OMB No. 0985-0044, Exp. Date: 4/30/2026

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: Arkansas

FISCAL YEARS: 2025-2027

Effective Date: 10/01/2024

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Executive Summary

The mission, goals, and objectives to support activities of the Arkansas (AR) three-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for 2025-2027 are defined in Section 1 of the State Plan. The mission of the Arkansas Independent Living network (AILN) and this SPIL is to increase advocacy skills and provide services that support and empower people with disabilities to live as independently as possible within their communities of choice.

The SPIL contains four goals to achieve intermediate progress toward the mission:

1. Arkansans with disabilities will engage and acquire skills in a Center for Independent Living (CIL) that increases awareness and knowledge of the importance of their own personal power to direct the course of their own lives and independence.
2. Arkansans with disabilities will have physical and programmatic access to opportunities that increase Independent Living and Community Integration.
3. Arkansans with disabilities will receive inclusive emergency preparedness education, information and referral to emergency preparedness resources, and access at the local and state levels of Emergency Support Functions (ESF) meetings.
4. The Arkansas IL network will seek opportunities to build capacity and sustain expansions through systems change in collaboration with partners throughout Arkansas.

The SPIL contains objectives directed toward the achievement of these goals. Each objective contains a set of measurable indicators to assess progress and impact. A consistent set of measurable indicators will assess the impact for each objective to the ultimate areas of change identified in the IL network mission: increase in the advocacy skills, provide services that support and empower people with disabilities.
It is not anticipated that all the goals and objectives can be achieved in the three years covered by this plan. Public input over many years has demonstrated that individuals who have access to a CIL value it greatly and that individuals who do not have access to a CIL decidedly want a CIL in their area. Therefore, the partners made the conscious decision to focus on building the State Plan. The SPIL Team includes the SILC and all of the CILs and utilizes input from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS), the DSE, and Division of Services for the Blind (DSB).
This Plan contains many important details on how the IL Network will work together over the three-year period. Below is a brief description of the contents of the plan by section.

Sections of the plan

Section 1: Goals, Objectives, and Activities

In this section, you will find the outline of the overall goals and objectives that the Arkansas IL Network will be working to complete over the course of this three-year period, including the evaluation plan, and financial resources anticipated to be available for the IL Network's work. This section is important because it creates the roadmap of how we will work to make progress in achieving the overall mission of the Plan.

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangement of Services

In this section, you will find information on the services that will be provided by the IL Network, the outreach plan, and the plan for coordination with other programs and organizations that support community life for people with disabilities. Important contents in the section include the targeted outreach to unserved and underserved populations that have been defined by the IL Network, as well as the partnership and collaborative efforts that the IL Network will continue to grow and expand.

Section 3: Network of Centers

In this section, you will find information on the existing network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and the details on any expansion or adjustment of the Network. From this section you can find the information on where each CIL is operating, the funding needs of the IL Network, and plans for changes and increases in funds for the IL Program.

Section 4: Designated State Entity (DSE)

In this section, you will find information on how the DSE will administer the financial and administrative functions required, including the grant and disbursement, and oversight process. This section outlines how Arkansas Rehabilitation Services will maintain its role as the DSE for the IL Program.

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

In this section, you will find information on the establishment and operations of the SILC, including information on the SILC Resource Plan. This section outlines how the Arkansas SILC will remain autonomous and continue to perform the required duties and engage in the granted authorities of the SILC.

Section 6: Legal Basis and Certifications

In this section, you will find the information on the DSE, SILC, and the CILs that are eligible to sign this Plan. You will also find the certification that the SILC is authorized to submit this Plan, the SILC and CILs are legally authorized to carry out all provisions of the Plan, and the DSE has authorization to carry out the applicable administration of the Plan.

Section 7: DSE Assurances

In this section, you will find the DSE designee's signature agreeing for the Agency to serve as the DSE and to comply with the Assurances.

Section 8: SILC Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance

In this section, you will find the SILC Chairperson signing and agreeing to the SILC's continued compliance with the Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance.

Section 9: Signatures
In this section, you will find the signatures of the SILC Chairperson and the Directors of the Centers for Independent living agreeing to fully implement the Plan.

- Arkansas Network for Independent Living consists of four Centers for Independent Living (CILs) that provide direct services to Arkansans with disabilities and seniors in 25 counties.

- The Arkansas State Independent Living Council (SILC) provides for the development, monitoring, and the evaluation of The State Plan for Independent Living that establishes a framework and guides the Network's delivery of Independent Living services.

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

- The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) serves as the Designated State Entity (DSE) for Arkansas and provides administration, training, technical assistance, budget support, and oversight of state and federal resources.

- Arkansas Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) provides independent living services to older individuals who are blind.

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

1.1 - Mission of the Arkansas Independent Living Network (ARILN) and the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL):

The mission of the Arkansas Independent Living Network (ARILN) and the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) is to provide services that support and empower people with disabilities to live as independently as possible within their communities of choice.

1.2 - GOALS

Goal #1: Advocacy: Arkansans with disabilities receive necessary support and services to become more independent.
Goal #2: Community Integration: Individuals with disabilities receive the community integration and community-based living support needed to be more independent.
Goal #3: Emergency Preparedness: Individuals with disabilities receive inclusive emergency preparedness education, information and referral to resources, access at the local and state levels of ESF meetings.
Goal #4: Network Capacity and Sustainability: The Independent Living Network operates effectively, is adequately funded, and has the capacity to expand.

1.3 – OBJECTIVES

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

Goal #1: Advocacy: Arkansans with disabilities receive necessary support and services to become more independent.

Objective #1.1: Arkansans with disabilities will be given the opportunity to achieve their individualized, identified goals improving their independence in the community.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.1.1: Number of Individuals with disabilities (IWD) will write personal goals and independent living plans.
Indicator #1.1.2: Number of Peer Support Groups, activities and/or events.
Indicator #1.1.3: Number of Advocacy activities related to civil and voting rights.

Other Objective info and/or Activities :

Target Performance Levels: 1,200 IWD achieved writing personal goals and independent living plans; 120 Peer Support activities provided; and 80 events held promoting civil and voting rights.

Target Progress for FY25-27

FY25:

- 400 IWD provided training on writing goals and independent living plans.
- 40 advocacy activities on affordable and accessible housing
- 20 activities to increase awareness of consumer-directed services promoting civil and voting rights.

FY26:

- 400 IWD provided training on writing goals and independent living plans.
- 40 advocacy activities on affordable and accessible housing
- 20 activities to increase awareness of consumer-directed services promoting civil and voting rights.

FY27:

- 400 IWD provided training on writing goals and independent living plans;
- 40 advocacy activities on accessible housing;
- 20 activities to increase awareness of consumer-directed services promoting civil and voting rights.

Additional Activities

1. Provide IWD education and training on writing personal goals and independent living plans. Documented through sign in sheets at CIL offices and captured in the Annual Performance Report. Provide independent living training and education to IWD and the community.
2. Host quarterly events addressing personal/civil and/or voting rights in CIL service area and statewide on a yearly basis. Documented through sign in sheets and monthly reports.
3. Provide Peer Support activities and events.
4. Establish a Youth Peer Support Program.

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #1.2: Transportation: Individuals with disabilities advocate for and utilize accessible public and private transportation.

Measurable Indicators:
Indicator #1.2.1: Number of advocacy activities with the Arkansas Legislature on policy changes.
Indicator #1.2.2: Number of advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation; and
Indicator #1.2.3: Number of transportation summits or training held.

Other Objective info and/or Activities:

Target Performance Levels: Twenty advocacy activities with Arkansas Legislature on policy changes over three years; 40 advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation over three years; and one transportation summit held or included in the SILC's cross-disability conference year two and year three.

Target Progress for FY25-27
FY25:

- Five advocacy activities with the local and state officials on policy changes
- Ten advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation.
- One transportation summit is held in conjunction with a cross- disability conference held every other year by the Arkansas SILC.

FY26:

- Five advocacy activities with the local and state officials on policy changes
- Ten advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation.

FY27:

- Five advocacy activities with the local and state officials on policy changes
- ten advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation at the local and state level on specific recommendations for policy changes.
    1. Advocate for expansion of accessible transportation at local planning committees or boards that will includes affordable transportation.

2. Teach IWD how to access and utilize private transportation services (Uber, Lyft....).

Geographic Scope: Other (In Each CIL service area and Statewide for the SILC)

Objective #1.3: Housing: Individuals with disabilities have access to integrated, affordable, and accessible housing within the community of their choice.

Measurable Indicators:
Indicator #1.3.1: Number of advocacy activities for accessible housing.
Indicator #1.3.2: Number of universal design and universal communication access awareness activities provided to businesses, housing providers, and developers.
Indicator #1.3.3: Number of housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for unhoused individuals with disabilities.
Indicator #1.3.4: Number of IWD moves from renter to homeowner.

Other Objective info and/or Activities :
Target Performance Levels: Forty-eight advocacy activities for accessible housing; twelve universal design and universal communication access awareness and visitability* activities provided to businesses, housing providers, developers, associations, and local governments; twelve housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.(*Visitability Standard is the design approach for new housing.)

Target Progress for FY25-27
FY25:

- 12 advocacy activities for accessible housing

1. One universal design and universal communication access awareness and visitability activities provided to businesses, housing providers, developers, associations, and local governments.
2. Four housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
3. One IWD will become a homeowner.

FY26:

- 12 advocacy activities for accessible housing

1. One universal design and universal communication access awareness and visitability activities provided to businesses, housing providers, developers, associations, and local governments.
2. Four housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
3. One IWD will become a homeowner.

FY27:

- 12 advocacy activities for accessible housing.

1. One universal design and universal communication access awareness and visitability activities provided to businesses, housing providers, developers, associations, and local governments.
2. Four housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
3. One IWD will become a homeowner.

Additional Activities:

1. Advocate for accessible housing.
2. Create awareness of housing accessibility issues to businesses, housing providers, developers, etc.
3. Create additional housing coalitions that work toward increasing housing opportunities.
4. Conduct workshops on the availability of affordable housing options to IWD.

Geographic Scope: Other(In CIL service area)

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

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

Measurable Indicators:
Indicator #2.1.1: Number of outreach contacts to school systems regarding Centers for Independent Living roles and resources.
Indicator #2.1.2: Number of outreach activities to youth
Indicator #2.1.3: Increase in youth with disabilities opportunities to network and influence the community.

Target Performance Levels: 48 outreach activities to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living or outreach to education service centers; 120 outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races.

Target Progress for FY25-27:

FY25:

- 16 outreach activities to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living outreach to education service centers
- 40 outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races, four youth scholarships will be awarded to promote inclusion, diversity, and disability issues.

FY26:

- 16 outreach activities to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living outreach to education service centers.
- 40 outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races, four youth scholarships will be awarded to promote inclusion, diversity, and disability issues.

FY27:

- 16 outreach activities to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living outreach to education service centers.
- 40 outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races; four youth scholarships will be awarded to promote inclusion, diversity, and disability issues.

Additional Activities

1. Reach out to school systems/districts or reach out to education service centers.

2. Attend Transition fairs or education training.
3. Make connections with transition specialists at regional education service centers and at local schools.
4. Directed outreach activities to youth with disabilities in underserved counties, populations, races.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #2.2: Integration: Individuals with disabilities who are residing in institutions or nursing homes are aware of services provided by Centers for Independent Living.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.2.1: Number of outreach and/or resources to nursing facilities, institutions (jails, rehabilitation facilities)
Indicator #2.2.2: Number of individuals provided with resources regarding housing options, services and TBRA.
Indicator #2.2.3: Work with the local Housing Authorities to increase accessible and affordable housing capacity; and
Indicator #2.2.4: Number of coordination efforts with outside entities such as Ombudsmen, managed care organizations, etc.

Target Performance Levels: 48 outreach activities to nursing facilities and institutions; 60 coordination efforts with outside entities on relocation issues.

Target Progress for FY25-27
FY25:

- 12 outreach activities to nursing facilities and institutions.
- 15 coordination efforts with outside entities on relocation issues.
- 4 outreach/resource activities that include the unhoused population.

FY26:

- 12 outreach activities to nursing facilities and institutions.
- 15 coordination efforts with outside entities on relocation issues.
- 4 outreach/resource activities that include the unhoused population.

FY27:

- 12 outreach activities to nursing facilities and institutions.
- 15 coordination efforts with outside entities on relocation issues.
- 4 outreach/resource activities that include the unhoused population.

Additional Activities

1. Conduct outreach/resources activities to nursing facilities, institutions, and re-entry programs.
2. Coordinate with managed care organizations on relocation activities.
3. Conduct outreach/resource activities that include the unhoused population in service areas.

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living
Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #2.3: Inclusion: Individuals with disabilities who are at risk for entering institutions or nursing homes are informed of and have access to programs and services provided by the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

Measurable Indicators:
Indicator #2.3.1: Number of outreach activities to those typically underserved or unhoused.

Indicator #2.3.2: Number of education opportunities for parents and consumers on accessing
Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.

Indicator #2.3.3: Number of advocacy activities to increase the number of community-based services.

Target Progress for FY25-27
FY25:

- 30 outreach activities to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental health concerns, substance use disorders.
- 30 education opportunities for parents or IWD on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.
- 75 IWD receiving case management services.

FY26:

- 30 outreach activities to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental health concerns, substance use disorders.
- 30 education opportunities for parents or IWD on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.
- 75 IWD receiving case management services.

FY27:

- 30 outreach activities to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental health concerns, substance use disorders.
- 30 education opportunities for parents or IWD on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.
- 75 IWD receiving case management services.

Additional Activities:

1. Provide education for parents and students with disabilities on accessing state home- based services and support through Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports.
2. Advocate for additional community-based services.
3. Reaching out to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental health, health concerns, substance use disorders and those re-entering the community from the justice system.
4. Provide case management services to IWD who are unserved or underserved.

Lead: Centers for Independent Living, Arkansas State Independent Living Council
Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #3: Emergency Preparedness: Individuals with disabilities receive inclusive emergency preparedness education, information and referral to resources, access at the local and state levels of ESF meetings.

Objective #3.1: Emergency Preparedness: Individuals with disabilities are disproportionately impacted in climate emergencies including heatwaves, hurricanes, and floods. Moreover, people with disabilities in disasters face inaccessible transportation and emergency shelters, social isolation, and institutionalization.

Measurable Indicators:
Indicator #3.1.1: Number of advocacy activities at the local level.
Indicator #3.1.2: Number of activities to increase awareness in the disability community.
Indicator #3.1.3: Number of events to develop individualized emergency plans for IWD; and
Indicator #3.1.4: Work to ensure ESF-6 addresses disability and the Disability Community.
Target Progress Levels: Three advocacy activity at the state level; Forty advocacy activities at the local level; twelve advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community; 240 IWD will develop an emergency preparedness plan; and 4 advocacy events at a local or state ESF meeting.

FY25:
- One advocacy activity at the state level.
- Ten advocacy activities at the local level.
- Four advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community.
- 80 IWD will develop an emergency preparedness plan.
- Four advocacy events at a local or state ESF meeting.

FY26:
- One advocacy activity at the state level.
- Ten advocacy activities at the local level.
- Four advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community.
- 80 IWD will develop an emergency preparedness plan.
- Four advocacy events at a local or state ESF meeting.

FY27:
- One advocacy activity at the state level.
- Ten advocacy activities at the local level.
- Four advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community.
- 80 IWD will develop an emergency preparedness plan.
- Four advocacy events at a local or state ESF meeting.

Additional Activities
1. Increase awareness in the disability community on emergency preparedness.
2. foster opportunities through partnerships for tools and techniques for communicating with individuals with disabilities before and during disasters/emergencies.
3. Advocate at the state and local level to require individuals with disabilities to be included in disability planning.
4. Host local emergency preparedness summit to educate IWD, families and stakeholders on preparing for emergencies in our state.
5. Host a statewide emergency preparedness summit to educate IWD, families and stakeholders on preparing for emergencies in our state.

Geographic Scope: Statewide
Lead: Centers for Independent Living

Goal #4: Network Capacity and Sustainability: The Independent Living Network operates effectively, is adequately funded, and has the capacity to expand.

Objective #4.1: The Network of Centers for Independent Living has adequate resources and capacity to provide Independent Living Services for Arkansans with disabilities.

Measurable Indicators:
Indicator #4.1.1: Number of funding sources secured to assist in providing Independent Living Services in the community.
Indicator #4.1.2: CIL Collaboration
Indicator #4.1.3: Technical assistance requested and provided to appropriate parties; and
Indicator #4.1.4: Number of community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.

Target Performance Levels: Three new funding applications submitted to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; technical assistance provided to appropriate parties; 288 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.

Target Progress for FY25-27
FY25:
- Four new funding applications submitted to help provide Independent Living Services in the community.
- quarterly CIL meetings.
- technical assistance provided to appropriate parties.
- 96 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.

FY26:
- Four new funding applications submitted to help provide Independent Living Services in the community.
- quarterly CIL meetings.
- technical assistance provided to appropriate parties.
- 96 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.

FY27:
- Four new funding applications submitted to help provide Independent Living Services in the community.
- quarterly CIL meetings.

FY27: cont'd
- technical assistance provided to appropriate parties.
- 96 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.

Additional Activities
1. Centers for Independent Living will seek public and private funding to support their efforts to provide Independent Living Services in their communities.
2. CIL's will meet quarterly and coordinate appropriate technical assistance for the Independent Living Services program outsourcing process.
3. Host community awareness events promoting Centers for Independent Living and Independent Living Services and philosophy of choice/consumer direction.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #4.2: Coordinating Funding for the Network: The Network of Centers for Independent Living receives funding to provide current, additional, and expanded services to underserved and unserved areas of Arkansas.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.2.1: Number of virtual services provided by Centers for Independent Living.
Indicator #4.2.2: Number of community partners/funders assisting the Center for Independent Living to provide virtual services to consumers; and
Indicator #4.2.3: Number of requests/contacts to utilize community space or partner with other entity to use space to provide services.

Target Performance Levels: Six advocacy activities targeted to the Arkansas Legislature or Arkansas Department of Human Services to include secure state-funded Center for Independent Living funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills; 15 activities conducted in an effort to increase remote/virtual service options for Centers; 30 outreach contacts to community partners to use office space or locations on a regular basis.

Target Progress for FY25-27

FY25:

- Two advocacy activities targeted the Arkansas Legislature or Arkansas Department of Human Services to include securing state-funded Center for Independent Living funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills.
- Five activities conducted to increase remote/virtual service options for Centers.
- Ten outreach contacts to community partners to use office space or locations on a regular basis.

FY26:

- Two advocacy activities targeted the Arkansas Legislature or Arkansas Department of Human Services to include securing state-funded Center for Independent Living funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills.
- Five activities conducted to increase remote/virtual service options for Centers.
- Ten outreach contacts to community partners to use office space or locations on a regular basis.

FY27:

- Two advocacy activities targeted the Arkansas Legislature or Arkansas Department of Human Services to include securing state-funded Center for Independent Living funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills.
- Five activities conducted to increase remote/virtual service options for Centers.
- Ten outreach contacts to community partners to use office space or locations on a regular basis.

Additional Activities

1. Advocate for a more secure funding stream at the state level by including Centers for Independent Living base funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills.

2. Encourage mobile services for Centers or other virtual ways of providing services (mobile outreach station).
3. Outreach to community partners to use office space or alternative locations.
4. Obtain feedback from individuals with disabilities on the use of Part B dollars in Arkansas by surveying consumers through public forums, town halls, public comment sessions, workshops, etc.

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living, Arkansas State Independent Living Council
Geographic Scope: Statewide

1.4-EVALUATION

The Arkansas State Independent Living Council (SILC) will use a three-tiered approach in providing evaluation and analysis of the implementation of State Plan for Independent Living:

Progress on Objectives in the Plan

The evaluation of the progress on the evaluation and implementation of the State Plan will be performed by the Arkansas State Independent Living Council on a quarterly basis. This will enable SILC to compile the yearly report and to report on progress. The evaluation report will be disseminated 60 days after the end of the quarter. A summary of the progress on implementation and evaluation of the plan will be included in the Arkansas State Independent Living Council's PPR report and a summary will be posted on the Arkansas State Independent Living Council's website and Facebook page for review by the public.

Evaluation findings will be used to discuss needed improvements and possible revisions to objectives, targets, or indicators. Information and data will be evaluated for each objective, its corresponding activities and indicators as appropriate as it is received from State Plan for Independent Living partners in the Independent Living Network. The Centers for Independent Living will submit reports to the SILC on a quarterly basis to allow for sufficient and necessary monitoring of the SPIL. The SPIL committee will meet after each quarter to review the plan and the evaluation report compiled by the SILC.

Implementation of the Plan

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

Consumer Satisfaction Plan

Consumer satisfaction measures input from consumers about benefits received from provider services. The evaluation of consumer satisfaction on a statewide basis will be conducted by the Arkansas State Independent Living Council based on receipt of evaluations conducted by the Centers for Independent Living Network. The data will be collected by using an online platform. Consumer satisfaction data will be collected as often as needed by the centers for independent living. The Arkansas State Independent Living Council and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, as the Designated State Entity, have worked with the Centers for Independent Living to include a standard set of questions within their own consumer satisfaction tools to ensure continuity of data across the Network for this purpose.

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

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

	Likert Scale
1	*Strongly disagree*
2	*Disagree*
3	*Neither agree or disagree*
4	*Agree*
5	*Strongly agree*

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

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

The data and conclusions regarding consumer satisfaction will be reported in the aggregate to the Arkansas State Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living, and the Designated State Entity. A summary of the conclusions and findings will be posted online via the Arkansas State Independent Living Council website for viewing by the public. No information will be reported on a per Center basis. The purpose of this reporting is to gather a statewide view of the overall satisfaction of services, not the monitoring of individual Centers for Independent Living. The findings will be used to make recommendations for improvements in service delivery.

Statewide Needs Assessment

In year two of this plan, the State Plan Committee will create a workgroup to assist in collecting the data for a Statewide Needs Assessment Survey. The survey will be combined with relevant data and information that will be utilized in the development of the following State Plan for Independent Living. The survey will be distributed to the public prior to year three of this plan. The SILC and CILs will solicit for vendors in a competitive process to conduct the survey if needed. This survey shall be agreed on and the financial responsibility of all parties. The AILN will also request any data collected from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services State Plan and Division of Services for the Blind.

1.5- PART 1: FINANCIAL PLAN: FISCAL YEAR 2025-2027

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.

October 2024 through 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	$0	$41836	$341030	$0	$0	$382866
Chapter 1, Part C	$0	$0	$973813	$0		$973813
						$1356679
Other Federal Funds						
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	$ 247,433.00	$0	$0	$0		$247,433
Social Security Reimbursement	$0	$582140	$0	$0		$582140
Other	$0	$0	$0	$0		$0
						$829573
Non-Federal Funds						
Part B State Match	$0	$0	$0	$0		$0
Other State Match for Funds in SPIL	$0	$0	$0	$0		$0
State Funds	$66967	$0	$0	$0		$66967
Other	$0	$0	$0	$0		$0
						$0
TOTAL	$314400	$623976	$1314843	$0		$2,253,319

1.5-Financial Plan Narrative

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, the Designated State Entity, receives federal and state funds and provides oversight and accounting. The Arkansas Independent Living Network consists of four Centers for Independent Living and is funded primarily from a combination of three funding sources: Title VII funds, both Part B and Part C; and Arkansas General Revenue Funds. Other funding sources, such as grants and donations, are also available to members of the Independent Living Network, but those funding sources and opportunities are not covered in this section.

Title VII Part B and Part C funding furthers the State Plan for Independent Living goals and objectives. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services as the Designated State Entity receives Part B funds and uses Arkansas General Revenue funds to satisfy Arkansas' match requirement of ten percent to obtain the funding. The Designated State Entity has elected to not use the five percent of Part B funds for administrative cost. Most Part B funds support the Independent Living Services program for the State of Arkansas and base operations for state-funded Centers for Independent Living that do not receive General Revenue Funding. Specifically, State and federal funds are coordinated in order to provide Independent Living Services on a statewide basis.

Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion) primarily funds the SILC.

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

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services awards contracts to service providers under the Independent Living Services Program to provide purchased services pursuant to Arkansas Procurement Laws. These service providers include Centers for Independent Living and other organizations or persons skilled in the delivery of Independent Living Services. Documentation obtained from the contract application and monitoring activities provides input that can be used to develop or improve the technical assistance and training opportunities offered to individual service providers. Contract managers and other Arkansas Rehabilitation Services staff members provide technical assistance, as needed, throughout the term of the contract. Technical assistance may include helping to expand a service provider's capacity to provide a full range of independent living services.

Contract monitoring is the systematic review of a service provider's records, business processes, deliverables, and activities to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract.

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

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

The SILC and Centers for Independent Living have agreed if there are Part B funds left over at the end of each fiscal year that the funds will be distributed evenly between the CILS and the SILC. Any deviation from this agreement must be agreed upon between the SILC and the CILS. CILs and the older blind agency (DSB) may relinquish all or part of the funding and give their portion to the SILC.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services contracts with the Centers for Independent Living to provide Independent Living Services using Part B Funding.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services reallocates any unspent Part B funds to the SILC and the CILS through an amended contract amendment.

Any unexpended balance funds or roll over funds must be spent by the end of the next fiscal year within the biennium.

Section 2: Scope, Extent and Arrangements of Services

2.1 - SERVICES

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

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	**Provided using Part B** (check to indicate yes)	**Provided using other funds** (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	**Entity that provides** (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Core Independent Living Services, as follows:	X	X	CIL; DSE
- Information and referral	X	X	CIL
- IL skills training	X	X	CIL
- Peer counseling - Individual and systems advocacy - Transition services including: ▪ Transition from nursing homes & other institutions ▪ Diversion from institutions ▪ Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life	X	X	CIL
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services		X	CIL

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	**Provided using Part B** (check to indicate yes)	**Provided using other funds** (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	**Entity that provides** (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
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 accommodation 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.	X	X	CIL
Rehabilitation technology			Other
Mobility training			Other
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	X	X	CIL
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services			CIL
Surveys, directories, and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation, and other support services	X	X	CIL
Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and IL services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act	X	X	CIL; DSE
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	X	X	CIL

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	**Provided using Part B** (check to indicate yes)	**Provided using other funds** (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	**Entity that provides** (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Supported living		X	CIL
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	X	X	CIL
Physical rehabilitation			Other
Therapeutic treatment			Other
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices			Other
Individual and group social and recreational services	X	X	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	X	X	CIL; DSE
Services for children			Other
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	X	X	CIL; DSE
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	X	X	CIL; DSE
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	X	X	CIL
Such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act		X	CIL

2.1- MAP

ATTACHMENT- CURRENT SERVICE AREA OF THE CILS

Independent Living Resource Center d.b.a. Mainstream
300 South Rodney Parham, Little Rock, AR
Five Counties in central Arkansas - **PINK**
Pulaski, Perry, Faulkner, Lonoke, Prairie, and part of Saline County

Spa Area Independent Living Services- SAILS
225 Hazel Street, Hot Springs, AR
Five Counties in Southwest Arkansas-**ORANGE**
-Clark, Garland, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Pike, and the remainder of Saline County

Southeast Arkansas Independent Living Services
7300 Dollarway Rd, White Hall, AR 71602
Ten counties in southeast Arkansas-**YELLOW**
Grant, Jefferson, Arkansas, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Bradley, Drew, Ashley, and Chicot

Sources for Community IL Services (SOURCES)
1918 N Birch Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72703
Four counties in Northwest Arkansas- **GREEN**
Benton, Carroll, Washington, and Madison

2.2 OUTREACH TO UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

CILs will be encouraged to provide outreach to individuals residing in counties that document less than 3% of contribution to the PPR report (704) data of individuals served.

Targeted populations and/or geographic areas: All groups identified below as unserved/underserved live dispersed throughout Arkansas' 75 counties. The CILs each have their own outreach plans including but not limited to the Latino/Hispanic communities, Marshallese, and Black and Brown Communities.

This section addresses statewide outreach efforts and is separate from, not inclusive of or replacing, the CILs outreach plans.

Youth with Disabilities

A primary population that has been identified as underserved is the population of youth with disabilities. The SILC has identified the need for greater youth participation and the development of future leaders. The CILs will facilitate listening sessions at local high schools, colleges and universities related to youth leaders and opportunities for youth living with disabilities.

Outreach to youth will also be conducted in partnership with ARS through the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) held annually. The forum allows the CILs to engage with high school students and helps to increase their leadership and advocacy skills. Through YLF, we can begin to identify more future leaders in Independent Living.

Homeless Individuals with Disabilities

The Homeless community has been identified as a population that includes individuals with disabilities. The Network believes there are potential coordination and collaboration efforts through the Central Arkansas Team Care for the Homeless (CATCH) and other coalitions that serve the homeless that can be expanded upon through targeted outreach.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

The IL Network in Arkansas will continue to expand collaboration with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. In Northwest Arkansas, the independent living philosophy has increased among the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. These efforts are led by SOURCES independent living center located within the area. We will continue to collaborate with the Arkansas School for the Deaf, the Arkansas Association of the Deaf, and DHS-Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services to increase outreach and collaboration to allow greater access to Independent Living Services for this community.

2.3-COORDINATION

A collaborative framework is in place to promote unity and singleness of purpose among the Arkansas State Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services as the Designated State Entity, Division of Services for the Blind and other partners.

The SILC and Network of Centers will develop common outreach materials to be utilized on a statewide basis to better represent the IL Network as a cohesive Arkansas IL Program. This will include the common materials and tools to be developed to better assist the IL Network in engaging potential consumers, the community, stakeholders, and policymakers in the activities and mission of the IL Program.

The Arkansas IL Network strongly believes in the value of coordination and collaboration with programs that support community life for persons with disabilities. Each CIL will be able to coordinate with entities and partners in their local areas that further advance their CIL's strategic goals and objectives. The Arkansas SILC will continue to coordinate and build relationships with various statewide partners that provide services similar and complementary to Independent Living Services. Below are some ways that the SILC will work on coordination over the time period of this Plan. The list below is not all encompassing and new partners may be developed as opportunities arise.

The Arkansas State Independent Living Council composition includes a Center for Independent Living Representative as well as Ex-Officio members from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and Division of Services for the Blind. Recruiting efforts are continuous and underway with the Governor's Office to include additional representation from other state agencies that provide services to individuals with disabilities. The Arkansas State Independent Living Council also coordinates with several agencies that are not appointed members of the SILC including but not limited to the Arkansas Department of Education and the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities.

The Arkansas State Independent Living Council and the Centers for Independent Living also work with various entities, advisory councils, and non-profits such as the Arkansas Disability Policy Consortium, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability Rights Arkansas, NAACP, Urban League, and the Arkansas Martin Luther King Commission. A member of the Arkansas State Independent Living Council acts as a representative liaison to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).

Activities related to Council meetings, interim workgroups, and shared priorities provide understanding of respective programs, collective support, and promotion of Independent Living Services statewide. The Arkansas State Independent Living Council invites all Centers for

Independent Living in Arkansas to participate in State Plan for Independent Living activities.

Activities defined for State Plan for Independent Living objectives cite a number of entities with whom coordination will be important to achieve progress on objectives.

The Arkansas Independent Living Services Program is provided via service providers, Arkansas Centers for Independent Living, through awarded state contracts that include terms and conditions and the opportunity for renewals. Coordination of services is a listed requirement during the development and review of the independent living plan or waived independent living plan. Services must be coordinated, to the extent possible, with all of the following programs for which the consumer may be eligible and from which the consumer may benefit.

ACL Partners

The Arkansas SILC will continue to work with the ACL funded programs across Arkansas. The intent is to continue the work of stronger coordination within the network. A strong working relationship with these groups will lead to a stronger unified disability community across Arkansas working together to promote independent living.

Additional Partners

The Arkansas SILC has membership from the following State Agencies: Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and Division of Services for the Blind. These Ex-Officio Council members assist in creating collaboration and coordination opportunities within their agencies as well as opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The following list is representative of additional partners we will continue to work with on aligned work in improving the lives of individuals with disabilities in the community: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Arkansas Department of Human Services, Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Division of Rural Services, Arkansas Association of Developmental Disabilities (AADD), Easter Seals, Arkansas Enterprise for the Developmentally Disabled (AEDD), Pathfinder, Inc., Metropolitan Housing Alliance, Partners for Inclusive Communities, PASSE (Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity), Advocates for Children and Family, Arkansas Traumatic Brain Injury, and Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission, Meyers & Davis Life Coaching, State NAACP, Save Our Children Coalition, UTOPIA Empowerment Center, Central Arkansas Team Care for the Homeless (CATCH), Urban League, Arkansas Minority Health Commission to name a few.

As noted, this list does not include or encompass all partners. New partners will be developed over the course of this Plan. Coordination will also be considered in other relevant state plans for other programs by reviewing where alignment of goals exists.

Aging Populations

The Arkansas SILC will continue to work closely with Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) and the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) related to empowering seniors on their rights to live independently. The plan is to continue working more closely with these partners as the aging population in Arkansas is becoming a larger demographic group across the state, and the rate of disability is higher in this group. Other than services, there is a great need to improve the quality of life of all Arkansans through provider engagement and oversight that protects the vulnerable, fosters independence, and promotes better health through continuous, quality improvement.

Developmental Disabilities

The Arkansas SILC has a strong working relationship with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. This relationship has led to partnerships that focus on advocacy and action in the DD & IDD community. The plan is to continue to expand on the work already completed under these efforts. The network will continue to work with the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services to educate individuals and families on the choices that are available in living.

Mental Health

The Arkansas IL Network will continue to explore options that bridge mental health and addiction services to Independent Living. Over the last ten years, the Arkansas Centers for Independent Living have worked more in this area through the nursing home transition work. Over the course of this Plan, the network will work to expand efforts by collaborating with organizations who educate on mental health. DHS-Division of Adult, Aging and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS) provides an integrated system of public mental health care and alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention and treatment services to Arkansas residents. The Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services provides most direct mental health services throughout the State by contracting with 13 community mental health centers (CMHCs) and three specialty clinics.

Emergency Preparedness and Management

Arkansas State Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living will continue to collaborate with FEMA, local and state emergency management agencies, and other disability organizations related to emergencies and disaster response.

In times of emergency, natural disasters and state pandemic hot spots resources may be allocated to increase CIL catchment areas to maximize the goals set forth in this State Plan. Additionally, Centers for Independent Living may conduct ongoing inclusive statewide emergency preparedness and disaster planning.

Section 3: Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Centers

Independent Living Resource Center, Inc. d.b.a. Mainstream
Counties Served: Faulkner, Lonoke, Perry, Prairie, Pulaski, part of Saline
All Sources of Funding:
Title VII Chapter 1, Part B Oversight Process: DSE ,Title VII Chapter 1, Part C Oversight Process:
Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP
SPIL Signatory: Yes

Sources for Community Independent Living Services
Counties Served: Benton, Carroll, Madison, Washington
All Sources of Funding:
Title VII Chapter 1, Part B Oversight Process: DSE ,Title VII Chapter 1, Part C Oversight Process: ACL/OILP State Funds Oversight Process: DSE and ACL/OILP
Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP
SPIL Signatory: Yes

Southeast Arkansas Independent Living Services
Counties Served: Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson, Lincoln
All Sources of Funding:
Title VII Chapter 1, Part B Oversight Process: DSE, Title VII Chapter 1, Part C Oversight Process: ACL/OILP State Funds Oversight Process: DSE and ACL/OILP
Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP
SPIL Signatory: Yes

Spa Area Independent Living Services, Inc.- SAILS
Counties Served: Clark, Garland, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Pike, part of Saline
All Sources of Funding:
Title VII Chapter 1, Part B Oversight Process: DSE, Title VII Chapter 1, Part C Oversight Process: ACL/OILP State Funds Oversight Process: DSE and ACL/OILP
Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP
SPIL Signatory: Yes

CIL NETWORK

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

Centers for Independent Living are community organizations that, under Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, serve cross-disability populations. Centers for Independent Living provide five core services (information and referral, individual and system advocacy, peer support, Independent Living skills training, and transition/relocation services from nursing homes and other institutions and diversion services that keep a person with a disability out of a nursing home or other institutions). Each Center for Independent Living's community needs to define its service priorities. In addition to the Federally required core services, Centers for Independent Living conduct resource development activities through grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to expand Independent Living Services. The Centers for Independent Living have established contracts with ARS to receive funds for services under the Independent Living Services Program. ARS is responsible for administering and monitoring contracts with Centers for Independent Living to provide Independent Living services.

Some of these additional services include counseling, orientation and mobility, recreation and socialization, rehabilitation technologies, and examinations. Other examples of community services that Arkansas Centers for Independent Living provide in addition to core services include but are not limited to: assistance with accessing benefit counseling and Social Security Work Incentives technical assistance programs, managing housing voucher programs, coordinating transportation services and mobility management to include travel training and identification and utilization of all transportation resources, operating assistive technology demonstration sites, providing various emergency preparedness technical assistance for people with disabilities, durable medical equipment loan programs and clothing closets, home modifications for accessibility, obtaining utility assistance, and service provider expos, working with local Workforce Services to establish a disability sub-committees to improve access of their services to job seekers with disabilities.

The following list contains the contact information; counties served, and base operating funding sources for the four Centers for Independent Living in Arkansas.

There are four Centers for Independent Living in Arkansas. The Centers provide the five core services in 25 of the 75 counties. Arkansas has no non-Part C Centers within the state.

1. Independent Living Resource Center, d.b.a. Mainstream 300 S Rodney Parham Rd # 5, Little Rock, AR 7220 http://www.mainstreamilrc.com (501) 280- 0012

   Counties Served: Faulkner, Lonoke, Perry, Prairie, Pulaski, part of Saline

2. Spa Area Independent Living Services (SAILS) 225 Hazel Street, Hot Springs, AR 71901 http://www.ar-sails.org (501) 624-7710

   Counties Served: Clark, Garland, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Pike, part of Saline

3. Southeast Arkansas Independent Living Services 7300 Dollarway Rd, White Hall, AR 71602 http://www.ar-sails.org (870) 247-8600

   Counties Served: Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson, Lincoln

4. Sources for Community IL Services (SOURCES) 1918 N Birch Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72703 http://www.arsources.org (479) 442-5600

   Counties Served: Benton, Carroll, Madison, Washington

3.2 - EXPANSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF NETWORK

Underserved Counties

The Arkansas State Independent Living Council and the Network of Centers for Independent Living recognize that all counties and areas currently served by a Center for Independent Living are underserved. There are 25 out of 75 Arkansas counties that receive the five federally mandated core services but are considered to be underserved. Underserved counties are counties within a Center's service area where Independent Living services are provided but not to all Arkansans with disabilities residing in the service area. Although Center services encompass 25 counties, this represents two-thirds of the state's population. There are a variety of reasons the counties remain underserved. Examples include inability to reach all Arkansans with disabilities in the county or limited resources and funding.

Due to the fact that there are only four Centers for Independent Living in Arkansas, the Independent Living needs in their service areas are greater than the resources and capacity available to them. Federal and State funding for the Arkansas Network has remained relatively stagnant despite increased mandates and additional requirements. The Centers for Independent Living have worked to diversify their funding sources and secure private sources of funding.

Centers for Independent Living rely mainly on federal and state sources for their base funding. It is imperative for the Network to secure additional funding to ensure they can meet the needs and serve the counties and populations within their current service areas and priorities. The fact remains that as long as the Network continues to be underfunded, the current Network's service areas and populations will also continue to be underserved.

Expansion of the Network

Due to the lack of funds to support the Independent Living Program in Arkansas, the following counties are unable to access Core Services for all individuals with significant disabilities. For this reason, we have determined all of the following counties to be unserved at the start of this Plan. A majority of these counties identified are primarily rural counties of Arkansas.

The Counties not served include:

Baxter	Cross	Johnson	Nevada	Searcy
Boone	Dallas	Lafayette	Newton	Sebastian
Calhoun	Franklin	Lawrence	Ouachita	Sevier
Clay	Fulton	Lee	Phillips	Sharp
Cleburne	Greene	Little River	Poinsett	Stone
Columbia	Hempstead	Logan	Polk	Union
Conway	Howard	Marion	Pope	Van Buren
Craighead	Independence	Miller	Randolph	White
Crawford	Izard	Mississippi	Saint Francis	Woodruff
Crittenden	Jackson	Monroe	Scott	Yell

Efforts to expand and strengthen the network of Centers for Independent Living in Arkansas involve working closely with state and federal entities toward the allocation of additional funding for the establishment and operation of Centers for Independent Living. Should funding become available, a competitive process will be conducted, which will define criteria for selection. In addition, as stated above, the network will not accept expansion funds if it will potentially jeopardize the stability of the existing network such as the reducing of the continuation funding of existing Centers for Independent Living in the Network. Priority will be given to applicants with a cross-disability board in place that have filed for incorporation and obtained or are in the process of obtaining a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt status because such applicants will be better positioned to initiate programming and deliver services more readily.

Priority Unserved or Underserved Area in the State

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

Order of Priority for Establishing New Centers for Independent Living in these Areas

Should funding become available to establish a new Center for Independent Living in an unserved area, the priority of serving an unserved area of the state is to establish a Part C CIL. If a Part C grant is relinquished or terminated, a new CIL would be established in the closed grant's service area. The order of priority for establishing a new CIL includes a minimum annual funding level. The minimum funding level to establish a new CIL is $250,000 of Part C funds, if that amount of Part C funds is available after ACL has provided a COLA and Part C funds to existing centers at the level of funding the centers received the previous year.

Priorities for establishment of new CIL(s).

During this SPIL period an examination of the unserved areas, regional clusters and prioritization will be done.

When additional Part B or State IL general funds become available for expansion the SPIL Committee will recommend guidelines for developing proposed scopes of work to expand into unserved areas. The SILC will consider proposed scope of work, finalize and forward to the DSE for implementation of grants to be offered to expand into unserved areas in amounts equal to the established CIL base funding.

The SILC, in collaboration with SPIL signatories, will review the proposals and recommend awards to the State Contracts Unit, to be awarded in coordination with the DSE.

First Priority Area

The priority area for expansion of the IL network into unserved and underserved areas of the state is in Northeast Arkansas, serving the counties of Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett, Cross and Crittenden. The Mississippi Delta is an economically depressed area and includes a significant minority population and a significant number of individuals with disabilities according to the Maximus SSA Beneficiary Distribution Website. The major population concentration is in Jonesboro and the surrounding area in Craighead County. The homeless population in Craighead County has doubled in the past five5 years. A significant number of those individuals have disabilities. Mississippi County is the next most populated area, which borders Craighead County on the west and the Mississippi Delta on the east. When the State's allotment is sufficient to fund a new Part C center in this region, the center will serve Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett, Cross, and Crittenden Counties.

Second Priority Area

The second priority is a center in the Southwest area serving the counties of Miller, Lafayette, Hempstead, and Little River. Miller County includes the city of Texarkana and is the most populated county.

Third Priority Area

The third priority is a center in the North Central counties, serving the counties of White, Cleburne, Independence, Jackson, and Woodruff. White County includes the city of Searcy and is the most populated. The expansion of Independent Living service offerings will follow a specific process. Information provided via Centers for Independent Living, community forums, and grassroots organizations establish the need for an additional Center for Independent Living.

The feasibility determination process will consist of the following components:

(1) compilation of data supporting the expansion.

(2) formation of a committee charged with investigating the capacity of the community under consideration to support a new Center and the impact on existing Centers with contiguous service areas;

(3) development of a community action plan to address deficiencies if expansion is recommended;

(4) establishment of a satellite center if expansion is recommended under mentorship of an existing Center geographically located nearest the new service area; and

(5) the satellite Center becomes independent upon development of funds necessary to fully support autonomy. Note that components (4) and (5) apply only to centers established with state or Part B funds since Part C has its own requirements for establishment of a new center.

When expansion of the IL network is not feasible, or recommended, the DSE and SILC in coordination with the existing Centers may:

Identify the unserved and underserved populations in the existing IL network catchment areas. Unserved and underserved populations may include, but are not limited to groups or populations of individuals with significant disabilities who:

- Have physical, cognitive, or sensory impairments;
- Are members of racial or ethnic minority groups in the catchment areas;
- Live in rural areas.
- Are elderly; or
- Have been identified by the IL networks, the DSE or the SILC as unserved or underserved within the Center's project area.

Methodology for distribution of funds for Centers for Independent Living

Each Center for Independent Living has been assigned a base funding amount as follows:

Population of IWD	Base Funding
1-75,000	$250,000
75,001- 150,000	$300,000
150,001 +	$350,000

The funding levels were agreed upon by the Arkansas Centers for Independent Living.

Center	IWD Population	Funding
Mainstream	181,995	$419,952
SAILS	69,903	$318,759
SAILS (SE)	65,814	$271,014
Sources	159,442	$305,118

Service area populations were developed using data from the 2018-2022 Arkansas American Community Survey population data and prevalence rates. Centers not at the base level in Subchapter C funds will be supplemented with Subchapter B dollars.

Until the minimum allotment of funds established in this plan are made available to the existing network of CILs, new Centers or expansion of areas will not be recognized in any funding distributions. Formula for Distribution of funds after Minimum Base Funds achieved Funding distribution charts and formulas will be updated annually based upon the Subchapter C funding allocations as well as the Subchapter B allocations to Arkansas. This formula represents the process that will be utilized to distribute funds to the Center for Independent Living. Due to the nature of funding changes annually, as long as the formula is utilized, revisions to the plan will not be needed.

Funding Reductions

Due to recent reductions, both planned and unplanned, the Independent Living Network encourages the development of contingency plans should there be a reduction or rescission of State or federal funds. If reductions take place, the Center for Independent Living Network is committed to providing the five core services to consumers in the Center's catchment area to ensure their status as Center for Independent Living under Title VII, Part C is not jeopardized. It is recommended that the State expend Part B funding to replace reductions in Part C funding.

Should State General Revenue funding for Centers for Independent Living be reduced, the Network of Centers should receive a proportional funding reduction rather than consider the closing of a Center. It is expected that any such reductions may impact the quantity and quality of services offered by a Center.

One-Time Funding

In the event of one-time state or federal funding becoming available to the IL Network in Arkansas, the determination on the distribution will be made as follows:
Special or Dedicated Purpose - If funds made available have a specified project or purpose, to the best extent possible, the funds will be distributed in accordance with state or federal recommendations and/or if not designated, competitively based upon Centers submitting a proposal that includes their ability to expend the funds for the dedicated purpose.

One-Time Federal Title VII Funding - If funds come to Arkansas that are deemed one-time and dedicated and not sustainable to fund a Center for Independent Living long-term, the funds will be distributed as best as possible in accordance with the Formula for Distribution in this section of the Plan.

One-Time State funds - Depending on the nature of the state funds and any restrictions, the distribution will be following one of the two methods outlined above.
Plan/formula for adjusting distribution of funds when cut/reduced.

Funding Reductions

Due to recent reductions, both planned and unplanned, the Independent Living Network encourages the development of contingency plans should there be a reduction or rescission of State or federal funds. If reductions take place, the Center for Independent Living Network is committed to providing the five core services to consumers in the Center's catchment area to ensure their status as Center for Independent Living under Title VII, Part C is not jeopardized. It is recommended that the State expend Part B funding to replace reductions in Part C funding.

Should State General Revenue funding for Centers for Independent Living be reduced, the Network of Centers should receive a proportional funding reduction rather than consider the closing of a Center. It is expected that any such reductions may impact the quantity and quality of services offered by a Center.

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 funding changes needed"

Temporary Changes (if applicable) Other (if applicable)

N/A

Section 4: Designated State Entity

4.0 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services will serve as the entity in Arkansas 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

1. 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;
2. keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator finds to be necessary with respect to the programs.
3. submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and
4. 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

There is no staff assigned to the SILC from the DSE.

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

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

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

The DSE will monitor SILC operations to ensure compliance with the state- imposed requirements for the SILC as outlined in Executive Order 07-12, which established the SILC and the membership makeup, requirements, and functions.

4.4- GRANT PROCESS AND DESTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Process and Determination

The DSE, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, received Legislative permission for the designation of IL and SILC funding to be labeled as non-discretionary funds based on the required federal SPIL. This designation allows the DSE to contract with the Centers for Independent Living through agreed upon negotiated funding set out in the State Plan for Independent Living Council.

Section 3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network. Any new funding, not set out in the SPIL, would require the DSE to review the SPIL directives related to prioritization of funding, specifically as it relates to serving an unserved area. The new funding may require to be administered through State contracting requirements of bidding.

Disbursement and Administration

ILC's Subchapter B and State funds will be allocated through annual contracts from the DSE. Prior to the start of the Federal Fiscal year, Centers are required to submit a proposal of Goals, Objectives, and a Budget to the DSE based on the SPIL. Once approved, the ILC's are notified of their award amount and provided documents to review for signature, in accordance with the DSE standard contracting practices.

ILC's are required to submit monthly invoices with activity reports to the DSE for payment, along with quarterly financial reports. The DSE reviews the activity reports comparing the ILC proposals and the SPIL activities. After reviewing payment documents are processed through the DSE financial department for review and payment processing through the Department of Finance, Administrative Statewide Information System (AASIS), then payment will be made to the Centers.

Process and Determination

Current Centers eligible for funding will receive contracts in amounts consistent with the funding distribution outlined in Section 3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network.
If a new award to a Center were to be needed to serve an unserved area, a competitive process will be utilized as appropriate.
Action/process for distribution of funds relinquished or removed from a Center and/or if a Center closes.
If, for any reason, including non-compliance, a CIL ceases to provide IL services, funding allocated for the area served will be made available to an eligible CIL or combination of CILs to continue services in that service area, through a timely request for proposal (RFP) process.
In the event of CIL closure, to ensure the funds remain within the existing network, funds may be equally distributed to the existing CILs as one-time funding until the RFP process for the area directly affected is completed. Distribution of funding in this manner may not exceed a twelve-month period.

4.5 - OVERSIGHT PROCESS FOR PART B FUNDS

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

Monitoring includes planned, ongoing, periodic, or unscheduled activities that cover financial, programmatic, and administrative components. ARS, as the DSE, acknowledges ACL has general oversight responsibilities for Part C Independent Living funds received by the state. Upon request, ARS will assist ACL with the oversight process whenever necessary.

ARS receives Part B Independent Living funds and uses Arkansas General Revenue funds to satisfy Arkansas' match requirement. ARS also serves as a subcontractor for the Department of Human Services - Social Security Block Grant (SSBG) funds. With respect to Part B funds, ARS awards funding to the CILs through a contracting process. Each contract is monitored to ensure deliverables and consistency with both state and federal requirements. This is accomplished by reviewing monthly program performance reports and quarterly financial reports. Each CIL is also asked to submit a copy of their annual financial audit. Should any spending irregularities be identified, ACL and the appropriate state authorities will be notified. As a subcontractor for SSBG funds, ARS provides direct IL services to clients governed by our agency policy and procedure manuals.

ARS supports the SILC with Innovation and Expansion funds. Oversight is accomplished utilizing a contract monitoring process that includes review of monthly activity reports and quarterly financial reports. In addition, the SILC is asked to submit to ARS a copy of its annual financial audit. Should any spending irregularities be identified, ACL and the appropriate state authorities will be notified.

4.6- 722 VS. 723 STATE

Arkansas is a 722 state.

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 - ESTABLISHMENT OF SILC

The ARSILC is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with a governor appointed Board of Directors. The ARSILC is placed administratively outside the government structure. The ARSILC is physically located autonomously from any State government buildings. A clause has been developed to add to the contract to ensure that the DSE will not include conditions or requirements in the ARSILC resource plan that would compromise the independence of the SILC.

The ARSILC obtained Articles of Incorporation on November 21, 1994, and gained status as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation on February 2, 1995. Executive Order EO 07-12 ratified the establishment of the State Independent Living Council under Governor Mike Beebe in 2007.

The ARSILC collaborates with the Governor's Office on Boards and Commissions as it relates to vacancies and new positions of the ARSILC Board of Directors. The Governor appoints the Board of Directors including the ex-officio members.

The SILC has set these goals:

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

The Arkansas SILC has established fiscal policies and procedures that govern the expenditure of funds. The Arkansas SILC remains aware of and safeguards its independence. The entity operates under the Council's direction with established management, policies and procedures, and in its independent office location. Nothing in the resource plan jeopardizes its autonomy.

Furthermore, the resource plan reflects prudent planning for operational needs while considering full use of available resources. The SILC employs an Executive Director who reports to the Board of Directors and one staff member that is supervised and reports to the Executive Director.

Reports are sent to Arkansas Rehabilitation on a monthly and quarterly basis. The SILC has a financial review that takes place every fiscal year that is sent to the DSE and DSB once it is complete and accepted by the Board of Directors.

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."

FISCAL YEAR 2025 Section 101(a)(18) IandE	FISCAL YEAR 2026 Section 101(a)(18) IandE	FISCAL YEAR 2027 Section 101(a)(18) IandE
Federal $24742.80	Federal $24742.80	Federal $24742.80
State $66967.20	State $66967.20	State $66967.20
TOTAL $314400	TOTAL $314400	TOTAL $314400
Percentage Breakdown	Percentage Breakdown	Percentage Breakdown
ARS 90.4% $284,217.60	ARS 90.4% $284,217.60	ARS 90.4% $284,217.60
DSB 9.6% $30,182.40	DSB 9.6% $30,182.40	DSB 9.6% $30,182.40
TOTAL $314400	TOTAL $314400	TOTAL $314400

Part B amounts in the SILC Resource Plan are estimates only based on historical amounts. SILC and CILS have agreed to divide any additional funds over the grant forecasted amount equally. Any CIL or DSB may relinquish all or part of their funds to the SILC.

<u>Process used to Develop the Resource Plan</u>

The process used to develop the SILC Resource Plan centers on the authorities and duties required by federal and state law and the resources necessary and sufficient to satisfy its obligations. The SILC chairperson and the Board of Directors will collaborate with the DSE to reach an agreement related to the SILC Resource Plan.

The SILC uses a system that provides the following steps in creating our budget for operations.

1. The revenue is calculated to include all your revenue streams for the last 12 months, to determine the monthly income.
2. All fixed costs which include rent, payroll, payroll taxes, retirement, directors’ and officers’ insurance, workman compensation and website hosting
3. The variables are determined in costs that include board travel and board expenses, the age of equipment, changes in economy and day-to-day operations.
4. The budget is monitored throughout the year for any trends.
5. Historical data is used to help the board and financial committee understand the needs of the SILC.
6. A tracking system is in place to monitor cost of living increases for local, state, and federal so that we can forecast the expenses.
7. A matrix is used to help understand the financial health of the SILC by doing the following:
    - Analyze Financial Statements
    - Evaluate Revenue Sources
    - Assess Expenses
    - Review Budget

- Analyze Financial Ratios
- Compare Performance Over Time
- Benchmark Against Peers
- Monitor Cash Flow

SILC business meetings, active and frequent engagement with the Network and Centers for Independent Living and seeking feedback from the Arkansas disability community provide guidance on the resources needed for SILC to fulfill its mission. Meetings with the Independent Living Network and supporting partners, SPIL Development Workgroup meetings, and engagement with ARS yield that the SILC funding amount would remain stagnant but diversified in terms of funding source.
The SILC resource plan includes but is not limited to the following:

- Staff/personnel including payroll and benefits.
- Operating expenses
- Council compensation and expenses
- Meeting expenses, including public hearing expenses, such as meeting space, alternate formats,
- 508 compliant website and electronic documents and enhancements based on current trends, interpreters, and other accommodations to include IT equipment for board members related to the recent changes to how we must conduct business.
- IT services
- Resources to attend and/or secure training for staff and Council members.
- Resource library to include 508 compliant resources and literature.
- Other costs as appropriate.

In order for the SILC to carry out the mission and the goals that are specific to the SILC in the state plan, there must be stability and sustainability without any financial hardships.

Process for disbursement of funds to facilitate effective operations of SILC

The process used to develop the SILC Resource Plan centers on the authorities and duties required by federal and state law and the resources necessary and sufficient to satisfy its obligations. The SILC chairperson and the Board of Directors will collaborate with the DSE to reach an agreement related to the SILC Resource Plan.
The SILC Executive Director and the SILC chairperson shall negotiate the amount of the Resource Plan with the DSE Commissioner and the Director of the Division of Services for the Blind. An agreement for the SILC Resource Plan shall be approved by the full Board of Directors. Subject to the

approval of the Board, the SILC Executive Director will use current expenses and projected amounts to demonstrate the number of resources "necessary and sufficient" for the SILC to carry out its duties and authorities.
Funding for the SILC, as reflected in the Resource Plan, will be disbursed according to an annual agreement between the SILC and the DSE. To finalize this agreement, the SILC will submit to the DSE a proposal of goals, objectives, and an annual budget consistent with the Resource Plan. The SILC will submit monthly invoices with prior month expenditure reports to the DSE for payment on the last business day of the month under the agreement. Payment documents will be processed by the DSE's financial department on the first business day of the month, with funds disbursed to the SILC through the Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System (AASIS).
As required by 45 C.F.R. § 1329.14, the process for disbursing of funds to facilitate SILC operations will preserve the SILC's independence and autonomy.
No conditions or requirements will be included in the SILC Resource Plan or contract that compromise the independence and autonomy of the SILC.

5.3- Maintenance of the SILC

The State will continue to maintain the SILC as it has done in the past. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services will continue to provide Innovation and Expansion funding and support to ensure the SILC is operating and maintained over the course of the SPIL. If additional funding streams are used, it will be a negotiated effort between the DSE and the SILC, The SILC will continue to develop its own budget and will operate with autonomy to fulfill the duties and elected authorities. The SILC Resource Plan will also include an applicable amount of unexpended Part B. This will be an amount agreed upon by the SILC and CILs to split evenly between each. A center or the older blind agency can if they so choose, relinquish their part of the unexpended Part B to go to the SILC. Each fiscal year, the SILC and the DSE will communicate related to the SILC Resource plan. This information will be shared with the CILs.

Appointments to the SILC

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

The Arkansas SILC is governed by a Council of up to 21 members with 51% identifying as an individual with a disability and are appointed by the Governor. Two of the fifteen are Ex-Officio members who are appointed by the Governor. The Ex-Officio members represent the DSE, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, and the state agency serving the older blind, Division of Services for the Blind. Arkansas SILC bylaws, policy and procedures, and the State Plan federal law regarding SILC member composition.

Appointments to the SILC will continue to be made by the Governor, from nominations provided by the SILC. The SILC will continue to solicit applications statewide, review all applications received considering experience and expertise, un-represented and under-represented areas of the state, and diversity.

Nominations will be selected, ensuring the maintenance of a majority of people with disabilities not employed by a CIL or state agency, and approved by the full SILC. Nominations and support documents will then be shared and reviewed with staff in the Governor's Office responsible for processing appointments. SILC staff will continue to maintain records of appointments and term limits and periodically review them with the Governor's staff to ensure term records match and term limits are enforced. The SILC Chair is elected by the voting members of the Council, from among the voting members of the Council. A Chair may serve two three- year terms consecutively.

SILC vacancies are filled by individuals nominated, and appointed, to serve the remainder of the vacant term. The SILC will continue to recruit individuals and maintain a pool of interested parties when a vacancy becomes available. The SILC's bylaws, policies and procedures align with federal requirements for member composition.

SILC Autonomy

The SILC operates in following the approved policies that ensure that SILC has the autonomy to operate and conduct its required duties and the granted authorities:

- SILC Bylaws
- Member Policies and Procedures
- Fiscal Policies and Procedures
- Personnel Policies

The SILC has implemented comprehensive fiscal policies and procedures to ensure proper internal controls and fiscal accountability. While still maintaining autonomy, the SILC sends the DSE and I&E budget that is based on the approved operating budget. The DSE reviews the SILC budget and maintains direct and constant contact with the executive director and the Chair of the SILC. Any issues that arise are discussed between the SILC and the DSE. If these situations occur, it is not the intent of the DSE to interfere with the autonomy of SILC, but to provide fiscal oversight to the funds that they extend in a contract to the SILC. The SILC members all receive a proposed budget developed by the SILC finance committee, the executive director, and SILC Staff. After reviewing the document, the SILC will vote on the approval of the budget. At all SILC meetings the full Council receives monthly financial statements, as well as a review of budget to actual expenditures. Each council member signs off on receiving the financial statements and the information is filed along with the minutes of that meeting. Several processes are in place to ensure proper internal controls, including the Treasurer reviewing each month's bank statements, and monthly detailed invoices with documentation submitted to the DSE supporting the proper expenditure of federal funding. The SILC employs a contracted accountant that works closely with the SILC staff and the executive committee of the board. 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. The SILC and the DSE will continue to work together cooperatively at the state level to educate legislators and others entities on the role of the SILC as an independent program that does not operate inside of a state agency and is governed by a board of directors.

As required by 45 C.F.R. § 1329.14, the process for disbursing of funds to facilitate SILC operations will preserve the SILC's independence and autonomy.

The IL Regulations §1329.12 (b)(2) says the DSE must "allocate necessary and sufficient resources needed by the SILC to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities".

No conditions or requirements will be included in the SILC Resource Plan or contract that compromises the independence and autonomy of the SILC.

Section 6: Legal Basis and Certifications

6.1 Designated State Entity (DSE)

The state entity/agency designated to receive and distribute funding, as directed by the SPIL, under Title VII, Part B of the Act is Arkansas f Rehabilitation Services.
Authorized representative of the DSE Commissioner Joe Baxter Title Commissioner.

6.2 Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

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

6.3 Independent Living Centers (ILCs)

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

- Independent Living Resource Center, Inc. d.b.a. Mainstream
- Sources for Community Independent Living Services
- Southeast Arkansas Independent Living Service
- Spa Area Independent Living Services, Inc.

6.4 Authorizations

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

6.4.b. The SILC and ILCs may legally carry out each provision of the SPIL.

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

Section 7: DSE Assurances

Joe Baxter acting on behalf of the DSE Arkansas Rehabilitation Services located at One Commerce Way, Little Rock, AR *45 CFR 1329.11* assures that:

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

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

7.3. The DSE will not retain more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for administrative expenses;[1]

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 SCILs 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 SCILs and ILCs to cover its estimated disbursement needs for an initial period generally geared to the mutually agreed upon disbursing cycle; and
3. The DSE will accept requests for advance payments and reimbursements at least monthly when electronic fund transfers are not used, and as often as necessary when electronic fund transfers are used, in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693-1693r).

The signature below indicates this entity/agency's agreement to: serve as the DSE and fulfill all the responsibilities in Sec. 704(c) of the Act; affirm the State will comply with the aforementioned assurances during the three-year period of this SPIL; and develop, with the SILC, and ensure that the SILC resource plan is necessary and sufficient (in compliance with section 8, indicator (6) below) for the SILC to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities under Sec. 705(c) of the Act, consistent with the approved SPIL.[1]

Joe Baxter , Commissioner
Name and Title of DSE director/authorized representative

Electronic signature 06/25/2024
Signature Date

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

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

8.1 Assurances

Leigh Garvin acting on behalf of the SILC Arkansas State Independent Living Council located at 10 Corporate Hill Drive Suite 240, Little Rock , AR 72205 *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;[1]
(3) The SILC terms of appointment adhere to the Act;[1]
(4) The SILC is not established as an entity within a state agency in accordance with 45 CFR Sec. 1329.14(b);

(5) The SILC will make the determination of whether it wants to utilize DSE staff to carry out the functions of the SILC.
   a. The SILC must inform the DSE if it chooses to utilize DSE staff;
   b. The SILC assumes management and responsibility of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC in accordance with the Act.[1]

(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.[1]

Section 8.2 <u>Indicators of Minimum Compliance</u>

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

(a) STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL INDICATORS. –

(1) SILC written policies and procedures must include:
   a. A method for recruiting members, reviewing applications, and regularly providing recommendations for eligible appointments to the appointing authority.
   b. A method for identifying and resolving actual or potential disputes and conflicts of interest that are in compliance with State and federal law.
   c. A process to hold public meetings and meet regularly as prescribed in 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
   d. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3).
   e. A process and timeline for advance notice to the public for SILC "Executive Session" meetings, that are closed to the public, that follow applicable federal and State laws.
      i. "Executive Session" meetings should be rare and only take place to discuss confidential SILC issues such as but not limited to staffing.

ii. Agendas for "Executive Session" meetings must be made available to the public, although personal identifiable information regarding SILC staff shall not be included.

f. A process and timelines for the public to request reasonable accommodations to participate during a public Council meeting.
g. A method for developing, seeking, and incorporating public input into, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating implementation of the State Plan as required in 45 CFR 1329.17; and
h. A process to verify centers for independent living are eligible to sign the State Plan in compliance with 45 CFR 1329.17(d)(2)(iii).

(2) The SILC maintains regular communication with the appointing authority to ensure efficiency and timeliness of the appointment process.

(3) The SILC maintains individual training plans for members that adhere to the SILC Training and Technical Assistance Center's SILC training curriculum.

(4) The SILC receives public input into the development of the State Plan for Independent Living in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.17(f) ensuring:

a. Adequate documentation of the State Plan development process, including but not limited to, a written process setting forth how input will be gathered from the state's centers for independent living and individuals with disabilities throughout the state, and the process for how the information collected is considered.
b. All meetings regarding State Plan development and review are open to the public and provide 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 accommodation that include auxiliary aids and services, necessary to make the meeting accessible to all people with disabilities.
e. Materials available electronically must be 508 compliant and, upon request, available in alternative and accessible format including other commonly spoken languages.

(5) The SILC monitors, reviews and evaluates the State Plan in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(2) ensuring:

a. Timely identification of revisions needed due to any material change in State law, state organization, policy or agency operations that affect the administration of the State Plan approved by the Administration for Community Living.

(6) The SILC State Plan resource plan includes:

a. Sufficient funds received from:
   i. Title VII, Part B funds;
      1. If the resource plan includes Title VII, Part B funds, the State Plan provides justification of the percentage of Part B funds to be used if the percentage exceeds 30 percent of Title VII, Part B funds received by the State;
   ii. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18), as applicable.
   iii. Other public and private sources.

b. The funds needed to support:
   i. Staff/personnel.
   ii. Operating expenses.
   iii. Council compensation and expenses.
   iv. Meeting expenses including meeting space, alternate formats, interpreters, and other accommodations.
   v. Resources to attend and/or secure training and conferences for staff and council members and;
   vi. Other costs as appropriate.

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

Leigh Garvin

Name of SILC Chair

Leigh Garvin

Electronic Signature

06/25/2024

Date

I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

Section 9: Signatures

The signatures below are of the SILC chairperson and at least 51 percent of the directors of the centers for independent living listed in section 6.3. These signatures indicate that the Arkansas 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

Leigh Garvin Name of SILC Chair Leigh Garvin Electronic Signature 06/25/2024 Date I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

CIL SIGNATURE SECTION

Spa Area Independent Living Services, Inc. Name of Center for Independent Living LeDante Walker Name of CIL Director LeDante Walker Electronic Signature 06/25/2024 Date
Independent Living Resource Center, Inc. Name of Center for Independent Living Rita Byers Name of CIL Director Rita Byers Electronic Signature 06/25/2024 Date
Sources for Community Independent Living Services Name of Center for Independent Living Jim Mather Name of CIL Director Jim Mather Electronic Signature 06/25/2024 Date
Southeast Arkansas Independent Living Service Name of Center for Independent Living Lakesha Whitman Name of CIL Director Lakesha Whitman Electronic Signature 06/25/2024 Date