

# **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: OHIO**

**FISCAL YEARS: 2021-2024**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2020**

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## Executive Summary

The 2021-2024 State Plan for Independent Living for Ohio serves as a strategic plan to bring together the Independent Living (IL) Network and promote working collaboratively to advance the independence of individuals with significant disabilities. Together, the IL Network will work toward the mission of “To advocate for and enhance the ability of people with disabilities in Ohio to live independently, direct their lives, and participate fully in their community.”. While each partner in the Plan has their own work within their organization and their community, this Plan is our vehicle to come together in a unified way to impact all individuals with disabilities across Ohio.

In working toward that mission, the IL Network had identified the following goals for this Plan:

- The Ohio IL Network will promote and advocate for the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.
- Persons with disabilities will live independently in the community of their choice through utilization of services and supports.
- The Ohio IL Network will work to strengthen the Network and increase capacity.

Over the course of this Plan, the IL Network will continue efforts towards making Ohio a better state for the over 1.6 million Ohioans with disabilities through advocacy, Independent Living Services, and collaboration with state and community partners. Collectively, our impacts can be greater through working together and raising the importance Independent Living.

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 Ohio 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 persons 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 Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) 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 Ohio SILC will remain autonomous and continue to perform the required duties and engage in the granted authorities of 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 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 Director'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 implementing the Plan.

Title VII, Chapter 1 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, establishes the Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living programs with the purpose:

“to promote a philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy, in order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society”

The Ohio IL Network believes all element of this State Plan for Independent Living are aligned with the stated purpose of the Independent Living Program as defined in Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act.

## Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

### 1.1 Mission:

Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL.

To advocate for and enhance the ability of people with disabilities in Ohio to live independently, direct their lives, and participate fully in their community.

### 1.2 Goals:

Goals of the IL Network for the three-year period of the plan.

*Goal 1:* The Ohio IL Network will promote and advocate for the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

*Goal 2:* Persons with disabilities will live independently in the community of their choice through utilization of services and supports.

*Goal 3:* The Ohio IL Network will work to strengthen the Network and increase capacity.

### 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.

<p><b>Objective 1.1:</b> The IL Network will represent the voice of individuals with disabilities in improving the availability of housing, transportation, and health care.</p>
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<p><b>Purpose:</b> The Ohio IL Network, including the SILC, will engage in advocacy efforts that impact the barriers that individuals with significant disabilities encounter. The efforts will primarily focus on the areas of housing, transportation, and health care, but additional focus areas may be added as the needs of the disability community change or new priorities develop. In this Plan, we have determined the most effective way to proactively and responsively engage in advocacy efforts is to establish annual priorities in collaboration with the Network. This will be conducted through the SILC’s Community Advancement and Advocacy Committee in conjunction with the CILs and will include action steps for the IL Network to take for each year period. Through this approach, we will be able to create opportunities for the IL Network to work more collaboratively and support promising advocacy strategies across the state.</p>
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<p><b>Indicators:</b> Development and implementation of action steps recommended by the policy report created during the 2017-2020 SPIL to address the specific barriers to integration and full inclusion of people with disabilities around housing, transportation, and healthcare.</p>
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<p><b>Timeline:</b> 2021-2023</p>
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<p><b>Benchmarks:</b></p>
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<p><b>Year 1:</b> Action Steps will be developed by the SILC Community Advancement and Advocacy Committee by October 31, 2020.</p>
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No later than November 30, 2020, the IL Network will implement the action steps and begin reporting activities towards the goals. Periodic reporting will be reviewed by the Community Advancement and Advocacy Committee. The review will include highlighting of progress and promising practices, areas where more work is needed, and recommendations for the IL Network.

By September 30, 2021, Year 1 progress will be assessed, and a year-end progress report will be drafted. The action steps for Year 2 will also be developed at this time to implement for the following year. Both the previous year progress report and the following year action steps will be included in the final year-end report.

**Year 2:** Action Steps determined by the Community Advancement and Advocacy Committee will be implemented on October 1, 2021 for Year 2 of the Plan and the periodic reporting will begin.

Periodic reporting will be reviewed by the Community Advancement and Advocacy Committee. The review will include highlighting of progress and promising practices, areas more work is needed, and recommendations for the IL Network.

By September 30, 2022, Year 2 progress will be assessed, and a year-end progress report will be drafted. The action steps for Year 3 will also be developed at this time to implement for the following year. Both the previous year progress report and the following year action steps will be included in the final year-end report.

**Year 3:** Action Steps will be implemented on October 1, 2022 for Year 3.

In September of 2023, a final report of the progress throughout the three-year period will be created highlighting the progress made in each area, barriers remaining, and the impacts of the Ohio IL Network's work over the course of this Objective.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

**Data Collection Process:** Periodic reporting from the IL Network on activities to be compiled for review by the SILC's Community Advancement and Advocacy Committee.

**Objective 1.2:** Ohioans will better understand the needs and barriers of individuals with disabilities through community education efforts.

**Purpose:** The Ohio IL Network partners, mainly the CILs, regularly engage in activities that are aimed at educating the community on topics that impact the disability community, general disability awareness, and other training topics. These community education activities are vital to community stakeholders, policymakers, individuals, and members of the disability community.

We believe that creating a way for the CILs to work in a manner that does not limit the focus to specific topics allows for the CILs to create activities most needed in their specific communities. We will implement the goal in a manner that creates the opportunity to report a collective outcome across the entire state through a practice where we develop common

practices of evaluation.
<b>Indicators:</b> Individuals that have been engaged by the IL Network in educational events, trainings, seminars, and forums will demonstrate better understanding of the barriers that individuals with significant disabilities face in their communities.
<b>Timeline:</b> 2021-2023
<p><b>Benchmarks:</b></p> <p><b>Year 1:</b> By December 31, 2020, the IL Network will establish and implement evaluation practices to be utilized across the network to use when measuring the impact of community education programs.</p> <p>By September 30, 2021, the IL Network will report summary data on the activities performed and the overall evaluation measure reporting.</p> <p><b>Year 2:</b> The IL Network will review data from Year 1 and make any recommendations needed to the evaluation process and continue to implement the evaluation.</p> <p><b>Year 3:</b> The IL Network will review data from Year 2 and make any recommendations needed to the evaluation process and continue to implement the evaluation.</p>
<b>Geographic Scope:</b> Statewide
<b>Data Collection Process:</b> CILs will utilize the evaluation measures developed and annually report on the results of the evaluation.

<b>Objective 1.3:</b> Ohioans will better understand the needs and barriers of individuals with disabilities and the value of Independent Living.
<p><b>Purpose:</b> Community awareness of Independent Living and how Centers for Independent Living impact the lives of individuals with significant disabilities is needed across Ohio. Through increasing our efforts in advocacy in Objective 1.1 and improving community education activities, we believe that individuals will become more aware of CILs and Independent Living.</p> <p>Increased awareness of Independent Living and the value of Centers for Independent Living will make the work of the IL Network more impactful. This may lead to increased number of consumers seeking services from the CILs, increased alignment of other partners works with Independent Living, and overall increased understanding of the Independent Living Philosophy.</p>
<b>Indicators:</b> Consumers, community partners, stakeholders, and policy makers will gain better understanding of Independent Living and the value of Centers for Independent Living.
<b>Timeline:</b> 2021-2023
<p><b>Benchmarks:</b></p> <p><b>Year 1:</b> The SILC’s State Plan Committee will work in conjunction with the Education and Outreach Committee on the creation of a community perception survey. The survey will assess the understanding of Independent Living of individuals in the community and their perception of the value of Independent Living and Centers for Independent Living.</p>

**Year 2:** In October of 2021, the survey will be widely distributed by the IL Network. The results will be reviewed by the SILC and disseminated to the IL Network.

**Year 3:** In July 2023, the survey will be replicated and distributed again.

In September of 2023, a comparison report will be created to demonstrate any changes in the public perception of Independent Living.

**Geographic Scope: Statewide**

**Data Collection Process:** The SILC will create and disseminate the survey, analyze data, and report outcomes.

**Objective 1.4:** To create and coordinate a statewide advocacy network to be proactive in responding to advocacy efforts.

**Purpose:** To develop a group within the IL Network to meet regularly and identify leaders in various topic areas.

**Indicators:** Members of the IL Network will feel more equipped to respond to advocacy efforts.

**Timeline:** 2024

**Benchmarks:** IL Network will jointly develop a statewide advocacy network structure and begin to implement a structure.

Membership will be representatives of the SILC, CILs, and consumers of CILs.

**Geographic Scope: Statewide**

**Data Collection Process:** By the end of FFY 2024, a final structure that will continue operating will be finalized with a survey of members to determine if the network is more able to respond to advocacy efforts.

**Objective 2.1:** People with disabilities will be given the opportunity to achieve their identified goals of maximizing and increasing their independence in the community.

**Purpose:** Individuals with significant disabilities being empowered to create and achieve their own self-identified goals is a cornerstone to the Independent Living Philosophy. Through the work of the IL Network, namely the CILs, this Plan will review the goals that are being developed by individuals.

Through the self-empowerment of individuals, it not only reinforces the independent living philosophy, but it will also demonstrate the potential that consumers of IL Services have to take greater control of their lives.

**Indicators:** The number of individuals that develop goals will increase.

**Timeline:** 2021-2023

**Benchmarks:**

**Year 1:** By December 31, 2020, the Centers for Independent Living will report the number of new consumers served in the prior reporting year, as well as the number of goals that have been set by individuals.

<b>Years 1-3:</b> Baseline will be established on the 2020 reporting year for new consumers and number of individual goals set with an anticipated 5% annual increase as the goal.
<b>Geographic Scope: Statewide</b>
<b>Data Collection Process:</b> The CILs will report the data as part of their Annual Program Performance Reports that are submitted to the Administration for Community Living and the SILC as well as the SILC requesting quarterly data updates.

<b>Objective 2.2:</b> Individuals with disabilities will gain the independent living skills and knowledge to become more independent.
<b>Purpose:</b> Individuals that are requesting Independent Living Services are expressing some need to increase their independence and remove barriers. By reviewing the services and goals completed across the network, we can identify the most utilized services and the most common significant life areas the CILs are impacting.
<b>Indicators:</b> The number of individuals receiving IL Services that achieve established goals will increase.
<b>Timeline:</b> 2021-2023
<b>Benchmarks:</b> <b>Year 1:</b> By December 31, 2020 the Centers for Independent Living will report the number of completed consumer goals in the prior reporting year, as well as the number of individual services provided.  <b>Years 1-3:</b> Baseline will be established on the FFY 2020 reporting year for new consumers and number of individual goals set with an anticipated 5% annual increase as the goal.
<b>Geographic Scope: Statewide</b>
<b>Data Collection Process:</b> The CILs will report the data as part of their Annual Program Performance Reports that are submitted to the Administration for Community Living and the SILC, as well as the SILC requesting quarterly data updates.

<b>Objective 2.3:</b> The Network of CILs will support the development of statewide IL services training and common practices.
<b>Purpose:</b> The Network of CILs in Ohio has determined a need to increase the common measuring and defining of consumer related services and outcomes. In the 2024 year, the CIL Data Group will work to create a training related to the basics of consumer intake and services, as well as determining areas to create common definitions for services and outcomes.
<b>Indicators:</b> The number of completed training guides.
<b>Timeline:</b> 2024
<b>Benchmarks:</b> Training guides and resources will be made available for the network of CILs.
<b>Geographic Scope: Statewide</b>
<b>Data Collection Process:</b> Number of resources created will be reported, and number of CILs



implementing the resources will be tracked.

**Objective 3.1:** Centers will have equity in funding levels to achieve minimum operating capacity and efficiency.

**Purpose:** Currently, not all Centers for Independent Living in Ohio have enough Independent Living funds to achieve the base level of funds needed for Center Operations. The lack of equity in funds and base funds being met for all CILs creates operational capacity and sustainability issues, as well as inability to effectively serve their community.

**Indicators:** By year 3, each Center will be able to receive core funding to reach the minimum operating base as prescribed in this Plan.

**Timeline:** 2021-2023

**Benchmarks:**

**Year 1:** Assess the current needs of the IL Network and determine the additional resources needed to reach minimum operating and identify the needs that still exist in the Network.

**Year 2:** Centers will have the tools and resources to demonstrate compliance and receive assistance as needed.

**Year 3:** All Centers will maintain base minimum funding and demonstrate compliance.

**Geographic Scope:** Currently served counties

**Data Collection Process:** Annually the SILC, CILs and DSE will review the resources available and information annually.

**Objective 3.2:** The IL Network will increase capacity and infrastructure development.

**Purpose:** Due to the underfunded nature of the Ohio IL Network, the capacity of many Centers for Independent Living is low. The Centers for Independent Living have addressed the lack of capacity as a top priority of the Network and the steps as outlined in this Objective. By increasing the CILs capacity, we will begin to see stronger operations and greater potential for individuals to receive Independent Living Services. The SILC will work with the Centers in identifying the potential opportunities and provide additional support through resource development.

**Indicators:** IL Network partners will undertake activities that lead to increased capacity and stronger infrastructure.

**Timeline:** 2021-2023

**Benchmarks:**

**Year 1:** Support Resource Development i.e. strategic planning training, develop measurable outcomes, grant writing training/support, fee for service development and revenue diversification, focus on building collaborations and partnerships.

**Year 2:** Invest in staff development and training opportunities to ensure qualified staff and create network wide standards for service delivery.

<b>Year 3:</b> Explore the use of technology and non-traditional methods for service delivery.
<b>Geographic Scope: Currently served counties</b>
<b>Data Collection Process:</b> The SILC will track opportunities and activities and survey CILs on their participation.

<b>Objective 3.3:</b> The IL network will create a plan for the expansion of services and statewide expansion as appropriate.
<b>Purpose:</b> In order to achieve full statewide availability of Independent Living Services, the Ohio IL Network will undertake a process that will assess the expansion of services more strategically than in the past. Through our thoughtful planning steps, we will better understand where potential new Centers for Independent Living may need to be developed, where existing Centers can expand services, and where a satellite office may be the most appropriate method to expand. A major component to this process is determining the cost of making full expansion happen in Ohio. For the Ohio IL Network to fully expand, understanding the resources needed will be critical to ensuring stable and continued availability of resources across Ohio. A workgroup will be established to work on these steps, as well as the potential for outside consultants to assist in the work.
<b>Indicators:</b> The IL Network will establish a plan that determines the cost and most effective way to expand the IL Program in Ohio.
<b>Timeline:</b> 2021-2023
<b>Benchmarks:</b> <b>Year 1:</b> A feasibility study will be completed to determine if a new CIL or expanded IL services are needed and to identify the areas.  <b>Year 2:</b> Cost and methods of expansion will be determined, and CILs will be given the opportunities to create plans to further expand their service areas to unserved areas as appropriate. Total cost to expand the IL Program statewide will be determined.  <b>Year 3:</b> As funding is available or Centers determine capacity, expansion will take place.
<b>Geographic Scope: Unserved counties</b>
<b>Data Collection Process:</b> The SILC and CILs will work collaboratively and report progress toward this to the SILC no less than semi-annually.

<b>Objective 3.4:</b> The IL Network will increase cultural competency to be better equipped in serving unserved, underserved, and other marginalized communities.
<b>Purpose:</b> The Ohio IL network will jointly participate in training opportunities targeted at better understanding cultural competencies and awareness of best ways to engage and serve unserved and underserved communities in Ohio and within CIL service areas. Training will lead to future work of assessing work to incorporate into service delivery.  The SILC will host and find presenters for training opportunities.
<b>Indicators:</b> At least 75% of CILs will have staff and board members participate in training.
<b>Timeline:</b> 2024

**Benchmarks:** Tracking will be completed of how many CILs participate in the training provided.

Participants will be given post training evaluation to measure the level of new information learned.

**Geographic Scope: Statewide**

**Data Collection Process: Tracking of training attendance.**

#### 1.4 Evaluation

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

The Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council will employ a variety of mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the State Plan for Independent Living and the satisfaction of individuals with disabilities.

#### **Process of Evaluation of Plan Goals and Objectives**

The State Plan Committee of the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council will review progress towards the stated goals and objectives of the Plan. This review will be conducted during open meetings of the Committee, allowing for public comment. Upon completion of the Committee's review, the progress will be reported to the full Council and the Centers for Independent Living.

After review has taken place, if the Committee finds issues that need to be addressed, new barriers to the implementation of the plan, concerns from public input, or other reasons that may require further action, the Committee has the following options:

- Create a plan to address issues or concerns
- Refer issues to another SILC Committee for additional review and discussion
- Create a workgroup to address issues or concerns
- Recommend revisions to the Plan to the full Council
- Hold public forums to gather public feedback
- Contact the Administration for Community Living for Guidance

Annually, a year end progress report will be created to inform the Council, Centers for Independent Living, consumers, stakeholders, and other members of the public about the progress made towards the goals of the Plan. The report will include highlights of notable accomplishments, lessons learned in the reporting year, and the overall progress towards the achievement of the stated goals and objectives.

#### **Specific Goals and Objectives Evaluation Plan**

*Goal 1:* The Ohio IL Network will promote and advocate for the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

**Objective 1.1:** The IL Network will represent the voice of individuals with disabilities in improving the availability of housing, transportation, and health care.

**Evaluation Method:** Upon implementation of each year’s action steps, progress and activities made will be reported to the SILC on a quarterly basis. SILC’s Community Advancement and Advocacy Committee will review the progress and status, while making recommendations to the IL Network. The Committee will report the progress to the full SILC at each Quarterly meeting and a summary will be included in the Annual Program Performance Report submitted by the SILC and DSE.

**Benchmarks:**

**Year 1:** Action Steps will be developed by the SILC Community Advancement and Advocacy Committee by October 31, 2020.

No later than November 30, 2020, the IL Network will implement the action steps and begin reporting activities towards the goals. Periodic reporting will be reviewed by the Community Advancement and Advocacy Committee. The review will include highlighting of progress and promising practices, areas where more work is needed, and recommendations for the IL Network.

By September 30, 2021, Year 1 progress will be assessed, and a year-end progress report will be drafted. The action steps for Year 2 will also be developed at this time to implement for the following year. Both the previous year progress report and the following year action steps will be included in the final year-end report.

**Year 2:** Action Steps determined by the Community Advancement and Advocacy Committee will be implemented on October 1, 2021 for Year 2 of the Plan and the periodic reporting will begin.

Periodic reporting will be reviewed by the Community Advancement and Advocacy Committee. The review will include highlighting of progress and promising practices, areas more work is needed, and recommendations for the IL Network.

By September 30, 2022, Year 2 progress will be assessed, and a year-end progress report will be drafted. The action steps for Year 3 will also be developed at this time to implement for the following year. Both the previous year progress report and the following year action steps will be included in the final year-end report.

**Year 3:** Action Steps will be implemented on October 1, 2022 for Year 3.

In September of 2023, a final report of the progress throughout the three-year period will be created highlighting the progress made in each area, barriers remaining, and the impacts of the Ohio IL Network’s work over the course of this Objective.

**Data to be Collected:** Quarterly activity reports created by the Ohio SILC

**Evaluation Timeline:** Annual reporting throughout the Plan.

**Objective 1.2:** Ohioans will better understand the needs and barriers of individuals with disabilities through community education efforts.

<p><b>Evaluation Method:</b> After the implementation of the evaluation practices, the IL Network will report progress on an annual basis. The SILC will compile the information to produce metrics demonstrating the impact of the community education activities.</p>
<p><b>Benchmarks:</b></p> <p><b>Year 1:</b> By December 31, 2020, the IL Network will establish and implement evaluation practices to be utilized across the network to use when measuring the impact of community education programs.</p> <p>By September 30, 2021, the IL Network will report summary data on the activities performed and the overall evaluation measure reporting.</p> <p><b>Year 2:</b> The IL Network will review data from Year 1 and make any recommendations needed to the evaluation process and continue to implement the evaluation.</p> <p><b>Year 3:</b> The IL Network will review data from Year 2 and make any recommendations needed to the evaluation process and continue to implement the evaluation.</p>
<p><b>Data to be Collected:</b> Evaluation survey responses</p>
<p><b>Evaluation Timeline:</b> Annual reporting from the CILs to be compiled by the SILC throughout the Plan.</p>

<p><b>Objective 1.3:</b> Ohioans will better understand the needs and barriers of individuals with disabilities and the value of Independent Living.</p>
<p><b>Evaluation Method:</b> The survey results will be reviewed and analyzed by the SILC and distributed to the IL Network. From the results, recommendations to move forward before the follow up survey will be discussed with the IL Network.</p>
<p><b>Benchmarks:</b></p> <p><b>Year 1:</b> The SILC’s State Plan Committee will work in conjunction with the Education and Outreach Committee on the creation of a community perception survey. The survey will assess the understanding of Independent Living of individuals in the community and their perception of the value of Independent Living and Centers for Independent Living.</p> <p><b>Year 2:</b> In October of 2021, the survey will be widely distributed by the IL Network. The results will be reviewed by the SILC and disseminated to the IL Network.</p> <p><b>Year 3:</b> In July 2023, the survey will be replicated and distributed again.</p> <p>In September of 2023, a comparison report will be created to demonstrate any changes in the public perception of Independent Living.</p>
<p><b>Data to be Collected:</b> Survey Results</p>
<p><b>Evaluation Timeline:</b> After completion of survey in Year 1 and Year 3</p>

**Objective 1.4:** To create and coordinate a statewide advocacy network to be proactive in responding to advocacy efforts.

<b>Evaluation Method:</b>
<b>Benchmarks:</b> IL Network will jointly develop a statewide advocacy network structure and begin to implement a structure.
Membership will be representatives of the SILC, CILs, and consumers of CILs.
<b>Data Collection Process:</b>
<b>Evaluation Timeline:</b>

*Goal 2:* Persons with disabilities will live independently in the community of their choice through utilization of services and supports.

<b>Objective 2.1:</b> People with disabilities will be given the opportunity to achieve their identified goals of maximizing and increasing their independence in the community.
<b>Evaluation Method:</b> On a quarterly basis, CILs will report data to track the progress toward the annual increases as well as reviewing final annual numbers on the Annual CIL Program Performance Reports.
<b>Benchmarks:</b> <b>Year 1:</b> By December 31, 2020, the Centers for Independent Living will report the number of new consumers served in the prior reporting year, as well as the number of goals that have been set by individuals.
<b>Years 1-3:</b> Baseline will be established on the 2020 reporting year for new consumers and number of individual goals set with an anticipated 5% annual increase as the goal.
<b>Data to be Collected:</b> Number of new consumers and number of goals set
<b>Evaluation Timeline:</b> Quarterly reporting throughout the Plan.

<b>Objective 2.2:</b> Individuals with disabilities will gain the independent living skills and knowledge to become more independent.
<b>Evaluation Method:</b> On a quarterly basis, CILs will report data to track the progress toward the annual increases as well as reviewing final annual numbers on the Annual CIL Program Performance Reports.
<b>Benchmarks:</b> <b>Year 1:</b> By December 31, 2020 the Centers for Independent Living will report the number of completed consumer goals in the prior reporting year, as well as the number of individual services provided.
<b>Years 1-3:</b> Baseline will be established on the FFY 2020 reporting year for new consumers and number of individual goals set with an anticipated 5% annual increase as the goal.
<b>Data to be Collected:</b> Number of completed goals and number of services provided
<b>Evaluation Timeline:</b> Quarterly reporting throughout the Plan.

**Objective 2.3:** The Network of CILs will support the development of statewide IL services

training and common practices.
<b>Evaluation Method:</b>
<b>Benchmarks:</b> Training guides and resources will be made available for the network of CILs.
<b>Data Collection Process:</b>
<b>Evaluation Timeline:</b>

*Goal 3:* The Ohio IL Network will work to strengthen the Network and increase capacity.

<b>Objective 3.1:</b> Centers will have equity in funding levels to achieve minimum operating capacity and efficiency.
<b>Evaluation Method:</b> The IL Network will report the IL Network funding annually. When tools are developed, the CILs will self-assess and report their continuing compliance and operating status annually.
<b>Benchmarks:</b> <b>Year 1:</b> Assess the current needs of the IL Network and determine the additional resources needed to reach minimum operating and identify the needs that still exist in the Network.  <b>Year 2:</b> Centers will have the tools and resources to demonstrate compliance and receive assistance as needed.  <b>Year 3:</b> All Centers will maintain base minimum funding and demonstrate compliance.
<b>Data to be Collected:</b> Annual progress updates completed by SILC and CILs
<b>Evaluation Timeline:</b> Annual reporting throughout the Plan.

<b>Objective 3.2:</b> The IL Network will increase capacity and infrastructure development.
<b>Evaluation Method:</b> The SILC will survey the IL Network on the utilization of resources and the increases to their capacity to report any increases. This information will be reviewed by the Ohio SILC’s State Plan Committee.
<b>Benchmarks:</b> <b>Year 1:</b> Support Resource Development i.e. strategic planning training, develop measurable outcomes, grant writing training/support, fee for service development and revenue diversification, focus on building collaborations and partnerships.  <b>Year 2:</b> Invest in staff development and training opportunities to ensure qualified staff and create network wide standards for service delivery.  <b>Year 3:</b> Explore the use of technology and non-traditional methods for service delivery.
<b>Data to be Collected:</b> Annual progress updates completed by SILC and CILs
<b>Evaluation Timeline:</b> Annual reporting throughout the Plan.

<b>Objective 3.3:</b> The IL network will create a plan for the expansion of services and statewide expansion as appropriate.
<b>Evaluation Method:</b> Annually a report on the progress toward completing the work in this objective will be reported to the Ohio SILC’s State Plan Committee by the IL Network.
<b>Benchmarks:</b> <b>Year 1:</b> A feasibility study will be completed to determine if a new CIL or expanded IL services are needed and to identify the areas.  <b>Year 2:</b> Cost and methods of expansion will be determined, and CILs will be given the opportunities to create plans to further expand their service areas to unserved areas as appropriate. Total cost to expand the IL Program statewide will be determined.  <b>Year 3:</b> As funding is available or Centers determine capacity, expansion will take place.
<b>Data to be Collected:</b> Annual progress updates completed by SILC and CILs
<b>Evaluation Timeline:</b> Annual reporting throughout the Plan.

<b>Objective 3.4:</b> The IL Network will increase cultural competency to be better equipped in serving unserved, underserved, and other marginalized communities.
<b>Evaluation Method:</b>
<b>Benchmarks:</b> Tracking will be completed of how many CILs participate in the training provided.  Participants will be given post training evaluation to measure the level of new information learned.
<b>Data Collection Process:</b>
<b>Evaluation Timeline:</b>

### Satisfaction of Independent Living Services

The Centers for Independent Living will maintain their responsibilities of assessing the satisfaction of Independent Living Services provided to eligible consumers. The SILC will request aggregate data from Centers to include in the annual progress report of the Plan. Notable trends in satisfaction or dissatisfaction will be included in the statewide report. 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.

### Statewide Needs Assessment

In Year 2 of this Plan, the State Plan Committee will create a workgroup to draft 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 3 of this plan.



### 1.5 Financial Plan

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

<b>Fiscal Year(s): FFY 2021</b>					
<b>Sources</b>	<b>Projected Funding Amounts and Uses</b>				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
<b>Title VII Funds</b>					
Chapter 1, Part B			641,721		
Chapter 1, Part C			2,614,010		
<b>Other Federal Funds</b>					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	250,000				
Social Security Reimbursement		3,804,396			
Other					
CARES Act			2,526,719		
<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>					
State Funds	113,036	28,000	450,000		
Matched State Funds	67,662		71,303		
Other					

<b>Fiscal Year(s): FFY2022 and FFY 2023</b>					
<b>Sources</b>	<b>Projected Funding Amounts and Uses</b>				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
<b>Title VII Funds</b>					
Chapter 1, Part B			641,721		
Chapter 1, Part C			2,614,010		

<b>Other Federal Funds</b>				
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	250,000			
Social Security Reimbursement		3,804,396		
Other				
<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>				
State Funds	113,036	28,000	450,000	
Matched State Funds	67,662		71,303	
Other				

Description of financial plan narrative.

**SILC Resource Plan**

The SILC Resource Plan includes Innovation and Expansion funding for SILC Operations, and a portion of the State Funds that are used to match those federal funds. The remaining balance of State Funds are utilized for the SILC Operations. All funds listed in the SILC Resource Plan are distributed to the SILC by the Designated State Entity (DSE). For more information on the process of funding distribution, see Section 5.2 – Resource Plan.

**IL Services**

The IL Services funded under this Plan are services complementary to those of the Centers for Independent Living funded by the DSE. The DSE utilizes some State Funds for these programs, but primarily funds them with Social Security Reimbursement funding. These programs include the following:

- Personal Care Assistance (PCA) Program - provides funds to pay for personal assistance services to enable eligible persons with severe physical disabilities to work and/or to live independently. Eligible individuals require assistance in Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) so that they may work, look for work, or attend training that will lead to work. DSE’s PCA Program provides partial reimbursement to eligible individuals so that they may hire an attendant/aide.
- Community Centers for the Deaf - The Community Centers for the Deaf (CCD) are Ohio’s centralized resource for services to deaf, hard of hearing, and Deafblind individuals. These services are available in every county in Ohio. The CCDs provide IL services, including Information and Referral, Independent Living Skills Training, Peer Counseling, Transition, and Individual and Systems Advocacy to a targeted population. Additionally, all CCDs provide Interpreting and Communication services.
- Special Projects that promote independent living – The DSE plans and facilitates

projects that promote independent living for individuals with disabilities. Examples of these special projects include partnerships with community entities to install BlindSquare technology on college and university campuses. This technology allows for independent travel around campus and in the surrounding community.

### **General CIL Operations**

At present, all Part B funds received by the State of Ohio are needed for the general operations of the CILs. Due to the underfunded nature of our IL Network, it has been determined that the most impactful use of the funds is the distribution to the CILs. If additional funding were to become available to the IL Program, the CILs have agreed to a distribution plan that takes into account the federal awards of Part C funds. By utilizing these amounts, state funds can be supplemental to creating equity in funding and establishing expansion in Ohio.

The Part B funds are fully matched with State General Revenue funds from the line item identified for Ohio SILC Operations. All match funds are distributed to CILs as part of the contract for CIL Operations from the DSE. The amount in the above Table for “Chapter 1, Part B” includes the annual approximately \$70,000 in state match. The exact amount is dependent on the final Part B award to the State of Ohio.

Part B and State General Revenue Funding for each CIL annually will follow the funding formula as defined in Section 3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of the Network.

Currently, the following CILs are receiving some amount of Part B and State General Revenue Funds (2021 FFY Initial Contract amount\*):

- The Access Center for Independent Living (\$27,699.49)
- The Ability Center of Greater Toledo (\$65,087.83)
- The Center for Disability Empowerment (\$293,359.46)
- The Center for Independent Living Options (\$47,277.88)
- Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (\$150,825.41)
- Society for Equal Access (\$84,876.84)
- Services for Independent Living (\$6,484.40)
- Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (\$26,574.86)
- Tri-County Independent Living Center (\$115,150.52)
- Western Reserve Independent Living Center (\$254,932.81)

Annually, the Centers receive a contract for funding from the DSE that includes both Part B and General Revenue Funds. The General Revenue funds are expensed by the DSE first, then the Part B funds. Because of this, an exact allocation of Part B or General Revenue Funds cannot be determined.

\*Amounts subject to change based on available resources.

CILs receiving Part C awards for CIL Operations will commit to working towards the SPIL Goals and Objectives.

### **CARES Act**

In FFY2020, an appropriation was made to Centers for Independent Living in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic for response and recovery. The funds allocated were distributed by ACL using the population-based formula to the State of Ohio, then distribution to Centers in the same percentage allocation as Part C funds. CARES Act funds will be utilized by the 10 Centers receiving funds consistent with continued guidance from ACL.

#### Individual CIL CARES Act Amounts

- The Access Center for Independent Living (\$262,562)
- The Ability Center of Greater Toledo (\$223,612)
- The Center for Disability Empowerment (\$0)
- The Center for Independent Living Options (\$287,502)
- Independent Living Center of North Central Ohio (\$ 264,669)
- Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (\$167,496)
- Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment (\$231,030)
- Society for Equal Access (\$201,333)
- Services for Independent Living (\$423,836)
- Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (\$237,504)
- Tri-County Independent Living Center (\$227,175)
- Western Reserve Independent Living Center (\$0)

Due the appropriation being made in FFY2020, with the funds being available in the entire FFY2021 year, the total appropriation has been displayed in the Funding Table above. At the time of this State Plan's submission, we cannot accurately represent the amount that will only be utilized in FFY 2021.

For information on the funding needs of the IL Network in Ohio, see Section 3 – Network of Centers.

For information about the process for grants/contracts, selection of grantees, and distribution of funds to facilitate effective operation and provisions of services, see Section 4.2 – Grant Process & Distribution of Funds.

All funds listed are an approximation of funds to be available over the period of this Plan. In the event funding levels change, but the purpose of the funds remains the same, an amendment to the table will be unnecessary. To all extent possible, the funds in the Financial Plan will follow the distribution formulas in Section 3 of this Plan.

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

### 2.1 Services

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

<b>Table 2.1A: Independent living services</b>	<b>Provided using Part B</b> (check to indicate yes)	<b>Provided using other funds</b> (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	<b>Entity that provides</b> (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Core Independent Living Services, as follows:			
- Information and referral	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
- IL skills training	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
- Peer counseling	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
- Individual and systems advocacy	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
- Transition services including:	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
▪ Transition from nursing homes & other institutions	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
▪ Diversion from institutions	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
▪ Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with disabilities) Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.	X	X	CILs
Rehabilitation technology	X	X	CILs
Mobility training	X	X	CILs
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	X	X	CILs

<b>Table 2.1A: Independent living services</b>	<b>Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)</b>	<b>Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)</b>	<b>Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)</b>
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	X	X	CILs
Surveys, directories, and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation, and other support services	X	X	CILs
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	CILs
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	X	X	CILs
Supported living	X	X	CILs
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	X	X	CILs
Physical rehabilitation	X	X	CILs
Therapeutic treatment	X	X	CILs
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	X	X	CILs
Individual and group social and recreational services	X	X	CILs
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	CILs
Services for children	X	X	CILs
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	CILs
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	X	X	CILs

<b>Table 2.1A: Independent living services</b>	<b>Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)</b>	<b>Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)</b>	<b>Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)</b>
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	X	X	CILs
Such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act	X	X	CILs

## 2.2 Outreach

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

### **Definitions**

**Unserved** - For the purposes of this Plan, an unserved county is defined as a county that does not have access or funding for all Core Independent Living Services.

**Underserved** – For the purposes of this Plan, an underserved county is defined as a county that has access to Core Independent Living Services but does not have a funding level that is adequate to fully serve the entire community **or specific population groups that have traditionally underserved by IL Services.**

**In 2024, each CIL will complete an assessment of their community and their services to better identify the populations and demographics that are potentially underserved within their region.**

### **Unserved**

Due to the lack of funds to support the Independent Living Program in Ohio, 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 Ohio.

Clinton County, Darke County, Fayette County, Gallia County, Hancock County, Hardin County, Jackson County, Lawrence County, Logan County, Madison County, Marion County, Meigs County, Mercer County, Miami County, Monroe County, Morgan County, Muskingum County, Noble County, Paulding County, Perry County, Pickaway County, Pike County, Putnam County, Ross County, Sandusky County, Scioto County, Seneca County, Shelby County, Van Wert County, Vinton County, Washington County, Wyandot County.

## **Underserved**

Due to Centers for Independent Living not being able to reach a base funding amount that supports the operations of Centers for Independent Living in Ohio, the current counties that are receiving Title VII Funds are deemed underserved for all individuals with significant disabilities. Several of the identified counties below are the larger urban centers in Ohio.

Adams County, Ashland County, Ashtabula County, **Athens County**, Belmont County, Brown County, Butler County, Carroll County, Clark County, Clermont County, Columbiana County, Coshocton County, Crawford County, Cuyahoga County, Defiance County, Delaware County, Erie County, Fairfield County, Franklin County, Fulton County, Geauga County, Greene County, Guernsey County, Hamilton County, Harrison County, Henry County, Highland County, Hocking County, Holmes County, Huron County, Jefferson County, Knox County, Lake County, Licking County, Lorain County, Lucas County, Mahoning County, Medina County, Montgomery County, Morrow County, Ottawa County, Portage County, Preble County, Richland County, Stark County, Summit County, Trumbull County, Tuscarawas County, Union County, Warren County, Wayne County, Williams County, Wood County.

## **Additional Underserved Populations and Outreach**

**Rural Populations** – In year one of this plan, the CILs will identify rural populations within their service areas and the challenges in outreach to these groups. Meetings will be held with the IL Network and the SILC Education and Outreach Committee to determine some best practices in rural outreach. By year three of the plan, a report will be created highlighting the challenges and best practices identified.

**Urban Populations** - In year one of this plan, the CILs will identify urban populations within their service areas and the challenges in outreach to these groups. Meetings will be held with the IL Network and the SILC Education and Outreach Committee to determine some best practices in urban outreach. By year three of the plan, a report will be created highlighting the challenges and best practices identified.

## **Minority Groups**

- Centers will review census tract data regarding minority groups residing in each county they serve.
- Centers will evaluate and report their results regarding service to minority groups in their counties. Reports will be shared with the Education and Outreach Committee of the SILC.
- Centers will determine what languages are spoken among minority groups in their counties and what their Center's linguistic capabilities are.
- The IL Network will organize a MY Ohio Task Force by the end of year two of the plan. The MY Ohio Task Force will review, among other things, the outcomes of the national MY-CIL Learning Collaborative and assist each Ohio CIL to develop and implement plans and efforts to effectively expand IL services to minority youth in every county they serve.



### **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 development of future leaders. During the implementation of this Plan, the SILC will coordinate with local CILs to facilitate listening sessions at colleges and universities. The purpose of these sessions will be to introduce the college students to Independent Living, to introduce the disability service offices to Centers for Independent Living, and to understand the needs and perspective of youth with disabilities.

Outreach to youth will also be conducted in partnership with the DSE through the Regional Youth Leadership Forums. These forums will allow for the CILs to engage with high school students and help to increase their leadership and advocacy skills. Through the Regional Forums, we can begin to identify more future leaders in Independent Living.

### **Veterans with Disabilities**

The Veteran community with disabilities has been identified as a population that targeted outreach will be conducted. The Network believes that there are potential coordination and collaboration efforts that can be expanded upon through targeted outreach.

### **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community**

The IL Network in Ohio includes a program funded by the DSE that is targeted at serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community in Ohio. Throughout this Plan, we will work with the Community Centers for the Deaf to increase outreach and collaboration to allow greater access to Independent Living Services for this community.

### **Unserved Counties**

The Network of Centers for Independent Living have identified the following unserved counties to conduct initial outreach in determining the needs for Independent Living Services in Ohio: Athens County, Allen County, Ross County, and Morgan County areas. All areas that are identified are primarily rural populations that have been unserved with Title VII funding. In each of these counties, the SILC will conduct outreach in the local communities with individuals with disabilities and community stakeholders to discuss the services of CILs and the potential needs in these communities.

Additionally, a needs assessment will be created specifically for unserved areas of Ohio to create an analysis of the need for IL Services to prioritize the potential expansion of services.

### **Coordinated Outreach**

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 IL Program of Ohio. 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.

Section 2.2 Outreach outlines the activities identified to further the mission of the State Plan for Independent Living. The activities in this section address statewide outreach efforts and is to be separate from and coordinated with, but not replacing, the CILs outreach plans.

### 2.3 Coordination

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

The Ohio 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. As the Ohio SILC, we 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 below list is not all encompassing and new partners may be developed as opportunities arise.

#### **Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Response**

The Ohio SILC has begun working with CILs, other disability organizations, and FEMA in discussions on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Response. We will continue to develop this coordination, and work on the development of long-term strategies for the IL Network to better prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters.

#### **Aging Populations**

The Ohio SILC has been working more closely with the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (O4A) and the Ohio Department of Aging. We plan to continue working more closely with these partners as the aging population in Ohio is becoming a larger demographic group across the state and the rate of disability is higher in this group. Other than services, there are great opportunities for us to work with the O4A on the Age Friendly Communities projects that build more supportive communities for aging and disability populations.

#### **Developmental Disabilities**

The Ohio SILC has developed a strong relationship with the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council that has led to several partnerships that focus on advocacy opportunities. We plan to continue these relationships and expand the work that has been completed under these efforts. There will also be collaboration with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, and other groups in the Developmental Disability community to expand our reach to these groups and raise the awareness of Independent Living.

#### **Mental Health**

The Ohio IL Network will continue to explore options that bridge mental health and addiction services to Independent Living. Over the last ten years, the Ohio Centers for Independent Living

have worked more in this area through the nursing home transition work. Over the course of this Plan, the SILC will work to increase training for Centers to better understand and respond to individuals, as well as opportunities to work more closely with consumers and partners.

### **Ex-Officio Members to SILC**

The Ohio SILC has membership from the following State Agencies: Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. These Ex-Officio Council members assist in creating collaboration and coordination opportunities with their agencies.

### **ACL Partners**

The Ohio SILC has begun working more cooperatively with the ACL funded programs across Ohio. Over the course of this Plan we intend to continue the work of stronger coordination with these partners. We believe strong working relationships with these groups will lead to a stronger unified disability community across Ohio.

### **Client Assistance Program**

The Centers for Independent Living will coordinate with Disability Rights Ohio to ensure that all consumers served have access to updated information on the Client Assistance Program as required in Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act.

### **Additional Partners**

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:

- Advocates for Ohio's Future
- Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
- Direct Service Provider Groups
- Disability Rights Ohio
- Managed Care Organizations
- Medical Care Advisory Committee
- Ohio Aging and Disability Transportation Coalition
- Ohio Association of Health Plans
- Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence
- Ohio Department of Medicaid
- Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Ohio Department of Veterans Services
- Ohio Developmental Services Agency
- Ohio Disability Health Programs
- Ohio Housing Finance Agency
- Ohio Olmstead Task Force

As noted, this list is not all encompassing and new partnerships 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 exist.

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

#### 3.1 Existing Centers

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

Currently, there are 12 Centers for Independent Living in Ohio. The list below shows Centers for Independent Living required to comply with the standards and assurances in section 725 (b) and (c) of the Act listed by the types of Title VII funding utilized.

**To be recognized as a Center for Independent Living in Ohio eligible to sign the State Plan, the Center must demonstrate compliance with Section 725 (b) and (c) of the Act on an annual basis.**

#### **Part C funded Centers for Independent Living**

1. Center for Independent Living Options (CILO)
2. Access Center for Independent Living (ACIL)
3. Independent Living Center of North Central Ohio (ILCNCO)
4. Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment (MOBILE)

#### **Part C and Part B funded Centers for Independent Living**

1. Ability Center of Greater Toledo (ACT)
2. Tri-County Independent Living Center (TCILC)
3. Services for Independent Living (SIL)
4. Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP)
5. Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL)
6. Society for Equal Access (SEA)

#### **Part B funded Centers for Independent Living**

1. Western Reserve Independent Living Center (WRILC)
2. Center for Disability Empowerment (CDE)

The above Centers for Independent Living are listed below, in alphabetical order, with additional information.

Counties Served in **bold** are Core Service funded counties as indicated on the Center's original Part C funding agreement or in contracts for Part B/state funds with the DSE. Additional counties listed are served with additional services and programs offered by the Center, but not full Independent Living Services.

### **1. Ability Center of Greater Toledo**

5605 Monroe Street

Sylvania, Ohio 43560

[www.abilitycenter.org/](http://www.abilitycenter.org/)

(419)885-5722

Counties Served: **Lucas, Ottawa, Wood, Henry, Williams, Defiance, Fulton**, Sandusky, Seneca, Erie, Huron, Paulding, Putnam, Hancock, Wyandot, Crawford, Van Wert, Allen, Hardin, Marion, Mercer, Auglaize, Logan, Union

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

Funding Sources: Part C, Part B, State Funds

Oversight: - Part C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process  
- Part B/State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds  
- CARES Act Funding - Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

### **2. Access Center for Independent Living**

907 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100

Dayton, Ohio 45402

(937) 341-5202

[www.acils.com](http://www.acils.com)

Counties Served: **Montgomery, Greene, Clark, Preble**

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

Funding Sources: Part C, State Funds

Oversight: - Part C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process  
- State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds  
- CARES Act Funding - Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

### **3. Center for Disability Empowerment**

510 E. North Broadway

4th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43214

(614) 575-8055

[www.disabilityempowerment.net](http://www.disabilityempowerment.net)

Counties Served: **Franklin, Delaware, Union, Licking**

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

Funding Sources: Part B, State Funds

Oversight: - Part B/State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds

### **4. Center for Independent Living Options**

2031 Auburn Ave.

Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

(513) 241-2600

[www.cilo.net](http://www.cilo.net)

Counties Served: **Hamilton Butler, Warren, Brown, Clermont, Highland, Adams, Clinton, Preble, Darke, Shelby, Miami, Champaign, Clark, Madison, Greene, Montgomery, Fayette, Ross, Pike, Scioto, Vinton, Jackson, Lawrence, Gallia**

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

Funding Sources: Part C, Part B, State Funds

Oversight: - Part C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process  
- State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds  
- CARES Act Funding - Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

### **5. Independent Living Center of North Central Ohio**

2230 Village Mall Drive

Suites 1 & 2

Mansfield, Ohio 44906

(419) 526-6770

[www.ilcnco.org](http://www.ilcnco.org)

Counties Served: **Richland, Ashland, Huron, Crawford, Morrow, Knox**

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

Funding Sources: Part C

Oversight: - Part C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process  
- CARES Act Funding - Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

### **6. Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential**

2545 Lorain Ave.

Cleveland, Ohio 44113

(216) 696-2716

[www.leapinfo.org](http://www.leapinfo.org)

Counties Served: **Lorain, Erie, Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Medina, Ashland, Huron, Richland**

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

Funding Sources: Part C, Part B, State Funds

Oversight: - Part C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process  
- Part B/State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds  
- CARES Act Funding - Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

### **7. Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment**

690 South High St

Columbus, Ohio 43206

(614) 443-5936

[www.mobileonline.org](http://www.mobileonline.org)

Counties Served: **Franklin**

SPIL Signatory: Yes

Funding Sources: Part C

Oversight: - Part C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process  
- CARES Act Funding - Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

## **8. Services for Independent Living**

26250 Euclid Ave

Suite 801

Euclid, Ohio 44117

(216) 731-1529

[www.sil-oh.org](http://www.sil-oh.org)

Counties Served: **Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga**, Ashtabula, Wayne, Summit, Portage, Trumbull, Stark, Mahoning, Columbiana, Allen, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Logan, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Seneca, Union, Van Wert, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot

SPIL Signatory: Yes

Funding Sources: Part C, Part B, State Funds

Oversight: - Part C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process  
- Part B/State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds  
- CARES Act Funding - Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

## **9. Society for Equal Access**

1458 5th St., NW

New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

(330) 343-9292

[www.seailc.org](http://www.seailc.org)

Counties Served: **Tuscarawas, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Belmont, Guernsey, Coshocton, Holmes**, Muskingum, Perry, Licking, Noble, Monroe, Morgan, Fairfield, Hocking, Washington, Athens, Vinton, Meigs, Jackson, Gallia

SPIL Signatory: Yes

Funding Sources: Part C, Part B, State Funds

Oversight: - Part C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process  
- Part B/State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds  
- CARES Act Funding - Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

## **10. Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living**

418 S. Broad St.

Lancaster, Ohio 43130

(740) 689-1494

[www.socil.org](http://www.socil.org)

Counties Served: **Fairfield, Hocking, Athens**

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

Funding Sources: Part C, Part B, State Funds

Oversight: - Part C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process  
- Part B/State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds  
- CARES Act Funding - Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

### **11. Tri-County Independent Living Center**

520 S. Main St.

Suite 2501

Akron, Ohio 44311

[www.tcilc.org](http://www.tcilc.org)

Counties Served: **Summit, Start, Portage, Wayne, Medina**

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

Funding Sources: Part C, Part B, State Funds

Oversight: - Part C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process  
- Part B/State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds  
- CARES Act Funding - Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

### **12. Western Reserve Independent Living Center**

4076 Youngstown Road SE

Suite 203

Warren, Ohio 44484

(330) 372-3325

[www.wriloc.org](http://www.wriloc.org)

Counties Served: **Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, Ashtabula**

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

Funding Sources: Part B, State Funds

Oversight: - Part B/State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds

### 3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network

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

### **Definition of served, unserved, and underserved.**



For the purposes of this Plan, the determination of services is based upon the counties.

**Served** – For the purposes of this Plan, a served county is defined as one that has full Core Independent Living Services and the access and funding level to fully serve their community.

**Underserved** – For the purposes of this Plan, an underserved county is defined as a county that has access to Core Independent Living Services but does not have a funding level that is adequate to fully serve the entire community.

**Unserved** - For the purposes of this Plan, an unserved county is defined as a county that does not have access or funding for all Core Independent Living Services.

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

**Minimum Funding for Centers for Independent Living**

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

Population of people with disabilities	Base Funding Amount
1 to 75,000 individuals	\$330,000
75,001 to 150,000 individuals	\$375,000
150,001 and higher	\$450,000

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

Center	Population	Base
Ability Center of Greater Toledo	105,444	375,000
Access Center for Independent Living	128,676	375,000
Center for Disability Empowerment	154,771	450,000
Center for Independent Living Options	210,087	450,000
Independent Living Center of North Central	53,998	330,000
Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential	258,580	450,000

Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment	140,814	375,000
Services for Independent Living	221,472	450,000
Society for Equal Access	58,551	330,000
Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent	24,688	330,000
Tri-County Independent Living Center	149,954	375,000
Western Reserve Independent Living Center	96,491	375,000

Service area populations were developed using data from the American Community Survey based on the IL Service contracts of each Center. Centers not at the base level in Part C funds will be supplemented with Part B and State General Revenue dollars to achieve the base amounts defined.

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 Part C funding allocations as well as the Part B allocations to Ohio. 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.

All new funds, in excess of funds needed for base funds or cost of living adjustment, will be distributed based on the funding division formula. This formula factors rural populations, service levels needed, and economic factors of the region. Once all CILs are able to achieve their base funds, the current network of CILs will distribute funds in the following percentages:

Center	Percentage
Ability Center of Greater Toledo	13%
Access Center for Independent Living	8%
Center for Disability Empowerment	4%
Center for Independent Living Options	14%
Independent Living Center of North Central Ohio	11%

Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential	7%
Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment	3%
Services for Independent Living	16%
Society for Equal Access	6%
Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living	4%
Tri-County Independent Living Center	6%
Western Reserve Independent Living Center	8%

After all CILs have achieved base funding a percentage of new funds will be allocated towards expansion efforts. This percentage will be decided upon based upon the amount of funds available that are not one-time funds. In general, the goal will be to utilize 20% towards expansion of services based upon the plans for expanded services in Ohio.

In order for a Center to be eligible to receive funding in this funding formula, they must be in good standing with the Administration for Community Living, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, the Ohio Association of Centers for Independent Living, and the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council. If a Center is not in good standing, their portion of any allocations that are impacted by this plan will be distributed by the formula as established. The Centers must also be actively working towards the goals and objectives of the Plan, participating with the Network, and producing outcomes consistent to the agreed upon framework by the CILs.

### **New Funding Priorities by funding Source**

#### **New Part C Funds**

If significant new permanent Part C funds become available, the priority would be to fund the two Part B only funded Centers for Independent Living. Currently there are two CILs that do not have a Part C grant, and to increase the stability of our network significant new funds should be directed at a grant opportunity for these areas. Upon the Centers receiving new Part C funds, the state and Part B funds will be redistributed in accordance with the funding formula to build capacity of the Network.

After all current Centers are receiving Part C funds, the next priority will be the establishment of Centers or services in accordance with the expansion plans being developed under this Plan.

#### **New Part B Funds**

If significant new permanent Part B funds become available, the priority would be to establish all Centers at the minimum base funding as outlined in this plan. If funding is in excess of the

minimum base funding needed, it will be distributed by formula as detailed in this plan to build capacity of the Network.

If significant new funds become available, the next priority will be the establishment of Centers or services in accordance with the expansion plans being developed under this Plan.

**New State Funds**

If significant new non-temporary state funds become available, the priority would be to establish all Centers at the minimum base funding as outlined in this plan. If funding is in excess of the minimum base funding needed, it will be distributed by formula as detailed in this plan to build capacity of the Network.

**Expansion of Services**

If significant new funds become available through state funding, the next priority will be the establishment of Centers or services in accordance with the expansion plans being developed under this Plan.

Centers will be given opportunities to submit proposals for expansion of services into unserved regions in the state. The services may be provided in a variety of mechanisms including virtual.

**Unserved Counties**

Allen County	Jackson County	Muskingum County	Seneca County
<del>Athens County</del>	Lawrence County	Noble County	Shelby County
Auglaize County	Logan County	Paulding County	Van Wert County
Champaign County	Madison County	Perry County	Vinton County
Clinton County	Marion County	Pickaway County	Washington County
Darke County	Meigs County	Pike County	Wyandot County
Fayette County	Mercer County	Putnam County	
Gallia County	Miami County	Ross County	
Hancock County	Monroe County	Sandusky County	
Hardin County	Morgan County	Scioto County	

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

### **Part C Funding**

In the event a Title VII Part C funded Center should close or forfeit/lose funding, the Ohio IL Network will formally submit to the Administration for Community Living a recommendation on the most effective use of the funding to achieve the goals of this plan for the Network of Centers for Independent Living within 30 days of being made aware of the loss of funds.

The recommendations will be made from the following options:

- Reissuing a new grant competition for the same territory,
- Issuing a new competition for a new grant in a similar region with possible additions or reductions of counties based on the award amount,
- A redistribution of funds to existing Centers that follows the distribution as established by this Plan.

The Ohio IL Network believes the opportunity to provide the Administration for Community Living input in this decision increases consumer control and upholds the Independent Living Philosophy and the intent of this Plan.

### **Part B/State Funds**

In the event a Title VII Part B/State funded Center should close or forfeit/lose funding, the Ohio IL Network will formally submit to Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities a recommendation on the most effective use of the funding to achieve the goals of this plan for the Network of Centers for Independent Living within 30 days of being made aware of the loss of funds.

The recommendations will be made from the following options:

- Reissuing a new grant competition for the same territory,
- Issuing a new competition for a new grant in a similar region with possible additions or reductions of counties based on the award amount,
- A redistribution of funds to existing Centers that follows the distribution as established by this Plan.

The Ohio IL Network believes the opportunity to provide Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities with input in this decision increases consumer control and upholds the Independent Living Philosophy and the intent of this Plan.

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

### **Part C funds reduction**

In the event the allocation of Part C funds is reduced to the State of Ohio, the funds will be reduced in equal percentage across all Part C awards and to the extent possible, not reducing below base amounts.

### **Part B or State Funds reduction**

Part B or State funds will be reduced first in amounts not to bring Centers below the minimum base funds. If reduction is greater than allowing for Centers to remain at base funds, those over base will be reduced first then all Centers will be reduced an equal percentage.

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

### **Service Area Changes in this amendment**

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living will add Athens County under its Part C award.

### **Service Area Only Changes**

Centers for Independent Living may submit a formal request for consideration of changes to existing service areas. The changes can be made applicable to Part C, Part B, and/or State Funds. The Center will prepare and submit the request to the SILC.

The request will include the following information:

- Counties and areas that will be expanded and/or adjusted.
- Confirmation that the CIL's Board of Directors authorized the requested change
- Description of how service area change will impact the CIL and the disability community of the area.
- Date of when the service area change would become effective upon approval.

Upon receiving the request, the SILC will prepare a summary analysis of the changes including how it impacts Section 3.1 Existing Centers and 3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of the Network.

After the summary is created, it will be posted for a 30-day period to receive public input. Summary of the public input will be distributed to all Centers for Independent Living and the Council Members of the SILC.

CILs individually will submit their approval or rejection of the request to the SILC. In a public meeting, the SILC will discuss the public comments, review the CILs responses, and if all parties agree the change can become approved. If the change follows the existing plan, since the public will be given the opportunity to comment on the expansion or adjustment, a SPIL Amendment

will not be needed at that time. The technical amendment to Section 3.1 – Existing Centers, will be submitted to ACL. If there is disagreement to the proposed amendment, the Center will be notified of the reasons that the proposed changes were not agreed upon.

### **Changes that include funding distribution**

Centers for Independent Living may submit a formal request for consideration of changes to existing service areas. The changes can be made applicable to ~~Part C~~, Part B, and/or State Funds. The Center will prepare and submit the request to the Association of Centers for Independent Living.

The request will include the following information:

- Counties and areas that will be expanded and/or adjusted and the changes in funding required.
- Confirmation that the CIL’s Board of Directors authorized the requested change
- Description of how service area change will impact the CIL and the disability community of the area.
- Date of when the service area change would become effective upon approval.

The Association of Centers will make the determination if there is support within the Network of Centers. If the Network does not agree to the potential change, the Center and respective Board of Directors will be notified in writing by the Association.

If the Association agrees with the potential change, the request will be forwarded to the SILC. The SILC will prepare a summary analysis of the changes including how it impacts Section 3.1 Existing Centers and 3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of the Network. This information will be shared with ACL, to determine the process needed for an amendment to this Plan.

After the potential amendment is approved by ACL, it will be posted for a 30-day period to receive public input. Summary of the public input will be distributed to all Centers for Independent Living and the Council Members of the SILC.

In a public meeting, the SILC will discuss the public comments, review the CILs responses, and if all parties agree the change can become approved. Once approved, the amendment will be submitted to ACL for final approval.

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

### **One-Time Funding**

In the event of one-time state or federal funding becoming available to the IL Network in Ohio, 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 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 Ohio that are deemed one-time 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.

### **Temporary Service Area Changes**

In the case of an emergency or disaster in Ohio, in following the ACL/ILA Policy on Independent Living Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response Services, the Ohio IL Network will adopt the following:

- CILs may provide Title VII independent living (IL) services to individuals with disabilities who have been affected by a disaster or emergency who live within their designated service area and who have evacuated into their service area.
- CILs will coordinate with each other in their region as appropriate to meet the critical needs of people with disabilities.
- CILs are encouraged to work on developing Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) to outline steps Centers can take to assist people with disabilities in affected disaster areas, including service areas that a Center is not assigned to serve.
- If the area affected is not covered by a CIL, one or more CIL(s) in the general vicinity is certainly allowed and encouraged to provide services to individuals with disabilities affected. Activities and services in the situation must be documented to be reported to ACL, OOD, and SILC.
- In an area affected by a disaster where a CIL is already providing services, but requires the assistance of another CIL, the CIL seeking to provide disaster response services will collaborate with the existing CIL serving the area to do so.

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

**Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities** will serve as the entity in **Ohio** 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. (*Sec. 704(c)*)

### **4.1 DSE Responsibilities**

- (1) receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under this chapter based on the plan;
- (2) provide administrative support services for a program under Part B, and a program under Part C in a case in which the program is administered by the State under section 723;
- (3) keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;
- (4) submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and



- (5) retain not more than 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 Grant Process & Distribution of Funds

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

##### **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. A review committee will be established by the DSE in collaboration with the SILC. The DSE will draft the initial Request for Proposals and receive input from the SILC prior to being distributed for responses.

##### **Disbursement and Administration**

Part B and State funds will be allocated through annual contracts from the DSE. Prior to the start of the grant year, Centers will be notified of their award amount. The Centers will then prepare the budget in accordance with the DSE standard contracting practices for approval. Once approved, the DSE will issue a contract to the Center. As part of the response, applicant will submit additional proof of compliance as a Center for Independent Living as required in the Act.

Centers may request a portion of no more than 25% at the commencement of their contract as an advance payment. Afterwards, Centers will submit monthly invoices to the DSE for payment. After review, prompt payment will be made electronically to the Centers.

#### 4.3 Oversight Process for Part B Funds

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

##### **Oversight Process for Part C Funds**

As noted in Section 3.1 Network of Centers, Part C funding oversight is the responsibility of ACL. The DSE has no authority to monitor Part C funds at this time. This is applicable to all Part C Funds, whether any other funds are distributed from the DSE to the CILs or not.

##### **Oversight Process for Part B and other funds distributed to CILs by DSE**

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.

#### 4.4 Administration and Staffing

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) is the Ohio Designated State Unit for Vocational Rehabilitation and the Designated State Entity for Independent Living. OOD provides internal staffing support to receive, account for, and disburse state and federal funds allocated for the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council resource plan, Center for Independent Living operations with Part B and state funds, and/or State Plan for Independent Living objectives, in accordance with the approved State Plan for Independent Living and with applicable state and federal law, as per Title VII requirements of the Designated State Entity. This includes the administration of the Personal Care Assistance and Community Centers for the Deaf programs. The DSE support staff are not staff assigned to the SILC, and no conflicts of interest exist in the relationship between assigned support staff and the SILC staffing.

**Explain how the DSE will demonstrate that not more than 5% of the Part B appropriation (including state match) will be used on administrative costs.**

The DSE does not retain any of the Part B funds for administrative cost.

**When DSE employees serve as staff to the SILC, describe how the SILC will hire, fire, and supervise such staff.**

The Ohio SILC does not utilize DSE Staffing for the operation of SILC.

**Describe how the DSE will assure that such staff will not be assigned to other projects/activities that would create a conflict of interest with their SILC responsibilities.**

Since the Ohio SILC does not utilize DSE staff, no such conflicts exist.

4.5 State Imposed Requirements

State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL including: *(45 CFR 1329.17(g))*

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

At this time, there are no additional state-imposed requirements that limit, expand, or alter the requirements of the SPIL.

At this time, there are no additional state-imposed requirements that limit, interfere with, or alter SILC autonomy in fulfilling its duties, authorities, and responsibilities.

4.6 722 vs. 723 State

Check one:

X   722 (if checked, will move to Section 5)  
       723 (if checked, will move to Section 4.7)

#### 4.7 723 States

Order of priorities for allocating funds amounts to Centers, agreed upon by the SILC and Centers, and any differences from 45 CFR 1329.21 & 1329.22.

How state policies, practices, and procedures governing the awarding of grants to Centers and oversight of the Centers are consistent with 45 CFR 1329.5, 1329.6, & 1329.22.

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

#### 5.1 Establishment of SILC

How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.

#### **Establishment and Placement**

The SILC is an independent state agency in Ohio, classified as a quasi-state entity. The SILC is not within any other state agency, including the DSE. The SILC currently has an Executive Order from the Governor of Ohio that establishes and authorizes its continuance pursuant to state and federal laws. The current can be found on the Governor of Ohio's website or the Ohio SILC website.

#### **Autonomy**

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 an I&E budget that is based on the approved operating budget. The DSE reviews the SILC budget for any issues in allowability or compliance with state and federal laws. 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 Treasurer and SILC Staff. After review and amendment, 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.

Several processes are in place to ensure proper internal controls including the Treasurer reviewing each month's bank statements, check signing limits, and monthly detailed invoices with documentation submitted to the DSE supporting the proper expenditure of federal funding.

There are no conditions or requirements that are imposed by the DSE or any other entity that may compromise the independence of the SILC. The SILC and the DSE work hard to maintain the independence of the SILC by not having language in grant award agreements that may

inadvertently compromise the SILC's autonomy. They have worked cooperatively at the state level to educate legislators and key staff in Office of Budget and Management that Ohio SILC is an independent program.

### 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.

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

The Resource Plan was prepared by the SILC in conjunction with the DSE. Annually, the DSE awards the SILC a contract that includes at a minimum \$371,662 which includes at least \$250,000 of Title I Innovation & Expansion (I&E) funds and \$67,662 Ohio General Revenue Funds (GRF). The DSE will guarantee the minimum contract to the SILC for all years outlined in this Plan.

At present, there is a line item in the state budget of \$252,000 for the Independent Living Council. The line item is used to match the I&E funds for the SILC, as well as to match the Title VII Part B award that is fully distributed to the CILs.

If a situation occurs that CILs do not expend all the awarded Part B funds, the decision on the use of those funds in the next fiscal year is made by the SILC. If retained by SILC, it will be used toward activities to benefit the IL Network.

The resource plan supports all management and operation of the SILC including, but not limited to, staffing, office administration cost, operational costs, contractual services, board training and development, staff training and development, travel both in and out of state for staff and board, assisting the IL Network, any reasonable accommodations for board, staff, or the public.

The resource plan will ensure the SILC's ability to perform the duties and all authorities of SILC:

(1) Duties. – The Council shall

(A) develop the State plan as provided in section 704(a)(2);

(B) monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State plan;

(C) meet regularly, and ensure that such meetings of the Council are open to the public and sufficient a

(D) submit to the Administrator such periodic reports as the Administrator may reasonably request, and keep such records, and afford such access to such records, as the Administrator finds necessary to verify the information in such reports; and

(E) as appropriate, coordinate activities with other entities in the State that provide services similar to or complimentary to independent living services, such as entities that facilitate the provision of or provide long-term community-based services and supports.

(2) Authorities. – The Council may, consistent with the State plan described in section 704, unless prohibited by State law –

(A) in order to improve services provided to individuals with disabilities, work with Centers for Independent Living to coordinate services with public and private entities

as part of the IL Network and toward the goals and objectives including the IL Network;

(B) conduct resource development activities to support the activities described in this subsection or to collaborate and support the provision of Independent Living services by Centers for Independent Living; SILC will participate in the goals and objectives outlined in the Plan to support the SILC and the Centers for Independent Living.

(C) perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of this chapter and comparable to other functions described in this subsection, as the Council determines to be appropriate. Conducting systemic advocacy will be completed under this authority.

All funds included in the plan are based upon prior years of financial information and commitment from the DSE, subject to state appropriation amounts. Should changes in appropriations occur, the SILC in consultation with the DSE, will develop a plan to address the changes in the SILC resource plan.

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

The funds in the SILC Resource Plan are all part of the DSE's budget from the State of Ohio.

Disbursement of funds happens in the following manner:

- State General Revenue – The SILC will make a letter request for funds to be distributed from the line item specified for SILC Operations.
- Innovation and Expansion – These funds are reimbursed on a monthly basis following the invoicing practices from the DSE. The DSE makes prompt payment of all invoices after review to ensure that expenses are within the budget for the funds that SILC has developed and submitted to the DSE.

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

Not Applicable at this time. The SILC retains no Part B funds as part of the SILC Resource Plan.

### 5.3 Maintenance of SILC

How State will maintain SILC over the course of the SPIL.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Recruitment and Appointing Authority**

Members of the SILC are appointed by the Governor of the State of Ohio. When vacancies arise, the SILC recruits potential members considering factors of significant disability, disability type, geographic representation, ethnicity, and background knowledge of Independent Living. When individuals apply, the SILC reviews the applications submitted and will send a letter to the Governor with either a recommendation to appoint or a recommendation to not appoint for a given reason.

#### **Staffing of SILC**

The SILC Executive Director, consistent with state law, is managed, supervised, and evaluated by the appointed SILC Members. The other staff of SILC is managed, evaluated, and supervised

by the Executive Director in accordance with the approved SILC personnel policies. Personnel policies of SILC are approved and reviewed periodically by the SILC.

### **SILC Operations**

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

## **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 **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities**.

Authorized representative of the DSE **Kevin Miller** Title **Executive Director**.

### 6.2 Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

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

### 6.3 Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

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

Center for Independent Living Options (CILO)

Access Center for Independent Living (ACIL)

Independent Living Center of North Central Ohio (ILCNCO)

Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment (MOBILE)

Ability Center of Greater Toledo (ACT)

Tri-County Independent Living Center (TCILC)

Services for Independent Living (SIL)

Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP)

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL)

Society for Equal Access (SEA)

Western Reserve Independent Living Center (WRILC)

Center for Disability Empowerment (CDE)

### 6.4 Authorizations

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

6.4.b. The SILC and CILs may legally carryout each provision of the SPIL. **Yes**

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

**Yes**

### **Section 7: DSE Assurances**

**Kevin Miller** acting on behalf of the DSE **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities** located at **150 East Campus View Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio 43235** *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 silc 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;<sup>1</sup>
- 7.4. The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in *45 CFR 1329.14*;
- 7.5. The DSE will not interfere with the business or operations of the SILC that include but are not limited to:
  1. Expenditure of federal funds
  2. Meeting schedules and agendas
  3. SILC board business
  4. Voting actions of the SILC board
  5. Personnel actions
  6. Allowable travel
  7. Trainings
- 7.6. The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff:
  1. If the SILC informs the DSE that the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff, the DSE assures that management of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC is the sole responsibility of the SILC in accordance with Sec. 705(e)(3) of the Act (Sec. 705(e)(3), 29 U.S.C.796d(e)(3)).
- 7.7. The DSE will fully cooperate with the SILC in the nomination and appointment process for the SILC in the State;
- 7.8. The DSE shall make timely and prompt payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs:
  1. When the reimbursement method is used, the DSE must make a payment within 30 calendar days after receipt of the billing, unless the agency or pass-through entity reasonably believes the request to be improper;

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

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

Kevin Miller, Executive Director

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Name and Title of DSE director/authorized representative

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Signature

Date

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

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

### 8.1 Assurances

**Kevin Flynn** acting on behalf of the SILC **Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council** located at **670 Morrison Road, Suite 200, Gahanna, Ohio 43230** 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;<sup>1</sup>
- (3) The SILC terms of appointment adhere to the Act;<sup>1</sup>
- (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.<sup>1</sup>



- (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.<sup>1</sup>

### Section 8.2 Indicators of Minimum Compliance

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

#### (a) STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL INDICATORS. –

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

- (2) The SILC maintains regular communication with the appointing authority to ensure efficiency and timeliness of the appointment process.
- (3) The SILC maintains individual training plans for members that adhere to the SILC Training and Technical Assistance Center’s SILC training curriculum.
- (4) The SILC receives public input into the development of the State Plan for Independent Living in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.17(f) ensuring:
  - a. Adequate documentation of the State Plan development process, including but not limited to, a written process setting forth how input will be gathered from the state’s centers for independent living and individuals with disabilities throughout the state, and the process for how the information collected is considered.
  - b. All meetings regarding State Plan development and review are open to the public and provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i)-(ii);
  - c. Meetings seeking public input regarding the State Plan provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws, and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i);
  - d. Public meeting locations, where public input is being taken, are accessible to all people with disabilities, including, but not limited to:
    - i. proximity to public transportation,
    - ii. physical accessibility, and
    - iii. effective communication and accommodations that include auxiliary aids and services, necessary to make the meeting accessible to all people with disabilities.
  - e. Materials available electronically must be 508 compliant and, upon request, available in alternative and accessible format including other commonly spoken languages.
- (5) The SILC monitors, reviews and evaluates the State Plan in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(2) ensuring:
  - a. Timely identification of revisions needed due to any material change in State law, state organization, policy or agency operations that affect the administration of the State Plan approved by the Administration for Community Living.
- (6) The SILC State Plan resource plan includes:
  - a. Sufficient funds received from:
    - i. Title VII, Part B funds;
      - 1. If the resource plan includes Title VII, Part B funds, the State Plan provides justification of the percentage of Part B funds to be used if the percentage exceeds 30 percent of Title VII, Part B funds received by the State;
    - ii. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18), as applicable;

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

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

Kevin Flynn  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of SILC chairperson

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

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

**Section 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 **Ohio 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 October 1, 2020

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SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

DATE

Kevin Flynn

NAME OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

Ability Center of Greater Toledo

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

---

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Stuart James

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Access Center for Independent Living

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

---

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Jeremy Caffee

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Center for Disability Empowerment

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

---

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Susan Hetrick

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Center for Independent Living Options

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Rob Festenstein

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Independent Living Center of North Central Ohio

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Pamela Drake

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Melanie Hogan

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Johannes Christian

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Services for Independent Living

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Shannon Monyak

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Society for Equal Access

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Kevin Hannahs

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Jordy Stringer

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Tri-County Independent Living Center

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

John Ballard

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

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Western Reserve Independent Living Center

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

---

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

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Pamela Davies

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

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