

**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: 2025 - 2027**

**Effective Date: October 1, 2024**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number (OMB 0985-0044). Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 240 hours per response, including time for gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to receive financial assistance (Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended).

## **Executive Summary**

The 2025-2027 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) 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 "Ohioans with disabilities have the resources and supports to maintain choice and control over their lives, and a strong SILC and CILs working to advance policy through advocacy with the disability community across the state". 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:

- Public policy supports the inclusion and independence of people with disabilities.
- Independent Living Services are impactful and increase the independence of individuals served.
- Centers for Independent Living in Ohio are efficient and have the capacity to serve their community.

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 of 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 elements 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.

Ohioans with disabilities have the resources and supports to maintain choice and control over their lives, and a strong SILC and CILs working to advance policy through advocacy with the disability community across the state.

The State Plan for Independent Living encompasses the joint work that will be completed in coordination between the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and the 12 Centers for Independent Living (CILs), referred to in this Plan as the IL Network.

### 1.2 Goals:

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

**Goal 1 (Advocacy and Policy):** Public policy supports the inclusion and independence of people with disabilities.

**Goal 2 (IL Services):** Independent Living Services are impactful and increase the independence of individuals served.

**Goal 3 (Network of CILs):** Centers for Independent Living in Ohio are efficient and have the capacity to serve their community.

### 1.3 Objectives

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

**Goal 1 (Advocacy and Policy):** Public policy supports the inclusion and independence of people with disabilities.

<b>Objective 1.1</b> - Advocacy of the IL Network in Ohio will impact the policies of the State of Ohio.
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<b>Measurable Indicators</b>
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<b>FFY 2025</b>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 25% of the IL Network will submit at least one public comment on agency rules and regulations or submit public testimony on federal state legislation.</li></ul> |
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- 10% of the members of the Ohio General Assembly will be informed of the work of CILs.
- 15% of the Members of Congress from Ohio will be informed of the work of CILs.
- One state agency will meet with the IL Network to seek input and provide updates.

**FFY 2026**

- 50% of the IL Network will submit at least one public comment on agency rules and regulations or submit public testimony on federal state legislation.
- 20% of the members of the Ohio General Assembly will be informed of the work of CILs.
- 25% of the Members of Congress from Ohio will be informed of the work of CILs.
- Two state agencies will meet with the IL Network to seek input and provide updates.

**FFY 2027**

- 75% of the IL Network will submit at least one public comment on agency rules and regulations or submit public testimony on federal state legislation.
- 25% of the members of the Ohio General Assembly will be informed of the work of CILs.
- 50% of the Members of Congress from Ohio will be informed of the work of CILs .
- Three state agencies will meet with the IL Network to seek input and provide updates.
- 60% of individuals surveyed will report that the Ohio IL Network makes positive impacts through advocacy.
- 60% of individuals surveyed will report that the IL Network has increased awareness of the barriers individuals with disabilities experience.

**Activities**

CILs and SILC will identify and review potential issues for public comment and relevant testimony opportunities. Testimony and comment drafts will be shared with the network to assist others in developing their own written comment and/or testimony.

CILs and SILC will meet regularly with members of the Ohio Congressional Members and General Assembly to inform them on the services and programs of the CILs, give regular updates on what the CILs are doing in their community, how CILs can assist their constituents, and how the CILs and SILC can assist with reviewing and providing input on policy that will impact the disability community.

State Agencies will be invited by the SILC to present to the CILs and SILC about the programs and potential changes to programs so that CILs can be fully informed and aware of what will impact their consumers, as well as give input and recommendations to the agencies on ways to improve service delivery to individuals with disabilities.

Community Perception and Impact Survey will be conducted to measure the awareness and impact of IL Services, CILs, and the SILC.

<b>Geographic Scope:</b>	Statewide
<b>Target Date:</b>	9/30/2027

**Objective 1.2** - The Ohio IL Network will strengthen advocacy across the state.

**Measurable Indicators**

**FFY2025**

The SILC and CILs will have an Advocacy Plan developed which will include all of the following information:

- Identifying priorities and key issue areas.
- Major barriers defined. Partner strategic mapping.
- Consumer engagement strategies including consumer impact stories.
- Process to assess and modify plans as new issues arise.

**FFY 2026**

The SILC and CILs will implement the Advocacy Plan.

- Baseline information for consumer engagement will be established.
- Collection of consumer impact stories will begin. 50% of CILs and the SILC will identify individuals to share impact stories.
- Information gathering and position papers will begin to be developed.

**FFY 2027**

The SILC and CILs will implement the Advocacy Plan.

- Consumer engagement will increase 10% from baseline.
- 75% of CILs and SILC will have consumer impact stories to share.
- 60% of individuals surveyed will report that position papers provided valuable information

**Activities**

The IL Network will develop a workgroup to create the Advocacy Plan. The group will work to narrow specific priorities and major barriers that exist around the issue areas. Consumers and other stakeholders with experience and information that is relevant to the issues will be engaged to give input on the plan and work to be done. Partner organizations that have similar alignment or are working in relevant areas will be identified and specific tasks will be identified to include in the Advocacy Plan. Consumer engagement in the plan will be incorporated in all levels of the proposed work.

The Ohio SILC will create an annual work plan to gather input and feedback from the community about issue areas as a means of collecting data and personal stories. Data and information that is collected will be put into informational documents and reports that will assist the IL Network in their Advocacy Plan.

When possible, position papers will be drafted utilizing all collected data and information to highlight barriers and issues from the disability community.

<b>Geographic Scope:</b>	Statewide
<b>Target Date:</b>	9/30/2027

**Objective 1.3** - People with disabilities in Ohio have increased skills to be effective in their own advocacy.

### Measurable Indicators

#### FFY 2025

- SILC will develop informational materials about serving on boards and highlight opportunities to become more involved in advocacy work.
- CILs will collect information on the achievement of Self-Advocacy and Self-Empowerment outcomes and develop a baseline.
- CILs will work together to develop a training for staff on the importance of self-advocacy and self-empowerment of consumers to direct their own lives.

#### FFY 2026

- SILC will conduct one webinar about serving on boards, including other organizations. 60% of people participating in evaluations will better understand opportunities to engage.
- CILs will work with consumers on the achievement of their self-advocacy and self-empowerment goals with a 5% increase in goals achieved.
- CILs will provide training to staff on the importance of self-advocacy and self-empowerment with 30% of CIL staff receiving the training

#### FFY 2027

- SILC will conduct one webinar about serving on boards, including other organizations. 60% of people participating in evaluations will better understand opportunities to engage.
- CILs will work with consumers on the achievement of their self-advocacy and self-empowerment goals with a 5% increase in goals achieved.
- CILs will provide training to staff on the importance of self-advocacy and self-empowerment with 30% of CIL staff receiving the training.

### Activities

In year one of the Plan, the Ohio SILC will develop a presentation with resources and information about getting engaged with the SILC and other boards, commissions, and workgroups to elevate individual's voices and advocacy efforts. Part of the training will include information about other opportunities for involvement and bring in partner organizations to talk about their work. Once the training is developed it will be conducted at least once annually.

CILs are currently working with individuals that have chosen a self-advocacy/self-empowerment



related goal. CILs will continue to work in these areas with individuals and report the completed outcomes annually.

CILs annually report what their CIL is doing to promote self-help and self-advocacy with individuals. The IL Network will develop training, incorporating the best practices amongst the CILs, that will be offered to all staff of all CILs on an annual basis.

<b>Geographic Scope:</b>	Statewide
<b>Target Date:</b>	9/30/2027

**Goal 2 (IL Services):** Independent Living Services are impactful and increase the independence of individuals served.

**Objective 2.1** - Individuals with disabilities served by Centers for Independent Living will increase their independence and control.

### **Measurable Indicators**

#### **FFY 2025**

- 75% of consumers served will report being more independent after working with the CIL upon closure.
- 75% of consumers served will report the CIL helped the individual achieve their goals upon closure.
- 80% of active consumers will report that working with the CIL is advancing their independence.
- Percentage of consumer goals achieved will be reported as a baseline.
- Percentage of consumers closed with all goals achieved will be reported as a baseline.

#### **FFY 2026**

- 80% of consumers served will report being more independent after working with the CIL upon closure.
- 80% of consumers served will report the CIL helped the individual achieve their goals upon closure.
- 85% of active consumers will report that working with the CIL is advancing their independence.
- Percentage of consumer goals achieved will increase 5% from baseline.
- Percentage of consumers closed with all goals achieved will increase 5% from baseline.

#### **FFY 2027**

- 85% of consumers served will report being more independent after working with the CIL upon closure.
- 85% of consumers served will report the CIL helped the individual achieve their goals upon closure.
- 90% of active consumers will report that working with the CIL is advancing their independence.

- Percentage of consumer goals achieved will increase 5% from FFY 2026.
- Percentage of consumers closed with all goals achieved will increase 5% from FFY 2026.

**Activities**

CIL staff will document the progress and status of consumer goal progress.

CILs will conduct and report the consumer satisfaction survey data on closed consumers.

CILs will conduct and report the consumer satisfaction survey data on active consumers.

**Geographic Scope:** Served Counties

**Target Date:** 9/30/2027

**Objective 2.2 - Youth with disabilities will be served by Centers for Independent Living.**

**Measurable Indicators**

**FFY 2025**

- The SILC will engage with the CILs to solicit candidates for a youth advisory group.
- CILs will report the number of youth served as a baseline.
- Youth participating in the CILs Regional Youth Leadership Forums will report the following:
  - 75% will have learned new skills to become a stronger leader.
  - 75% will feel more confident with themselves after participating.
  - At least 50% will understand more about their disability and disability rights after participating.

**FFY 2026**

- Youth advisory group will assist in developing one document that can be used by CILs for consumer outreach to youth populations.
- 50% of CILs will provide information to the youth advisory group about outreach to youth.
- Youth participating in the CILs Regional Youth Leadership Forums will report the following:
  - 80% will have learned new skills to become a stronger leader.
  - 80% will feel more confident with themselves after participating.
  - 60% will understand more about their disability and disability rights after participating.

**FFY 2027**

- Youth advisory group will draft report of recommendations for CILs.
- 10% more youth will be engaged by CILs than baseline.
- Youth participating in the CILs Regional Youth Leadership Forums will report the following:

- 85% will have learned new skills to become a stronger leader.
- 85% will feel more confident with themselves after participating.
- 75% will understand more about their disability and disability rights after participating.

**Activities**

The Ohio SILC will solicit candidates from the CILs who can be engaged through virtual advisory group to discuss what their experience was in working with the CILs, how other youth can be engaged, and provide recommendations on what our Network can do to improve and be more appealing to the next generation of disability leaders both in service delivery and as a place to work.

Outreach materials using the feedback from the focus group will be created that can highlight the work of the CILs and the philosophy of Independent Living. Specifically making materials that will be useable by CILs when reaching out to schools and other youth populations leading to future increases of youth being served by CILs.

CILs that are conducting Youth Leadership Forum events will create engaging and educational opportunities from which the participants will benefit. CILs will conduct program evaluation with the participants to get their feedback and responses, while also asking past participants if they have further interest in being involved in advocacy and leadership opportunities.

<b>Geographic Scope:</b>	Statewide
<b>Target Date:</b>	9/30/2027

**Objective 2.3** - Individuals with disabilities will successfully transition from institutional settings to the community.

**Measurable Indicators**

**FFY 2025**

- Metrics will be reviewed by the Data Group and proposed as recommendations to the CIL Directors to include information about the transition services.

**FFY 2026**

- Number of individuals transitioning will be more effectively tracked, with the additional data that demonstrates the impacts of the service and the cost savings.
- Number of individuals transitioning and remaining in community for at least one year will start to be tracked.

**FFY 2027**

- 25% of individuals transitioning to less restrictive settings will share success testimonials.
- Initial report of the data of the transition services, including the percentage remaining out

of institutional settings for at least one year, will be reported.

<b>Activities</b>
CIL Data group will develop an informational report on transition services to collect data about the type of institution the individual transitioned from, the type of setting that the individual moved to, the types of home and community-based services used post-transition, major barriers, and the amount of time for the completed transition with estimate of the cost of the transition services including staff time.
CILs will follow up with individuals that transition one year post transition and report their current status.
A return on investment will be calculated based on the data collected.
Consumer testimonials will be collected sharing their stories and the work they completed with the CIL.

<b>Geographic Scope:</b>	Served Counties
<b>Target Date:</b>	9/30/2027

**Goal 3 (Network of CILs):** Centers for Independent Living in Ohio are efficient and have the capacity to serve their community.

**Objective 3.1** - The Ohio IL Network will demonstrate effectiveness of IL Services.

<b>Measurable Indicators</b>
<b>FFY 2025</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Ohio IL Network will develop a framework of service delivery definitions that 75% of CILs will adopt.</li><li>• Workgroup will be developed that consists of individuals that have experience and understanding of program development, design, and evaluation.</li></ul>
<b>FFY 2026</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The data group will work on the development of a Data Report Card that provides CILs a tool to measure the work of their CIL more effectively and produce better statewide reporting on impacts.</li><li>• Program Workgroup will review current practices and identify a model structure to pilot the development of service delivery in a more measurable way for specific service.</li></ul>
<b>FFY 2027</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 50% of CILs will utilize the Data Report Card and be able to see beneficial information to be used in the measuring of their effectiveness.</li><li>• Pilot process will be conducted by one CIL and a report drafted with recommendations for the Network.</li></ul>

<b>Activities</b>
The Data Group and the CILs will all work collectively to review the federal definitions of consumer services and goal outcomes. Simplified explanations with examples will be created so consumers and staff have better understanding of what the meaning is behind each service and outcome. Recommended practices will be developed for the structure of services and the reporting.
Simplified options will be created as possible to reduce the burden of the CILs staff in data entry practices.
If possible, a framework similar to the previous system of outcome reporting will be developed that reports outcomes in a more meaningful way than the current federal definitions.
A report card template will be developed that reviews the outcomes and the data that the CILs have identified. Data will be compiled as needed to present on the impact of the IL Network.
Ongoing training for CIL staff on database usage and reporting.
A workgroup of individuals that have experience and understanding of program development, design, and evaluation will be established and will review current practices including external experts. The group will focus on identifying promising practices in the network or at other CILs that can be adopted and expanded upon. The goal will be to understand how IL Services can be strengthened by reporting measures of effectiveness.
A model structure will be developed by the workgroup that builds on practices of building evidence-based programs that have demonstrated success and potential return on investment for a specific service or services as determined by the workgroup and CILs. The workgroup will have specific recommendations and a process that can be implemented with strategies for improvement.
One or more CILs will volunteer to pilot and test the model developed and report the data that comes from the pilot.

<b>Geographic Scope:</b>	Statewide
<b>Target Date:</b>	9/30/2027

**Objective 3.2** - The community will be aware of the IL Network and the impact of CILs.

<b>Measurable Indicators</b>
<b>FFY 2025</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CILs will work to develop a process to collect consumer impact and success stories about the services of CILs.</li> </ul>
<b>FFY 2026</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CILs will collect stories and an awareness campaign will be developed.</li> <li>75% of CILs will participate in the collection of stories for Network campaign.</li> </ul>
<b>FFY 2027</b>

- Number of consumer success and impact stories will increase by 20% over FFY 2026.
- Materials and information will be widely shared across the state.
- In the Community Perception Survey there will be:
  - 5% increase in the number of people that have heard of CILs.
  - 5% increase of the number of people that have heard of the SILC.
  - A majority of respondents will either agree or strongly agree with the core principles of Independent Living.

**Activities**

The IL Network will work to create formal processes for regular collection of consumer impact stories that show the success of working with the CILs and the barriers that need to be addressed. CILs will implement the processes and begin the collection of stories, photos, and video testimonials of consumers.

Information collected will be used and a coordinated effort of the network will be implemented to highlight the work of the CILs, the impact of the services, and the barriers that individuals with disabilities face in the community.

<b>Geographic Scope:</b>	Statewide
<b>Target Date:</b>	9/30/2027

**Objective 3.3** - The Ohio IL Network will evaluate capacity and service requirements.

**Measurable Indicators**

FFY 2025

- SILC and CILs will develop a capacity review tool and distribute to the Network.

FFY 2026

- Data will be collected and a draft report developed addressing the capacity needs, infrastructure of the network, and recommendations for targeted capacity building and expansion.

FFY 2027

- Draft report to be finalized.

**Activities**

The SILC and CILs will work to develop a review tool that looks at the current structure and capacity of the CILs that will include: Current staffing levels, staffing and management structure, financial performance, service area needs, service area limitation, demand for services, successful fee-for-service programs, and promising practices.

A report will be created showing how equity of the CIL network can be established.

Work of expansion will be reviewed to make recommendations for future planning of where full services expansion can take place and with what structure. With possible recommendation of CILs being developed.
Full report will give a comprehensive view of the network structure and plans for the ongoing sustainability of Independent Living.

<b>Geographic Scope:</b>	Statewide
<b>Target Date:</b>	9/30/2027

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.

## 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.

## Evaluation of Goals and Objectives

### Goal 1: Goal 1 (Advocacy and Policy): Public policy supports the inclusion and independence of people with disabilities.

Timeline	Objective	Data to be Collected	Data Collection Method	Organization Primarily Responsible for Data Collection
<p>Semi-Annual evaluation.</p> <p>SILC Advocacy Committee will review the semi-annual progress reports at regular meetings. IL Network will be informed of progress toward completing annual benchmarks.</p>	<p>Objective 1.1 Advocacy of the IL Network in Ohio will impact the policies of the State of Ohio.</p>	<p>- Number of public comments and testimony submissions.</p> <p>- Number of Ohio General Assembly Members are informed of the work of their CIL and how the CIL can help in policy decisions.</p> <p>- Number of Congressional Delegation Members are</p>	<p>Survey to IL Network compiled and reviewed by SILC.</p>	<p>SILC, CILs</p>



		informed of the work of CILs		
<p>Semi-Annual evaluation.</p> <p>SILC Advocacy Committee will compile information and report out on the final progress each year of the Plan.</p>	<p>Objective 1.2 The Ohio IL Network will strengthen advocacy across the state.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Final Advocacy Plan document.</li> <li>- Number of consumers engaged, and personal stories collected.</li> <li>- Data collection progress and activity report from SILC.</li> <li>- Policy position and briefing papers and reports created.</li> </ul>	<p>Survey to IL Network compiled and reviewed by SILC.</p>	<p>SILC, CILs</p>
<p>Semi-Annual evaluation.</p> <p>Ohio SILC's Education and Outreach Committee will review the progress reports and make recommendations as needed.</p>	<p>Objective 1.3 People with disabilities in Ohio have increased skills to be effective in their own advocacy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of SILC trainings completed and attendance.</li> <li>- Number of CIL consumer goals achieved and in progress with the issue area of self-advocacy/self-empowerment.</li> <li>- Annual report of CIL work in the community to promote self-help and self-advocacy.</li> <li>- Number of trainings completed for the IL Network and number of CIL staff</li> </ul>	<p>Survey to IL Network compiled and reviewed by SILC.</p>	<p>SILC, CILs</p>

		attending.		
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**Goal 2: Goal 2 (IL Services): Independent Living Services are impactful and increase the independence of individuals served.**

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Data to be Collected</b>	<b>Data Collection Method</b>	<b>Organization Primarily Responsible for Data Collection</b>
Annual evaluation  SILC State Plan Committee will review data and make recommendations as needed.	Objective 2.1 Individuals with disabilities served by Centers for Independent Living will increase their independence and control.	- Consumer satisfaction survey data  - Consumer case closure data	Survey to IL Network compiled and reviewed by SILC and PPR data.	SILC, CILs
Annual evaluation  Ohio SILC State Plan Committee will review data and make recommendations as needed.	Objective 2.2 Youth with disabilities will be served by Centers for Independent Living.	- Number of youth individuals served by CILs.  - Number of advisory group participants.  - Youth Leadership Forum participants program evaluation data.  - Completed outreach and education materials.	Survey to IL Network compiled and reviewed by SILC and PPR data.	SILC, CILs
Annual evaluation  Ohio SILC State	Objective 2.3 Individuals with disabilities will successfully	- Transition service data.  - Demographics	Survey to IL Network compiled and reviewed by SILC and PPR data.	SILC, CILs

Plan Committee will review data and make recommendations as needed.	transition from institutional settings to the community	based on data group recommendations.  - Consumer testimonials.		
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**Goal 3: Goal 3 (Network of CILs): Centers for Independent Living in Ohio are efficient and have the capacity to serve their community.**

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Data to be Collected</b>	<b>Data Collection Method</b>	<b>Organization Primarily Responsible for Data Collection</b>
Semi-Annual evaluation.  Ohio SILC State Plan Committee will review data and make recommendations as needed.	Objective 3.1 The Ohio IL Network will demonstrate effectiveness of IL Services.	- Definitions and guides created.  - Report Card template  - Current practices of the CILs in measuring effectiveness of IL Services.  - Report on a potential model to implement the workgroup.	Semi-annual progress reporting.	SILC, CILs
Semi-Annual evaluation.  Ohio SILC Education and Outreach Committee will review materials and make recommendations as needed.	Objective 3.2 The community will be aware of the IL Network and the impact of CILs.	- Consumer impact stories.	Survey to IL Network compiled and reviewed by SILC.	SILC, CILs
Annual	Objective 3.3	- Review tool	Annual progress	SILC, CILs

evaluation  Ohio SILC State Plan Committee will review materials and make recommendations as needed.	The Ohio IL Network will evaluate capacity and service requirements.	development  - Review tool data  - Expansion data reporting  - Final report	reporting.	
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### 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):</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>			2,920,092		0
Chapter 1, Part B			650,147		0
Chapter 1, Part C					
<b>Other Federal Funds</b>					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion shall not be \$0)	250,000				
Social Security Reimbursement		5,358,022			
Other					
<b>Non-Federal Funds Part B State Match</b>			72,238		

Other State Match for Funds in SPIL	67,662				
State Funds	112,100	528,000	1,500,000		
Other					

### **Narrative Section**

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**.

Funds in this category are utilized in the fulfilment of the Duties and Authorities of the SILC as well as the work identified toward the completion of the Goals and Objectives in Section 1 of this 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. The CCDs provide Interpreting and Communication Services, Advocacy, and Peer Support to the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind communities.
- Special Projects that promote independent living - The DSE plans and facilitates projects that promote independent living for individuals with disabilities.

Funds in this category are utilized in the operation and provision of services as listed above, these funds are not used toward the Goals and Objectives in Section 1 of this Plan.

### **General CIL Operations**

Part C funding is currently distributed to the 10 Centers for Independent Living that have been awarded direct federal funding from the Administration on Community Living. Centers receiving Part C grants are listed in Section 3.2 Network of Centers of this Plan. The amount represented in this Plan is based upon the award amounts of the Centers for Independent Living from the funding appropriated in the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act as enacted.

Part B funds received by the State of Ohio are utilized for the general operations of the Centers for Independent Living. The Part B funds are fully matched with State General Revenue funds from the Line Item 415402 - Independent Living Council in the State of Ohio Operating Budget. The amount represented in the Plan is based upon the funding appropriated in the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act as enacted, with the required match calculated in the Non-Federal Funds Part B State Match.

State General Revenue Funds (GRF) is appropriated in the State of Ohio Operating Budget to the Centers for Independent Living in the DSE's budget in Line Item 415511 - Centers for Independent Living. The funding appropriated is designated to be used in accordance with this Plan. The amount represented in this Plan is the amount currently appropriated in the 2024 and 2025 Biennium Budget.

Funds in this category are utilized in the fulfillment of the operation and provision of services by Centers for Independent Living, as well as the work identified toward the completion of the Goals and Objectives in Section 1 of this Plan.

To be eligible to receive funding as a Center for Independent Living:

- Consumer controlled organizations including the board, management, and staff.
- Provide at a minimum the Core Services of Information and Referral, Peer Support, Advocacy, Independent Living Skills Training, Institutional Transition, Diversion, and Youth Transition.
- Maintain compliance with Section 725 of the Rehabilitation Act.

### **Additional Information**

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. 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 statewide reach.

<b>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>
Core Independent Living Services, as follows:			
- Information and referral	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
- Individual and systems advocacy	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
- Peer counseling	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
- IL skills training	X	X	CILs, DSE contractors
- Transition services including:	X	X	CILs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transition from nursing homes &amp; other institutions</li> </ul>	X	X	CILs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diversion from institutions</li> </ul>	X	X	CILs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life</li> </ul>	X	X	CILs
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	X	X	CILs

<b>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>
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
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			
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	X	X	CILs
Physical rehabilitation	X	X	CILs
Therapeutic treatment			
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	X	X	CILs
Individual and group social and recreational services	X	X	CILs



<b>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)
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
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 to Unserved and Underserved Populations

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 and how outreach will be conducted to address equity.

### Definitions

**Unserved** - For the purposes of this Plan, an unserved county is defined as a county that does not have access to or funding for Core Independent Living Services. At present, 23 of Ohio's 88 counties meet this definition.

**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. At present, 65 of Ohio's 88 counties meet this definition.

**Served** - For the purposes of this Plan, a served county is defined as one that has full access to Core Independent Living Services the funding level to fully serve their community. To measure a level of fully serving, a county would have at minimum 5% of the disability population served annually, for at least two consecutive years. At present, 0 of Ohio's 88 counties meet this definition.

**Rural** - For the purposes of this plan, rural will be defined on a county level basis. Comparing information from various sources of data and definitions, rural is designated as a county that has a population density of less than 200 people per square mile. 60 of Ohio's 88 counties meet this definition of Rural.

**Partially Rural** - Due to several counties being predominantly rural, with some smaller urban centers, several counties are classified as Partially Rural. These are counties with a population density of between 200 and 450 people per square mile. 14 of Ohio's 88 Counties meet this definition of Partially Rural.

**Urban** - The United States Census Bureau has classified 114 cities in Ohio as urban. For the purposes of this Plan, a county will be defined as urban if there is a population density of greater than 450 people per square mile. 14 of Ohio's 88 counties meet this definition of Urban.

**Minority Groups** - ACL has defined minority groups as "American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian American, Black or African American (not of Hispanic origin), Hispanic or Latino (including persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Central or South American origin), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander". For the purposes of this plan, we also include other population groups that can be socially disadvantaged due in part to being subject to potential discriminatory acts including those in racial and ethnic minority groups, gender and sexuality minority groups, and religious minority groups.

### **Targeted Populations**

On an annual basis, the Ohio SILC will coordinate with the Centers for Independent Living to assess populations that are underserved. This will be done utilizing demographic data and known statistics from the American Community Survey and information from the CILs Annual Program Performance Reports. As possible, trending data will be utilized to assess overall changes from the FFY 2024 to the FFY 2026 reporting years. The process will define key populations and demographics, as well as barriers to successful outreach.

### **Targeted Geographic Regions**

On an annual basis, the Ohio SILC will coordinate with the Centers for Independent Living to assess counties within their service areas that are underserved. Counties shall be assessed on

three factors to determine the level of priority for coordinated outreach efforts. The assessment will be based on the following: counties that have either not had an individual served through a Consumer Information File, not had individuals served in community activities, and/or not provided at least three of the core services. Information from the CILs Annual Program Performance Reports will be utilized. As possible, trending data will be utilized to assess overall changes from the FFY 2024 to the FFY 2026 reporting years. The process will define key populations and demographics, as well as barriers to successful outreach.

## **Outreach Activities and Methods**

The efforts of the IL Network to conduct outreach efforts will be done in conjunction to the work of the Goals and Objectives in Section 1 of this Plan. The activities and methods identified in this Plan are potential strategies based upon work conducted in the FFY 2021-2024 Ohio State Plan for Independent Living where forums were conducted to address outreach barriers and learn best practices specifically to Rural and Urban areas.

- Connecting with organizations and service providers that are working with individuals with disabilities and/or in key issue areas that impact individuals with disabilities.
- Dedicating time to relationship building with community leaders from communities that are historically unserved and underserved to build more trusted relationships.
- Strategically planning outreach activities, and as possible, understanding the impact different types of activities have.
- Utilizing storytelling and consumer testimonials to share messaging and impact.
- Recruit staff, volunteers and board members from communities that are identified as unserved and underserved.
- Participating in the geographic communities that are unserved and underserved.
- Ensuring materials are able to be translated, and translation /interpretation services can be acquired for those that do not use or are not fluent in English, including ASL.
- Ensuring that accommodations are made when requested.

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.

Coordination and collaboration across the IL Network is a priority in achieving the mission of the State Plan for Independent Living and the advancing Independent Living in Ohio.

### **SILC and CIL Coordination**

- The SILC and CILs maintain productive collaboration and coordination on a regular basis. This work includes:
  - SILC coordinates meetings and listening sessions where partner organizations can address and gather input from the Network of CILs.
  - Participating in the Ohio Association of CILs meetings.
  - CIL staff inclusion on SILC Committees and workgroups.
  - The network's Data Group.
  - Funding and grant opportunities.
  - Coordination in advocacy efforts.
  - SILC assisting in payment for data system.
  - SILC providing funds for CILs needing assistance.
  
- Over the period of this Plan, the SILC and CIL Network will:
  - Continue to improve communication and collaboration across the network.
  - Create new opportunities for information sharing across CILs.

### **SILC, CILs and DSE Coordination**

- The SILC and CILs will continue to work on increasing coordination with the DSE and the programs and services they offer. This may include work in the following areas:
  - Building relationships with DSE funded providers such as the Community Centers for the Deaf and the CILs.
  - Working with the Accessible Ohio Program launched by the DSE in 2023.
  - Working on the Regional Youth Leadership Forum Program, funded by the DSE for the CILs to provide with coordination from the SILC.
  - SILC representation on the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council (SRC)

### **CILs and Local Coordination**

- 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. Coordination efforts that are directly related to the SPIL will be reported on an annual basis.

### **SILC Partnership and Coordination**

- The Ohio SILC will continue to coordinate and build relationships with various statewide partners that provide services similar and complementary to Independent Living Services.

## **Specific Areas of Coordination**

- **Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Response**
  - During the COVID-19 pandemic, several CILs developed stronger working relationships with local emergency management services. CILs will continue building coordination and partnership in these areas.
  - The Ohio SILC is part of the State of Ohio's Emergency Operations Center's structure, assisting in sharing information to the Network of CILs during an emergency or disaster, and also connecting emergency operations to CILs in impacted areas.
  - Network will continue to build on work related to disaster preparedness and response, consistent with the FAQ from ACL.
- **ACL Partners**
  - The Ohio SILC continues to work 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.
- **Ex-Officio Agency Members of SILC**
  - The Ohio SILC has membership from the following State Agencies: Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (DSE), 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.
- **Aging**
  - 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.
- **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.

- **Additional Partners**
  - Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF)
  - Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)
  - Direct Service Provider Groups
  - Disability Rights Ohio (DRO)
  - Managed Care Organizations and the Ohio Association of Health Plans
  - Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)
  - 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
  - Ohio Brain Injury Program
  - Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities
  
- 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 exists.

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

### 3.1 Existing Centers

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

#### **Access Center for Independent Living**

*Counties Served:* Clark, Greene, Montgomery, Champaign, Darke, Logan, Miami, Preble, Shelby

*All Sources of Funding:*

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Administration for Community Living's Compliance and Outcome Monitoring.

State Funds

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

*Oversight Entity:* DSE and ACL/OILP

*SPIL Signatory:* Yes

*County Services*

Clark (Full Services), Greene (Full Services), Montgomery (Full Services), Champaign (Limited Services), Darke (Limited Services), Logan (Limited Services), Miami (Limited Services), Preble (Full Services), Shelby (Limited Services)

#### **Center for Disability Empowerment**

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

*All Sources of Funding:*

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

State Funds

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

*Oversight Entity:* DSE

*SPIL Signatory:* Yes

*County Services*

Delaware (Full Services), Franklin (Full Services), Licking (Full Services), Union (Full Services)

### **Independent Living Center of North Central Ohio, Inc.**

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

*All Sources of Funding:*

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Administration for Community Living's Compliance and Outcome Monitoring.

State Funds

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

*Oversight Entity:* DSE and ACL/OILP

*SPIL Signatory:* Yes

*County Services*

Ashland (Full Services), Crawford (Full Services), Huron (Full Services), Knox (Full Services), Marion (Limited Services), Morrow (Full Services), Richland (Full Services)

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

*Counties Served:* Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Sandusky, Stark, Summit

*All Sources of Funding:*

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Administration for Community Living's Compliance and Outcome Monitoring.

State Funds

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

*Oversight Entity:* DSE and ACL/OILP

*SPIL Signatory:* Yes

*County Services*

Ashtabula (Limited Services), Cuyahoga (Full Services), Erie (Full Services), Geauga (Limited Services), Huron (Limited Services), Lake (Limited Services), Lorain (Full Services), Medina (Full Services), Sandusky (Limited Services), Stark (Limited Services), Summit (Limited Services)

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

*Counties Served:* Franklin

*All Sources of Funding:*

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Administration for Community Living's Compliance and Outcome Monitoring.



*Oversight Entity:* ACL/OILP  
*SPIL Signatory:* Yes  
*County Services*  
Franklin (Full Services)

### **Services for Independent Living**

*Counties Served:* Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake

*All Sources of Funding:*

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Administration for Community Living's Compliance and Outcome Monitoring.

State Funds

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

*Oversight Entity:* DSE and ACL/OILP

*SPIL Signatory:* Yes

*County Services*

Cuyahoga (Full Services), Geauga (Full Services), Lake (Full Services)

### **Society for Equal Access**

*Counties Served:* Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Tuscarawas

*All Sources of Funding:*

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Administration for Community Living's Compliance and Outcome Monitoring.

State Funds

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

*Oversight Entity:* DSE and ACL/OILP

*SPIL Signatory:* Yes

*County Services*

Belmont (Full Services), Carroll (Full Services), Coshocton (Full Services), Guernsey (Full Services), Harrison (Full Services), Holmes (Full Services), Jefferson (Full Services), Tuscarawas (Full Services)

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

*Counties Served:* Athens, Fairfield, Hocking

*All Sources of Funding:*

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Administration for Community Living's Compliance and Outcome Monitoring

State Funds

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

*Oversight Entity:* DSE and ACL/OILP

*SPIL Signatory:* Yes

*County Services*

Athens (Full Services), Fairfield (Full Services), Hocking (Full Services)

### **The Ability Center of Greater Toledo**

*Counties Served:* Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Williams, Wood

*All Sources of Funding:*

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Administration for Community Living's Compliance and Outcome Monitoring.

State Funds

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

*Oversight Entity:* DSE and ACL/OILP

*SPIL Signatory:* Yes

*County Services*

Allen (Limited Services), Defiance (Full Services), Fulton (Full Services), Hancock (Limited Services), Henry (Limited Services), Lucas (Full Services), Ottawa (Full Services), Paulding (Limited Services), Putnam (Limited Services), Sandusky (Limited Services), Seneca (Limited Services), Williams (Full Services), Wood (Full Services)

### **The Center for Independent Living Options, Inc.**

*Counties Served:* Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, Highland, Warren

*All Sources of Funding:*

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Administration for Community Living's Compliance and Outcome Monitoring.

State Funds

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

*Oversight Entity:* DSE and ACL/OILP

*SPIL Signatory:* Yes

*County Services*

Adams (Full Services), Brown (Full Services), Butler (Full Services), Clermont (Full Services), Hamilton (Full Services), Highland (Full Services), Warren (Full Services)

### **Tri-County Independent Living Center (DBA Advancing Independence)**

*Counties Served:* Portage, Stark, Summit, Wayne

*All Sources of Funding:*

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Administration for Community Living's Compliance and Outcome Monitoring.

State Funds

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

*Oversight Entity:* DSE and ACL/OILP

*SPIL Signatory:* Yes

*County Services*

Portage (Full Services), Stark (Full Services), Summit (Full Services), Wayne (Limited Services)

### **Western Reserve Independent Living Center**

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

*All Sources of Funding:*

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

State Funds

- Oversight Process: Oversight by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, see Section 4.5 - Oversight Process of Part B Funds for details.

*Oversight Entity:* DSE

*SPIL Signatory:* Yes

*County Services*

Ashtabula (Full Services), Columbiana (Full Services), Mahoning (Full Services), Trumbull (Full Services)

Currently, there are 12 Centers for Independent Living in Ohio. In order to be recognized as a Center for Independent Living in Ohio, compliance with Section 725 (b) and (c) of the Rehabilitation Act and 45 CFR 1329.5 must be demonstrated on an annual basis.

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

1. Ability Center of Greater Toledo (ACT)
2. Access Center for Independent Living (ACIL)
3. Center for Independent Living Options (CILO)
4. Independent Living Center of North Central Ohio (ILCNCO)
5. Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP)
6. Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment (MOBILE)
7. Services for Independent Living (SIL)
8. Society for Equal Access (SEA)
9. Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL)
10. Tri-County Independent Living Center (dba Advancing Independence Network) (TCILC)

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

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

Independent Living Program Regulation 45 CFR §1329.5:

To be eligible to receive funds under this part (Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living), a Center must comply with the standards in section 725(b) and assurances in section 725(c) of Title VII of the Act.

### **Standards**

Standards

#### **Standard 1: Philosophy**

The Center shall promote and practice the independent living philosophy of--

Consumer control of the Center regarding decision-making, service delivery, management, and establishment of the policy and direction of the center;

Self-help and self-advocacy;

Development of peer relationships and peer role models; and

Equal access for individuals with significant disabilities, within their communities, to all services, programs, activities, resources, and facilities, whether public or private and regardless of the funding source.

#### **Standard 2: Provision of Services**

The Center shall provide IL services to individuals with a range of significant disabilities. The Center shall provide services on a cross-disability basis (for individuals with all different types of significant disabilities, including individuals with significant disabilities who are members of populations that are unserved or underserved by programs under Title VII of this Act).

The Center shall determine eligibility for IL services. The Center may not base eligibility on the presence of any one or more specific significant disabilities.

### **Standard 3: Independent Living Goals**

The Center shall facilitate the development and achievement of independent living goals selected by individuals with significant disabilities who seek such assistance by the Center.

### **Standard 4: Community Options**

The Center shall work to increase the availability and improve the quality of community options for independent living in order to facilitate the development and achievement of independent living goals by individuals with significant disabilities.

### **Standard 5: Independent Living Core Services**

The Center shall provide independent living core services and, as appropriate, a combination of any other independent living services.

### **Standard 6: Activities to Increase Community Capacity**

The Center shall conduct activities to increase the capacity of communities within the service area of the center to meet the needs of individuals with significant disabilities.

### **Standard 7: Resource Development Activities**

The Center shall conduct resource development activities to obtain funding from sources other than this chapter [Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Act].

### **Assurances**

The eligible agency shall provide at such time and in such manner as the Administrator may require, such satisfactory assurances as the Administrator may require, including satisfactory assurances that--

1. The applicant is an eligible agency;
2. The Center will be designed and operated within local communities by individuals with disabilities, including an assurance that the Center will have a Board that is the principal governing body of the Center and a majority of which shall be composed of individuals with significant disabilities;
3. The applicant will comply with the standards set forth in subsection (b);

4. The applicant will establish clear priorities through annual and 3-year program and financial planning objectives for the Center, including overall goals or a mission for the Center, a work plan for achieving the goals or mission, specific objectives, service priorities, and types of services to be provided, and a description that shall demonstrate how the proposed activities of the applicant are consistent with the most recent 3-year State plan under section 704;
5. The applicant will use sound organizational and personnel assignment practices, including taking affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503;
6. The applicant will ensure that the majority of the staff, and individuals in decision-making positions, of the applicant are individuals with disabilities;
7. The applicant will practice sound fiscal management;
8. The applicant will conduct self-evaluations, prepare an annual report, and maintain records adequate to measure performance with respect to the standards, containing information regarding, at a minimum--
  1. The extent to which the Center is in compliance with the standards;
  2. The number and types of individuals with significant disabilities receiving services through the Center;
  3. The types of services provided through the Center and the number of individuals with significant disabilities receiving each type of service;
  4. The sources and amounts of funding for the operation of the Center;
  5. The number of individuals with significant disabilities who are employed by, and the number who are in a management and decision-making positions in, the Center; and
  6. A comparison, when appropriate, of the activities of the Center in prior years with the activities of the Center in the most recent year;
9. Individuals with significant disabilities who are seeking or receiving services at the Center will be notified by the Center of the existence of, the availability of, and how to contact, the client assistance program;
10. Aggressive outreach regarding services provided through the Center will be conducted in an effort to reach populations of individuals with significant disabilities that are unserved or underserved by programs under this title, especially minority groups and urban and rural populations;
11. Staff at Centers for Independent Living will receive training on how to serve such unserved and underserved populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations;
12. The Center will submit to the Statewide Independent Living Council a copy of its approved grant application and the annual report required under paragraph (8);
13. The Center will prepare and submit a report to the designated State unit or the Administrator, as the case may be, at the end of each fiscal year that contains the information described in paragraph (8) and information regarding the extent to which the Center is in compliance with the standards set forth in subsection (b); and
14. An independent living plan described in section 704(e) will be developed unless the individual who would receive services under the plan signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary.

**Ability Center of Greater Toledo (ACT)**

5605 Monroe Street  
Sylvania, OH 43560  
[www.abilitycenter.org](http://www.abilitycenter.org)  
419-885-5733

**Access Center for Independent Living (ACIL)**

165 E. Helena St.,  
Dayton, Ohio 45404  
[www.acils.com](http://www.acils.com)  
937-341-5202

**Center for Disability Empowerment (CDE)**

4400 N. High St., Suite 102  
Columbus Ohio 43214  
[www.disabilityempowerment.net](http://www.disabilityempowerment.net)  
(614) 575-8055

**Center for Independent Living Options (CILO)**

2368 Victory Parkway, Suite 501  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206  
[www.cilo.net](http://www.cilo.net)  
513-241-2600

**Independent Living Center of North Central Ohio (ILCNCO)**

680 Park Avenue West, G2  
Mansfield, Ohio 44906  
[www.ilcnco.org](http://www.ilcnco.org)  
419-526-6770

**Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP)**

2545 Lorain Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
[www.leapinfo.org](http://www.leapinfo.org)  
216-696-2716

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

1829 E. Long Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43223  
[www.mobileonline.org](http://www.mobileonline.org)  
614-443-5946

**Services for Independent Living (SIL)**

800 Sharon Drive, Suite C  
Westlake, OH 44145  
[www.sil-oh.org](http://www.sil-oh.org)  
216.731.1529

**Society for Equal Access (SEA)**

22 Bank Lane  
Dover, Ohio 44622  
330-343-9292

**Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL)**

418 South Broad Street  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
[www.socil.org](http://www.socil.org)  
(740) 689-1494

**Tri-County Independent Living Center (dba Advancing Independence Network) (TCILC)**

520 S Main St  
Suite 2502  
Akron, OH 44311  
[www.ainohio.org](http://www.ainohio.org)  
330-762-0007

**Western Reserve Independent Living Center (WRILC)**

4076 Youngstown Rd. SE, Suite 203  
Warren, Ohio 44484  
[www.wriloc.org](http://www.wriloc.org)  
330-372-3325

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



### 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, and use of funds to build capacity of existing Centers, establish new Centers, and/or increase statewide reach of Network.

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

For the purposes of this Plan, the determination of the definitions is based upon the potential of providing levels of service to meet the needs of the community. The Plan used population data from the American Community Survey as a data source to provide the most accurate information on population by county, although the data is limited to non-institutionalized individuals.

**Served** - For the purposes of this Plan, a served county is defined as one that has access to full Core Independent Living Services the funding level to fully serve their community. To measure a level of fully serving, a county would have at minimum 5% of the disability population served annually, for at least two consecutive years. At present, 0 of Ohio's 88 counties meet this definition.

**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. At present, 65 of Ohio's 88 counties meet this definition.

**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. At present, 23 of Ohio's 88 counties meet this definition.

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

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

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

Based on data from the American Community Survey, and utilizing the counties that are funded with Part B and Part C funding, each Center base amount of funding is below as follows:

<b>Center</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Base</b>
<b>Ability Center of Greater Toledo</b>	105,444	375,000
<b>Access Center for Independent Living</b>	128,676	375,000
<b>Center for Disability Empowerment</b>	154,771	450,000
<b>Center for Independent Living Options</b>	210,087	450,000
<b>Independent Living Center of North Central</b>	53,998	330,000
<b>Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential</b>	258,580	450,000
<b>Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment</b>	140,814	375,000
<b>Services for Independent Living</b>	221,472	450,000
<b>Society for Equal Access</b>	58,551	330,000
<b>Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent</b>	24,688	330,000
<b>Tri-County Independent Living Center</b>	149,954	375,000
<b>Western Reserve Independent Living Center</b>	96,491	375,000

### **Plan for Distribution to Achieve Minimum Funding**

Minimum funding level for CILs is based upon the total amount of Part C, Part B, and state funding.

1. The CILs Part C award will be factored into the minimum calculation. The amount remaining to achieve the base amount will then be identified.
2. The amount remaining to achieve minimum funding will then be used to calculate the amount of funding to be contracted by the DSE in a combination of Part B and State General Revenue Funds.

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 State of Ohio. 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.

### **Cost-of-Living Adjustment**

The minimum funding level will be assessed every two years to determine if a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is needed. If a COLA is required, the Network of CILs will determine the percentage amount based upon a verified data source, and present the amount to the SILC for possible amendment to the SPIL. If the amount is less than 5% a technical amendment will be submitted to ACL, and the DSE notified of the new contract amounts to the CILs.

Priorities for establishment of new CIL(s).

### **Priority 1**

The priority of the network in establishment of new CILs is the recognition of the two current CILs without Part C grant awards.

- Western Reserve Independent Living Center (Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, and Columbiana Counties)
- Center for Disability Empowerment (Franklin, Delaware, Union, and Licking Counties)

### **Priority 2**

The establishment of permanent funding for satellite centers based in the expanded areas of two CILs.

- Ability Center of Greater Toledo (Allen, Hancock, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, and Seneca Counties).
- Access Center for Independent Living (Champaign, Darke, Logan, Miami, and Shelby Counties)

### **Priority 3**

The establishment of CILs or significant expansion in Southeastern Ohio, Southern Ohio, and Western Ohio in the remaining unserved counties.

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

### **Distribution of Funding After Minimum**

#### ***Existing Network Capacity***

After all CILs are funded at a minimum operating level, 80% of excess will be distributed to the existing network to increase capacity. The distribution will be determined based on the percentage of the counties that are potentially receiving all core services as noted in **Section 3.1 – Existing Centers** of the Plan. The maximum allocation will be 10% per CIL. In the situation that a CIL would have over 10%, the remaining percentage will be divided amongst those CILs at the lowest minimum funding level. Table below shows current distribution as an example. The actual amounts will be calculated annually based on CIL eligibility for funding, population changes, and amount of funding available.

<b>Center</b>	<b>Population Percentage</b>	<b>10% Maximum</b>	<b>Excess to Lowest Base</b>	<b>Total Distribution</b>
<b>Ability Center of Greater Toledo</b>	7%	7%		7%
<b>Access Center for Independent Living</b>	8%	8%		8%
<b>Center for Disability Empowerment</b>	10%	10%		10%
<b>Center for Independent Living Options</b>	13%	10%		10%
<b>Independent Living Center of North Central</b>	3%	3%	4%	7%
<b>Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential</b>	16%	10%		10%
<b>Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment</b>	9%	9%		9%
<b>Services for Independent Living</b>	13%	10%		10%
<b>Society for Equal Access</b>	4%	4%	4%	8%
<b>Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent</b>	2%	2%	4%	6%
<b>Tri-County Independent</b>	9%	9%		9%

<b>Living Center</b>				
<b>Western Reserve Independent Living Center</b>	6%	6%		6%
<b>Total</b>	100%	88%	12%	100%

***Expansion***

As noted in the above section, 80% of the excess funding after base amounts are calculated are allocated toward the capacity of the network. The remaining 20% will be utilized to provide some expansion of services and to explore options for potential expansion of services. Currently, three CILs are receiving funding under this provision for the expansion of services and exploration of service expansion: The Ability Center of Greater Toledo, the Access Center for Independent Living, and Independent Living Center of North Central Ohio.

If further funds become available, CILs will submit proposals to the SILC for the areas in which they would like to receive funding for expansion of services. The Network of CILs will review the proposals and provide the recommendation to the SILC. If proposal is recommended to be funded, the DSE will be notified of the new contract amount and the counties to be added to the contract.

Any county added by a CIL under expansion will not be counted in the population data to determine base, and will not be added as a county for all core services unless the CIL follows the process to adjust their service area as outlined in this Plan  
Plan/formula for distribution of new funds (Part B, Part C, one-time funds, etc.)

**New Funding Priorities by funding Source**

**Part C Funding**

***Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (COLA)***

If ACL has determined there will be a COLA for Part C awards, ACL will verify amounts and allocate the COLA.

***Significant New Part C Funds (\$200,000 or more)***

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, Western Reserve ILC and Center for Disability Empowerment, 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.

**Excess of COLA, less than \$200,000**

If new Part C funds, in excess of COLA, are less than \$200,000 the funds will be distributed in efforts to raise as many CILs to minimum funding levels as possible. If a CIL is already receiving Part C in excess of the minimum funding level established, then they would not receive any additional funding in excess of COLA.

**Part B Funding**

New Part B funding shall follow the plans for funding distribution as outlined in this section.

### **State General Revenue Funding**

New State General Revenue funding shall follow the plans for funding distribution as outlined in this section.

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. State the needed change(s) as concretely and succinctly as possible.

No changes to service areas and/or funding levels are included in this plan except for changes in funding that may occur annually based upon the funding distribution outlined in this section.

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

### **Process for 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(s).
- Description of how service area change(s) will impact the CIL and the disability community of the area.
- Date of when the service area change(s) 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, and the draft SPIL amendment will be sent to ACL.

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. 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.

### **Process for 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 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.

Temporary Changes (if applicable) Other (if applicable)

### **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 or related* - 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 **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 Administration and Staffing: DSE Assurances

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.

The DSE in Ohio does not retain a portion of Title VII Part B funding for administrative purposes.

The DSE does not provide staffing for the operation of the SILC.

### 4.3 State- Imposed Requirements

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

- State law, regulation, rule, or policy relating to the DSE's administration, funding, or operation of IL programs, and/or establishment, funding, and operations of the SILC

- Rule or policy implementing any Federal law, regulation, or guideline that is beyond what would be required to comply with 45 CFR 1329
- That limits, expands, or alters requirements for the SPIL

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.

#### 4.4 Grant Process & Distribution of Funds

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

##### **Continuation Awards**

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. DSE will follow the distribution plan for funding as outlined in the SPIL when funding CILs.

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.

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.

##### **New Awards**

New awards for CILs will be determined based on the process as outlined in Section 3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of the Network in determining the availability of new awards.

If a new award to a Center were to be needed to serve an unserved area, a competitive process will be utilized as appropriate and in accordance with the SPIL. The process for development of the proposal will follow any applicable state policies and procedures for soliciting of proposals. The DSE will draft the initial Request for Proposals and receive input from the SILC prior to being distributed for responses.

##### **Development of Proposals**

If a new award were to be issued to an organization wanting to receive funding as a Center for Independent Living, the DSE will work in conjunction with the SILC on developing a proposal that will align with the plans in **Section 3.2** for expansion and adjustment of the network.

The proposal will ensure the organization meets the requirements in Section 725 of the Rehab Act.

##### **Proposal Review**

A review committee will be established by the DSE in collaboration with the SILC. Review will have emphasis on the proposal's adherence to the philosophy of Independent Living, including consumer-control, all core-service provision, and demonstrated compliance with Section 725 of the Rehabilitation Act.

**Process for Evaluation of Performance and Compliance**

The DSE maintains processes for the review of performance and compliance as outlined in **Section 4.5** of the SPIL. Compliance of the CILs is reviewed through the annual submission of the Annual Program Performance Report.

4.5 Oversight Process for Part B Funds

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE

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

The DSE has a Monitoring and Compliance Unit that regularly reviews and monitors provider services. The Provider Monitoring and Compliance Unit collaborates with providers on any corrective action plans resulting from these reviews to help improve service quality and billing/reporting accuracy.

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 individuals 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.

DSE shall follow procedures as required in Ohio Administrative Code Section 3304-1-10 regarding conducting audits.

4.6 722 vs. 723 State

Check one:

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

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

### 5.1 Establishment of SILC

How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.

#### **Establishment**

The Ohio SILC was first established through an Executive Order from Governor Voinovich in 1993 with Executive Order 93-141V creating the Ohio Independent Living Council. The Ohio General Assembly authorized the appointment of an Executive Director of the SILC in 1995 to support the work of the Ohio Independent Living Council.

In 2000, Governor Taft issued Executive Order 2000-02T creating the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council as the successor to the Ohio Independent Living Council. Since then, multiple Ohio Governors have issued Executive Orders reauthorizing the continuance of the Ohio SILC pursuant to state and federal laws:

- Governor Strickland in 2009, Executive Order 2009-02S
- Governor Kasich in 2012, Executive Order 2012-04K
- Governor Kasich in 2015, Executive Order 2015-03K
- Governor Kasich in 2018, Executive Order 2018-02K
- Governor DeWine in 2021, Executive Order 2021-03D

The current can be found on the Governor of Ohio's website or the Ohio SILC website. All past Executive Orders are on file with the Ohio SILC.

#### **Placement and Structure**

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 Ohio SILC staff, including the Executive Director, are not state employees pursuant to Section 3304.50 of Ohio Revised Code, and report only to the Council.

#### **Autonomy**

The ongoing autonomy of the SILC is assured by the structure and placement of the Council. Since the SILC does not exist within any other state agency or within the DSE, the SILC operates under approved bylaws and operating policies created and approved by the members of the SILC.

The Executive Director of the SILC is appointed by and reports only to the SILC. Additional staff of the SILC are hired by and report to the Executive Director.

There are no conditions or requirements that are imposed by the DSE or any other entity that may compromise the independence of the SILC. The SILC and the DSE work hard to maintain

the independence of the SILC by not having language in grant award agreements that may inadvertently compromise the SILC's autonomy. They have worked cooperatively at the state level to educate legislators and key staff in the Office of Budget and Management that Ohio SILC is an independent program

## 5.2 SILC Resource plan

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

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

### **Necessary and Sufficient Resources**

The Ohio SILC Resource Plan includes at a minimum:

- Innovation and Expansion (IandE) Funding
  - Contract for \$317,662 of Innovation and Expansion (IandE) funding from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities annually. This amount includes \$250,000 IandE funds with the required match of State General Revenue Funds (GRF) of \$67,662.
- State General Revenue Funds (GRF)
  - 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 IandE funds for the SILC, as well as to match the Title VII Part B award that is fully distributed to the CILs. The remaining balance is transferred to the SILC for Operations as part of the Resource Plan. Funds estimated to be \$112,100 subject to match requirements.
- In-kind support
  - In-kind support will be contributed by the SILC members in their time spent advancing the mission of the SILC and the SPIL.
- Title VII Part B Funds
  - At present, the SILC does not receive any Title VII Part B funding. 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 SILC and CILs in Ohio.

The SILC Resource Plan supports all of the following:

- Staff/personnel cost
  - includes the resources for an Executive Director, additional staff, and fringe cost associated in order to maintain the operations of the SILC.
- Operating Expenses
  - includes but not limited to the administrative cost, rent, applicable utilities and maintenance, office supplies and equipment, telephone and internet services, accounting, insurance, dues and subscriptions, and other necessary operating and contractual expenses.
- Council compensation and expenses

- As outlined in the Member Policies of the SILC, SILC members can be reimbursed for expenses to participate in SILC meetings and activities, reasonable accommodations, and other expenses. Members are not compensated, but if eligible, some Members may claim a stipend if unemployed or otherwise uncompensated for attending to business of the SILC.
- Meeting expenses
  - Includes, but is not limited to, the cost of meeting spaces, technology for meetings, website platform, reasonable accommodations, alternate formats, and other necessary costs.
- Training resources
  - Includes the cost of Members and staff to attend training both in and out of state, conference, travel, per diem, and lodging as well as services of experts to provide trainings.
- Other
  - additional resources for professional services, consultants, and other necessary costs to advancing the work of the SILC and the Mission of the SPIL.

The Resource Plan ensures the SILC's ability to perform the duties and all authorities of SILC:

1. Duties. - The Council shall
2. develop the State plan as provided in section 704(a)(2);
3. monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State plan;
4. meet regularly, and ensure that such meetings of the Council are open to the public and sufficient advance notice of such meetings is provided;
5. 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
6. 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.

### **SILC Authorities**

The SILC Resource plan also provides for engagement in the SILC Authorities.

- 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;
  - Including, but not limited to: Facilitating activities between the Centers and external partners, partnering on activities with Centers as appropriate, and assisting in developing relationships between state partners and the Network.
- 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.
  - Including, but not limited to: Securing funds as appropriate that align with the mission of the SILC and the SPIL for the SILC, securing funds to partner and distribute to the CILs as appropriate, and assisting CILs in the identification of funding sources.

- 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.
  - Including, but not limited to: Conducting systemic advocacy activity, coalition building, leadership development, and additional areas as necessary to complete the Mission, Goals, and Objectives of the SPIL.

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

The Resource Plan was prepared by the SILC in conjunction with the DSE according to Section 705(e)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act. The Resource Plan includes funding to provide necessary and sufficient staffing and personnel to perform the Duties of the SILC.

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.

The DSE ensures the inclusion of language in the WIOA Combined State Plan that provides access to Innovation and Expansion funding to support the operations of the SILC so that all Title VII Part B funding can be directed to the Centers for Independent Living.

Excerpt from the WIOA Combined Plan:

"OOD continues to utilize a portion of available General Revenue Funds awarded to support the Independent Living Program as match for Innovation and Expansion activities under the VR program. This funding is utilized to support the operation of Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (OSILC), consistent with federal regulations. By using Innovation and Expansion funding to support OSILC, Ohio is able to award all Part B, Title VII funds to CILs for the provision of direct independent living services."

The SILC and DSE have worked to maintain an effective partnership between the two organizations and will continue to do so throughout the timeline of the SPIL in the development and support of the SILC Resource Plan.

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

All funds listed in the SILC Resource Plan are appropriated as part of the DSE's budget from the State of Ohio. This includes:

- Line Item 415402 Independent Living Council

Disbursement of funds happens in the following manner:

- State General Revenue - The SILC will make a letter request for funds to be distributed from Line Item 415402. Disbursement of these funds at the beginning of the fiscal year

ensure the SILC has the necessary funds to operate and ensures there is not undue hardship on the SILC, the SILC is able to maintain continual operations, and the overall effectiveness of the SILC.

- Innovation and Expansion - These funds are reimbursed monthly following the invoicing practices from the DSE as outlined in Section 4 of the SPIL. 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.

The SILC is currently operating under Executive Order by Governor DeWine in 2021, Executive Order 2021-03D. Any updates to the Executive Order will be posted on the Ohio SILC website. More information can be found in **Section 5.1** of this Plan.

The Governor's Office maintains support for the SILC and maintains regular communication with the Ohio SILC.

#### **Appointing Authority and Process**

The Appointing Authority responsible for making all appointments to the SILC is the Governor of the State of Ohio.

The Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions maintains an application form and procedure for candidates to be reviewed and processed. The Governor's Office maintains a list of current appointed members to the SILC, including the Ex-Officio members, and potential Members that have applied. The Boards and Commissions staff maintain information on the membership requirements and the current composition of the SILC to ensure ongoing compliance.

Periodically, the staff of the Governor's office confirm with the SILC the current membership, the status of any individuals seeking reappointment, and the potential applicants. This regular update also includes verifying term limits of any individuals currently serving on the SILC.

After soliciting input from the SILC, the Governor's staff also interview candidates to confirm the individual's commitment to serving the SILC. The final candidates are presented to the Governor for appointment. This process is followed for both new appointments of terms and filling vacancies.

#### **Recruitment of Members**

The Ohio SILC actively recruits qualified individuals to be appointed to the SILC. In addition to the application that must be completed for the Governor, the SILC maintains an additional application where individuals disclose their status of having a significant disability, as well as information on their knowledge of CILs and Independent Living, geographic region, diversity of



background, and employment as required in Section 705 (b)(4) of the Rehabilitation Act. Upon confirmation that a candidate is qualified under the Act, the SILC submits the candidate's information and application to the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions. This process is followed for both new appointments of terms and filling vacancies.

The SILC and the Appointing Authority, through the Office of Boards and Commissions, maintain regular contact and cooperation to ensure timely and compliant appointments are made.

The SILC members select a Chairperson through a voting process at a regular open meeting.

### **Placement and Structure**

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 Ohio SILC staff, including the Executive Director, are not state employees pursuant to Section 3304.50 of Ohio Revised Code, and report only to the Council.

### **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

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 IandE 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 regular 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.

The State and the DSE have maintained commitment to ensuring that necessary and sufficient resources have been allocated to the Ohio SILC on an ongoing basis.

Please see Section 5.2 for details on the Resource Plan.

## **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 is **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 funding agency upon request;
- 7.3. The DSE will not retain more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for administrative expenses;
- 7.4. The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the state as required in *45 CFR 1329.14*;
- 7.5. The DSE will not interfere with the business or operations of the SILC that include but are not limited to:
  1. Expenditure of federal funds
  2. Meeting schedules and agendas
  3. SILC board business
  4. Voting actions of the SILC board
  5. Personnel actions
  6. Allowable travel
  7. Trainings
- 7.6. The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff:
  1. If the SILC informs the DSE that the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff, the DSE assures that management of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC is the sole responsibility of the SILC in accordance with Sec. 705(e)(3) of the Act (Sec. 705(e)(3), 29 U.S.C.796d(e)(3)).
- 7.7. The DSE will fully cooperate with the SILC in the nomination and appointment process for the SILC in the state;
- 7.8. The DSE shall make timely and prompt payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs:
  1. When the reimbursement method is used, the DSE must make a payment within 30 calendar days after receipt of the billing, unless the agency or pass-through entity reasonably believes the request to be improper;

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

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

Kevin Miller, Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title of DSE director/authorized representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

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

### 8.1 Assurances

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

### Section 8.2 Indicators of Minimum Compliance

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

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

- (1) SILC written policies and procedures must include:
  - a. A method for recruiting members, reviewing applications, and regularly providing recommendations for eligible appointments to the appointing authority;

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

- ii. physical accessibility, and
    - iii. effective communication and accommodations that include auxiliary aids and services, necessary to make the meeting accessible to all people with disabilities.
  - e. Materials available electronically must be 508 compliant and, upon request, available in alternative and accessible format including other commonly spoken languages.
- (5) The SILC monitors, reviews and evaluates the State Plan in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(2) ensuring:
- a. Timely identification of revisions needed due to any material change in State law, state organization, policy or agency operations that affect the administration of the State Plan approved by the Administration for Community Living.
- (6) The SILC State Plan resource plan includes:
- a. Sufficient funds received from:
    - i. Title VII, Part B funds;
      - 1. If the resource plan includes Title VII, Part B funds, the State Plan provides justification of the percentage of Part B funds to be used if the percentage exceeds 30 percent of Title VII, Part B funds received by the State;
    - ii. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18), as applicable;
    - iii. Other public and private sources.
  - b. The funds needed to support:
    - i. Staff/personnel;
    - ii. Operating expenses;
    - iii. Council compensation and expenses;
    - iv. Meeting expenses including meeting space, alternate formats, interpreters, and other accommodations;
    - v. Resources to attend and/or secure training and conferences for staff and council members and;
    - vi. Other costs as appropriate.

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

Kara Ayers

---

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, 2024

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SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON DATE

Kara Ayers  
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

Beth Glas

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Yolanda Bolden

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

Ada Mears

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Rachel Swisher

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Tri-County Independent Living Center

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Tami Gaugler

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Western Reserve Independent Living Center

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Pamela Davies

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

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