Title of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Margaret Alewine

Electronic Signature

06/28/2024

Date

I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

Review Status: Approved

Section 8: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance

8.1 - SILC ASSURANCES

Rebecca Thompson acting on behalf of the SILC South Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council located at:

Street: 720 Gracern Road, Suite 106

City: Columbia

State: South Carolina

Zip Code: 29210

45 CFR 1329.14 assures that:

1. The SILC regularly (not less than annually) provides the appointing authority recommendations for eligible appointments;
2. The SILC is composed of the requisite members set forth in the Act;
3. The SILC terms of appointment adhere to the Act;
4. The SILC is not established as an entity within a State agency in accordance with 45 CFR Sec. 1329.14(b);
5. The SILC will make the determination of whether it wants to utilize DSE staff to carry out the functions of the SILC;

- The SILC must inform the DSE if it chooses to utilize DSE staff;
 - The SILC assumes management and responsibility of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC in accordance with the Act.
6. The SILC shall ensure all program activities are accessible to people with disabilities;
7. The State Plan shall provide assurances that the designated State entity, any other agency, office, or entity of the State will not interfere with operations of the SILC, except as provided by law and regulation and;
8. The SILC actively consults with unserved and underserved populations in urban and rural areas that include, indigenous populations as appropriate for State Plan development as described in Sec. 713(b)(7) the Act regarding Authorized Uses of Funds.

8.2 - INDICATORS OF MINIMUM COMPLIANCE

Indicators of minimum compliance for Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILC) as required by the Rehabilitation Act (Section 706(b), 29 U.S.C. Sec 796d-1(b)), as amended and supported by 45 CFR 1329.14-1329.16; and Assurances for Designated State Entities (DSE) as permitted by Section 704(c)(4) of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. Sec. 796c(c)(4)), as amended.

(a) STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL INDICATORS -

1. SILC written policies and procedures must include:
 - a. A method for recruiting members, reviewing applications, and regularly providing recommendations for eligible appointments to the appointing authority;
 - b. A method for identifying and resolving actual or potential disputes and conflicts of interest that are in compliance with State and federal law;
 - c. A process to hold public meetings and meet regularly as prescribed in 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
 - d. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
 - e. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
 - i. "Executive Session" meetings should be rare and only take place to discuss confidential SILC issues such as but not limited to staffing.
 - ii. Agendas for "Executive Session" meetings must be made available to the public, although personal identifiable information regarding SILC staff shall not be included;
 - f. A process and timelines for the public to request reasonable accommodations to participate during a public Council meeting;
 - g. A method for developing, seeking and incorporating public input into, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating implementation of the State Plan as required in 45 CFR 1329.17; and
 - h. A process to verify centers for independent living are eligible to sign the State Plan in compliance with 45 CFR 1329.17(d)(2)(iii).
2. The SILC maintains regular communication with the appointing authority to ensure efficiency and timeliness of the appointment process.
3. The SILC maintains individual training plans for members that adhere to the SILC Training and Technical Assistance Center's SILC training curriculum.
4. The SILC receives public input into the development of the State Plan for Independent Living in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.17(f) ensuring:
 - a. Adequate documentation of the State Plan development process, including but not limited to, a written process setting forth how input will be gathered from the state's centers for independent living and individuals with disabilities throughout the state, and the process for how the information collected is considered.
 - b. All meetings regarding State Plan development and review are open to the public and provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i)-(ii);
 - c. Meetings seeking public input regarding the State Plan provides advance notice of such

- meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws, and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i);
- d. Public meeting locations, where public input is being taken, are accessible to all people with disabilities, including, but not limited to:
- i. proximity to public transportation,
 - ii. physical accessibility, and
 - iii. effective communication and accommodations that include auxiliary aids and services, necessary to make the meeting accessible to all people with disabilities.
- e. Materials available electronically must be 508 compliant and, upon request, available in alternative and accessible format including other commonly spoken languages.
5. The SILC monitors, reviews and evaluates the State Plan in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(2) ensuring:
- a. Timely identification of revisions needed due to any material change in State law, state organization, policy or agency operations that affect the administration of the State Plan approved by the Administration for Community Living.
6. The SILC State Plan resource plan includes:
- a. Sufficient funds received from:
 - i. Title VII, Part B funds;
 - ii. If the resource plan includes Title VII, Part B funds, the State Plan provides justification of the percentage of Part B funds to be used if the percentage exceeds 30 percent of Title VII, Part B funds received by the State;
 - iii. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18), as applicable;
 - iv. Other public and private sources.
 - b. The funds needed to support:
 - i. Staff/personnel;
 - ii. Operating expenses;
 - iii. Council compensation and expenses;
 - iv. Meeting expenses including meeting space, alternate formats, interpreters, and other accommodations;
 - v. Resources to attend and/or secure training and conferences for staff and council members and;
 - vi. Other costs as appropriate.

SILC SIGNATURE SECTION

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

Rebecca Thompson

Name of SILC Chair

Rebecca KJ Thompson

Electronic Signature

06/25/2024

Date

I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

Review Status: Approved

Section 9: Signatures

SIGNATURES

The signatures below are of the SILC chairperson and at least 51 percent of the directors of the centers for independent living listed in section 6.3. These signatures indicate that the South Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council and the centers for independent living in the state agree with and intend to fully implement this SPIL's content. These signatures also indicate that this SPIL is complete and ready for submission to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The effective date of this SPIL is 10/01/2024

SILC SIGNATURE SECTION

Rebecca Thompson Name of SILC Chair Rebecca KJ Thompson Electronic Signature 06/25/2024 Date I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

CIL SIGNATURE SECTION

disAbility Resource Center (dba) AccessAbility Name of Center for Independent Living Julia Martinelli Name of CIL Director Julia Martinelli Electronic Signature 06/26/2024 Date

Walton Options for Independent Living, Inc. Name of Center for Independent Living Tiffany Clifford Name of CIL Director Tiffany L. Clifford Electronic Signature 06/27/2024 Date

Able South Carolina Name of Center for Independent Living Kimberly Tissot Name of CIL Director Kimberly Tissot Electronic Signature 06/25/2024 Date
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Review Status: Approved