

# **State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for Florida for 2016-2019**

## **General Information**

Designated Agency Identification

State: Florida

Agency: Florida Department of Education - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Plan for: 2016-2019

Submitted in fiscal year: 2016

View grant [H169A130080](#) in the Grant Award screen.

## **Part I: Assurances**

### Section 1: Legal Basis and Certifications

1.1 The Designated State unit (DSU) eligible to submit the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL or the plan) and authorized under State law to perform the functions of the State under the State Independent Living Services (SILS) and Centers for Independent Living (CIL) programs.

Florida Department of Education Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

1.2 The separate State agency eligible to submit the plan and authorized under State law to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to individuals who are blind.

Florida Department of Education Division of Blind Services

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

Florida Independent Living Council, Inc.

1.4 The DSU and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, and the SILC are authorized to jointly develop, sign and submit this SPIL on behalf of the State, and have adopted or otherwise formally approved the SPIL.

Yes

1.5 The DSU, and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, may legally carry out each provision of the plan and will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the three-year period it receives funding under the SPIL.

Yes

1.6 The SPIL is the basis for State operation and administration of the program. All provisions of the SPIL are consistent with State law.

Yes

1.7 The representative of the DSU and, if applicable, of the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, who has the authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the SPIL and to submit the SPIL jointly with the SILC chairperson is Aleisa McKinlay, Director and Robert Doyle, Director.

### Section 2: SPIL Development

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

- The provision of State independent living services;
- The development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living;

- Working relationships between programs providing independent living services and independent living centers, the vocational rehabilitation program established under title I, and other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities.

Yes

2.2 The DSU and SILC conduct public meetings to provide all segments of the public, including interested groups, organizations and individuals, an opportunity to comment on the State plan prior to its submission to the Commissioner and on any revisions to the approved State plan.

Yes

2.3 The DSU and SILC establish and maintain a written description of procedures for conducting public meetings in accordance with the following requirements. The DSU and SILC shall provide:

- appropriate and sufficient notice of the public meetings;
- reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication in the conduct of the public meetings, including providing sign language interpreters and audio-loops; and
- public meeting notices, written material provided prior to or at the public meetings, and the approved State plan in accessible formats for individuals who rely on alternative modes of communication.

Yes

2.4 At the public meetings to develop the State plan, the DSU and SILC identify those provisions in the SPIL that are State-imposed requirements beyond what would be required to comply with the regulations in 34 CFR parts 364, 365, 366, and 367.

Yes

2.5 The DSU will seek to incorporate into, and describe in, the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under a project funded under chapter 2 of title VII of the Act and that the DSU determines to be effective.

Yes

2.6 The DSU and SILC actively consult, as appropriate, in the development of the State plan with the director of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) authorized under section 112 of the Act.

Yes

### Section 3: Independent Living Services

3.1 The State, directly or through grants or contracts, will provide IL services with Federal, State, or other funds.

Yes

3.2 Independent living services shall be provided to individuals with significant disabilities in accordance with an independent living plan mutually agreed upon by an appropriate staff member of the service provider and the individual, unless the individual signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary.

Yes

3.3 All service providers will use formats that are accessible to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII about:

- the availability of the CAP authorized by section 112 of the Act;
- the purposes of the services provided under the CAP; and
- how to contact the CAP.

Yes

3.4 Participating service providers meet all applicable State licensure or certification requirements.

Yes

#### Section 4: Eligibility

4.1 Any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b) is eligible for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs authorized under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act. Any individual may seek information about IL services under these programs and request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities, as appropriate. The determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51.

Yes

4.2 Service providers apply eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services.

Yes

4.3 Service providers do not impose any State or local residence requirement that excludes any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for IL services from receiving IL services.

Yes

#### Section 5: Staffing Requirements

5.1 Service provider staff includes personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers.

Yes

5.2 To the maximum extent feasible, a service provider makes available personnel able to communicate:

- with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille or audio tapes, and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act; and
- in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act.

Yes

5.3 Service providers establish and maintain a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, if appropriate, in administering the CIL program. The staff development programs emphasize improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy.

Yes

5.4 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act.

Yes

#### Section 6: Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

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

Yes

#### Section 7: Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

7.1 In addition to complying with applicable EDGAR recordkeeping requirements, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will maintain records that fully disclose and document:

- the amount and disposition by the recipient of that financial assistance;
- The total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which the financial assistance is given or used;
- the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources;
- compliance with the requirements of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act and Part 364 of the regulations; and
- other information that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit.

Yes

7.2 With respect to the records that are required by 34 CFR 364.35, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will submit reports that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate.

Yes

7.3 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will provide access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, to the records listed in 34 CFR 364.37 for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews.

Yes

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

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

Yes

#### Section 9: Signatures

As the authorized signatories, we will sign, date and retain in the files of the state agency(ies) and the Statewide Independent Living Council the Part I: Assurances, 1-8, and the separate Certification of Lobbying forms ED-80-0013 (available in [MS Word](#) and [PDF](#) formats) for the state independent living program (Part B) and the centers for independent living program (Part C).

The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2016.

#### Section 9: Signature for SILC Chairperson

Name: John T. Davis

Title: President

Signed: Yes

Date signed:

#### Section 9: Signature for DSU Director

Name: Aleisa McKinlay

Title: Director

Signed: Yes

Date signed: 06/28/2013

#### Section 9: Signature for Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind

Is there a Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind? Yes

Name: Robert Doyle

Title: Director

Signed: Yes

Date signed:

The SILC, DSU and, if applicable, the separate state agency for individuals who are blind, provide the following additional assurance(s) which RSA has deemed necessary to ensure the state's compliance with the assurances in sections 1 through 8, above, as a condition for approval of this SPIL.

Yes

Enter text for additional assurance here:

The SILC, VR and DBS assure that the SPIL was created and approved in compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations, and that the SILC is currently in full compliance with federal requirements. The few current vacancies do not affect the SILC's ability to conduct business. Florida will continue to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. On behalf of the SILC, to the extent that the SILC has the authority to address the two consecutive three year term limits for SILC members, the SILC will comply with the process as set out in Section 5.3, Appointment and Composition, of the proposed SPIL. VR and DBS assure that the SILC will comply with the two consecutive three year term limits for SILC members via their contractual relationship with the SILC.

Additional Assurances: Signature for SILC Chairperson

Name: John T. Davis

Title: President

Signed: Yes

Date signed:

Additional Assurances: Signature for DSU Director

Name: Aleisa McKinlay

Title: Director

Signed: Yes

Date signed:

Additional Assurances: Signature for Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind

Is there a Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind: Yes

Name: Robert Doyle

Title: Director

Signed: Yes

Date signed:

The following information is captured by the MIS.

Additional assurances last updated on: 14-Aug-13 - 2:05 PM

Additional assurances last updated by: saflkatesj





## **Part II: Narrative: Section 1 - Goals, Objectives and Activities**

### Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities 1.1 Goals and Mission

Describe the overall goals and mission of the State's IL programs and services. The SPIL must address the goals and mission of both the SILS and the CIL programs, including those of the State agency for individuals who are blind as they relate to the parts of the SPIL administered by that agency.

Goal Name: Youth

Goal Description: Facilitate the transition of youth with disabilities, including youth who were eligible for Individualized Education Programs and have completed or left secondary education to postsecondary life.

Goal Name: Health, Wellness and Safety

Goal Description: Improve the health, wellness and safety of children and adults with all types of disabilities throughout Florida.

Goal Name: Outreach

Goal Description: FILC and CILs will facilitate outreach to individuals with disabilities and other stakeholders who are underrepresented and/or underserved in communities across Florida.

Goal Name: Facility Transition and Diversion

Goal Description: Facilitate the transition of persons with significant disabilities by increasing the number of individuals with disabilities who reside in their chosen, least restrictive community environment.

Goal Name: Infrastructure and Resource Development

Goal Description: To increase Independent Living Program (ILP) capacity of infrastructure and resource development through combined FILC, CIL and VR statewide initiatives.

Goal Name: FILC and Network of Centers Independent Living Mission

Goal Description:

Mission: Children and adults with all types of disabilities across Florida will have the resources and opportunities to be fully included and integrated throughout all communities.

Goal Name: DBS Independent Living Mission

Goal Description:

The mission of the Division of Blind Services Independent Living Program is to ensure that blind and visually-impaired Floridians have the tools, support and opportunity to achieve success.

1.2 Objectives

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

<b>Goal(s) from Section 1.1</b>	<b>Objective to be achieved</b>	<b>Time frame start date</b>	<b>Time frame end date</b>
<p>Goal 1—Youth</p> <p>Facilitate the transition of youth with disabilities, including youth who were eligible for Individualized Education Programs and have completed or left secondary education to postsecondary life.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Employment</p> <p>Employment—increase access to employment by eliminating barriers and expanding opportunities for economic self-sufficiency.</p> <p>Strategy 1: CILs will work with youth with disabilities to determine their choice of employment options.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
	<p>Objective 2: Education</p> <p>Education—Increase access to education by eliminating barriers and expanding opportunities for education growth i.e., GED, tutoring, college, technical or vocational school and core services.</p> <p>Strategy 1: CILs will work with youth with disabilities to determine their education options.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
	<p>Objective 3: Skills Building</p> <p>Skills Building—Increase access to skills building by eliminating barriers and expanding opportunities for independent living.</p> <p>Strategy 1: CILs will work with youth with disabilities to build independent</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>living skills such as peer support, self-advocacy, voting, sex education, living arrangements, budgeting, transportation, housing, and access to medical services.</p>		
	<p>Objective 4—Increase opportunities for building leadership skills</p> <p>Strategy 1: Work with youth with disabilities to create Youth Advisory Councils at the CILs i.e., advocacy, advising the CIL leadership of issues affecting youth, providing peer support, mentoring, ability to go into schools to promote and teach disability history, disability etiquette and IL philosophy.</p> <p>Strategy 2: The Florida Independent Living Council, Inc.’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) will educate young persons with disabilities statewide about self and systems advocacy, and the independent living movement. The YAC will assist in the evaluation of SPIL Goals, Objectives and Strategies during at least two annual meetings in conjunction with the full Council.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
<p>Goal 2—Health, Wellness and Safety</p> <p>Improve the health, wellness and safety of children and adults with all types of disabilities throughout Florida.</p> <p><i>Objectives (based on factors attributable to longevity, disease, and quality of life outcomes):</i></p>	<p>Objective 1: Promote the adoption of healthy lifestyles through education, skills building, and outreach.</p> <p>Strategy 1: Facilitate health and mental health improvement opportunities through agency and community activities &amp; innovative programs such as healthy lifestyle classes, seated yoga, drum circle, music, art classes, stress management techniques, support groups/networks, potlucks, outings such as farmers markets, etc. and through community education</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>workshops, classes, and other peer support services, or through collaborating and leveraging resources from other community agencies (for example, Veterans, Special Olympics, parks and recreation, etc.)</p> <p>Strategy 2: Create educational opportunities to improve social and economic factors to enhance such things as access to education, employment, medical services, financial resources, transportation, housing, social support and quality of life.</p>		
	<p>Objective 2: Provide opportunities to improve the safety of consumers through coordinated Emergency Action Planning and training.</p> <p>Strategy 1: Provide community workshops and other training opportunities for persons with disabilities to be prepared in the case of disaster.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Advocate for accessible shelters including, but not limited to, physical access, ASL interpreters, service animal and guide dog acceptance, accessible beds, etc. and promote disability awareness and etiquette to community leaders and safety workers.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
	<p>Objective 3: Advocate for and promote wellness through improving access to recreational and community based activities</p> <p>Strategy 1: Provide education and advocate for universal access to recreational facilities such as</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>playgrounds, parks, sport facilities, accessible gardens, etc.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to have access to community activities such as support groups/networks, advocacy for accessibility, organized outings, etc.</p> <p>Strategy 3: Provide community education and advocacy to help reduce stigma and stereotypes of disability, mental health challenges, etc.</p>		
	<p>Objective 4: The Council will continue to collaborate with the Centers on development of an Assistive Technology Reuse enterprise—inventory coordination, network building, etc.</p> <p>Strategy 1: The Council will continue to collaborate with the Centers on development of an Assistive Technology Reuse enterprise—inventory coordination, network building, etc.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
<p>Goal 3—Outreach</p> <p>FILC and CILs will facilitate outreach to individuals with disabilities and other stakeholders who are underrepresented and/or underserved in communities across Florida.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Each CIL will address its respective underrepresented populations in the counties it serves.</p> <p>Strategy 1: CILs will seek additional funding in order to increase individual services in identified, underserved and unserved populations and communities.</p> <p>Strategy 2: CILs will report the number of community activities in each county served.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
	<p>Objective 2: Explore and expand community responsiveness to address challenges and opportunities of</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>eligibility and access to employment, transportation, housing, education, healthcare, and recreation.</p> <p>Strategy 1: Raise disability awareness in relevant aspects of each community, including businesses, government, educational institutions, unions, and civic organizations.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Hold public community forums in collaboration with FILC and coordinated with local Centers for Independent Living, where children and adults with disabilities have a forum to address their pressing needs to legislators, community leaders, and community representatives.</p> <p>Strategy 3: When opportunities are available, the CILs will involve television, radio, print, and social media in revealing disability issues, accomplishments, and discrimination.</p>		
<p>Goal 4—Facility Transition</p> <p>Facilitate the transition of persons with significant disabilities by increasing the number of individuals with disabilities who reside in their chosen least restrictive community environment.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Initiate a statewide collaborative committee (CILs and FILC) to identify resources and build relationships with other advocacy organizations to propose development of statewide resources, such as the federal <i>Money Follows the Person</i>, or a replacement program for the state of Florida to provide sufficient funding to reduce the existing waiting list of over 30,000 people, for people to move out of nursing homes to less restrictive environments, and acquire sufficient in-home supports to remain out of nursing homes.</p> <p>Strategy 1: Establish a collaborative relationship with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and similar programs in order to obtain</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

	<p>support to be able to provide nursing home transition.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Initiate a statewide collaborative approach to obtain and analyze current data on nursing home transition in Florida from appropriate state and private agencies such as Department of Children and Families (DCF), Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA), ACHA, and Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD).</p> <p>Strategy 3: Initiate a statewide collaborative effort (CILs, FILC and other interested advocacy organizations) to establish legislative support to expedite Long Term Care Services for any individual with a disability transitioning into the community (setting them as a priority for state funding and savings).</p> <p>Strategy 4: Advocate for alignment of Federal policy and programs that impact diversion and transition for people in institutionalized settings. Advocate to reinstate nursing home “Olmstead” questions into Minimum Data Set, i.e., who wants to move into the community, have a support system in the community and whose medical conditions have not decompensated during the last 18 months. (In order to formally track)</p>		
	<p>Objective 2: Develop and promote statewide training opportunities on transitioning consumers from nursing homes and other facilities to less restrictive community environments.</p> <p>Strategy 1: Establish a statewide collaborative relationship with Florida’s Long Term Care</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>Ombudsman Program on a state level to increase the Ombudsman’s working knowledge of CILs and Nursing Home Transition requirements.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Provide Statewide or Regional training opportunities for CIL staff to provide transition assistance to people requesting to move from nursing facilities or other facilities to a less restrictive community environment.</p>		
	<p>Objective 3: At the statewide level, advocate for and collaborate with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), local Housing Authorities, and the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to obtain an increased set aside of funding/vouchers for individuals with disabilities transitioning from licensed facilities into a less restrictive community environment.</p> <p>Strategy 1: FILC and the CILs will obtain the necessary data from FHFC related to the number of accessible units paid for by FHFC within the last 5 years.</p> <p>Strategy 2: FILC and the CILs will obtain from each Housing Authority the number of vouchers they provide for individuals with disabilities in order to confirm each housing authority is complying with the required percentage from HUD.</p> <p>Strategy 3: FILC and the CILs will complete an analysis of data collected from both sources in order to create a coordinated advocacy effort to have state and/or federal funding ready for</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019



	housing when a person is transitioning out of a nursing home.		
<p>Goal 5—Infrastructure and Resource Development</p> <p>To increase Independent Living Program (ILP) capacity of infrastructure and resource development through combined FILC, CILs and VR statewide initiatives.</p>	<p>Objective 1: To develop an infrastructure for sharing IL Program (ILP) resources (i.e. Independent Living Skills (ILS) curriculums, resources for planning and implementing ILP, administrative documents, grants, contracts, etc.)</p> <p>Strategy 1: Identify and launch a user friendly electronic platform (i.e. Cloud sharing storage space) for sharing electronic resources and information between CILs.</p> <p>Strategy 1a: Collect and aggregate relevant ILP resources and information from each CIL.</p> <p>Strategy 1b: Determine a systematic and universal structure for organizing electronic resources and information.</p> <p>Strategy 1c: Upload and manage electronic resources and information on a shared electronic platform.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Provide inter personal co-learning experiences between the CILs, through FACIL, their membership association (Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living), and FILC to promote resource sharing, networking, and collaborative opportunities, for example: creating an annual IL statewide conference / meeting; hosting meetings of FILC and FACIL at CILs to promote cross training and co-learning.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
	Objective 2: Explore the utilization of a data management system for collecting, managing, analyzing, and	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>evaluating consumer and program outcomes.</p> <p>Strategy 1: Monitor and participate in the development of the new 704 report.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Identify consumer and program outcomes of interest that CILs should be tracking (in addition to the 704 report).</p> <p>Strategy 3: Determine if a new data management system is the right state wide approach for collecting, managing, and assessing CIL data at the state wide level.</p>		
	<p>Objective 3: Evaluate distribution of resources to facilitate effective service provision across CILs throughout the state.</p> <p>Strategy 1: Identify statewide population by geography and ethnicity.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Identify geographic locations and ethnic groups each CIL is effectively serving.</p> <p>Strategy 3: Identify geographic locations and ethnic groups each CIL is not effectively serving.</p> <p>Strategy 4: Examine best practices and alternatives for leveraging resources based on information gleaned from strategies 1-3.</p> <p>Strategy 5: Explore other funding formulas utilized for CILs in other states.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
	<p>Objective 4: Create and implement a strategic and legislative plan for obtaining new funding for CILs throughout the state.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>Strategy 1: Create a cooperative work group between CILs, with the support of FILC to identify, index, and prioritize funding opportunities.</p> <p>Strategy 2: CILs and FILC's Work Group will actively seek high priority funding opportunities such as Base Funding as defined in the 2012 APRIL Study and endorsed by the National Council on Disabilities (2014) for each CIL that does not have a Minimum Base Funding of \$570,000.</p>		
	<p>Objective 5: FILC will establish a development program to seek funding for FILC activities.</p> <p>Strategy 1: Partner with entities that can fund grants.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Fundraise for youth activities.</p> <p>Strategy 3: Fundraise for unrestricted dollars.</p> <p>Strategy 4: Fundraise for advocacy activities.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
	<p>Objective 6: FILC and the CILs will collaborate to develop the necessary revisions for Chapter 413, Florida Statute, to bring into conformance with WIOA and to strengthen the IL Network.</p> <p>Strategy 1: Research and identify proposed changes to pursue legislative compliance with WIOA.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Strengthen the IL Network across Florida through collaboration, education, training and advocacy.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

## 1.2 Objectives

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

- Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts

Florida is a state abounding with diversity. The population includes both dense urban populations and suburban areas. It includes forests, beaches, swamp lands, rivers, canals, islands, bays, farm land, small towns, large cities, and Native American reservations. The state is a long north-south peninsula with a “pan handle”, making travel long and difficult.

Different racial and ethnic groups are found in many parts of the state. The Florida Independent Living Council has surveyed the Centers for Independent Living to analyze data to determine strengths and needs for the State Plan. From outreach to those living with mental health and substance abuse related issues, to youth and adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, to low income minorities with disabilities and those living in very rural areas, the identified populations are wide and varied. All parts of the state are assigned geographically to a CIL; however a lack of resources *significantly* limits the amount of outreach and service that can be provided as well as limits the availability of office locations, causing consumers in virtually every part of the State and across all population segments to be underserved.

Throughout the state, from county to county, there are varying levels of underserved groups of individuals with significant disabilities including:

- Those with cognitive and sensory impairments
  - Those with mental and emotional disabilities
  - Those with physical disabilities
  - Racial and ethnic minority groups and in some areas, white populations
  - LGBTQ with disabilities
  - Those who live in rural and isolated areas.
  - Those who live in outlying areas of urban areas
  - Those living in health-care facilities and other institutional settings
  - Youth
  - Veterans
- 
- Identify the geographic areas (i.e., communities) in which the targeted populations reside

The targeted populations reside in all parts of the state. Huge challenges abound in being able to serve the most rural and distant areas. In densely populated, but ethnically diverse urban areas, cultural integration of CIL staff creates obstacles for service provision.

- Describe how the needs of individuals with significant disabilities from minority group backgrounds will be addressed

Centers for Independent Living have the primary responsibility for outreach to these groups. Centers and other providers should consider strategies for outreach that include the following.

- Make brochures and other information in English, alternate formats and high-concentration foreign languages such as Spanish and Creole to consumers directly and through county officials, disability organizations, refugee assistance organizations and other local contacts in underserved counties or areas with other underserved groups.
- Communicate and provide culturally appropriate services for underserved groups.
- Advertise in publications serving ethnic cultural, immigrant and other communities identified by the Center as underserved.
- Work with community organizations serving those identified by the agency as underserved.
- Develop programs, advocacy efforts and outreach that will target people identified as underserved for advocacy efforts.
- Partner with other organizations for office space or meeting space or open and support an office in an underserved area to coordinate work with consumers and others in that area.
- Recruit Board and staff members from identified underserved communities.
- Recruit and develop leadership by youth and other people with disabilities representing underserved groups within the Center.
- Track veteran status for consumers served.
- Develop services for veterans, people living in healthcare facilities and people with significant mental/emotional disability, especially when funding is available for providing those services
- Conduct outreach activities in nursing homes or other institutions serving individuals with significant disabilities.

At the state level, FILC will identify best outreach strategies within the IL community state-wide and nationally and provide training and technical assistance to centers with respect to the various strategies and practices in identifying underserved groups and planning to meet their needs.

The FILC has made a commitment to diversity. We show this commitment by our efforts to recruit individuals from all areas of the State, with all types of disabilities and from all significant minority populations within the State and support them for membership on the council and staff. We support these through nomination and recommendation to the governor for FILC representatives.

Provision of materials in alternate formats, and effort to accomplish activities in an accessible setting that meet standards of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended are examples of how the FILC and CILs make effort to reach and serve individuals with significant disabilities that remain unserved or underserved in our State.

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

**1.3A Financial Plan Tables**

Complete the financial plan tables covering years 1, 2 and 3 of this SPIL. For each funding source, provide estimated dollar amounts anticipated for the applicable uses. The financial plan table should include only those funding sources and amounts that are intended to support one or more of the objectives identified in section 1.2 of the SPIL. To the extent possible, the tables and narratives must reflect the applicable financial information from centers for independent living. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about completing the financial tables and narratives.

**Year 1 - 2014** Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	30080	176943	840000	
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			3898751	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	365742			
Other Federal funds - other			3472193	
Non-Federal funds - State funds			1232004	
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	395822	176943	9781901	0

**Year 2 - 2015** Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				

Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	30080	176943	840000	
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			3898751	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	365742			
Other Federal funds - other			3472193	
Non-Federal funds - State funds			1232004	
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	395822	176943	9781901	0

Year 3 - 2016 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	30080	176943	840000	
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			3898751	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	365742			
Other Federal funds - other			3472193	
Non-Federal funds - State funds			1232004	
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	395822	176943	9781901	0

**1.3B Financial Plan Narratives**

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

For 2016-17, Florida will maximize its funding resources to support the State Plan for Independent Living by using the following resources:

For 2016-17, the Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. will be funded from two sources - Title I, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Innovation and Expansion) and from Title VII, Part B funds provided by the Division of Blind Services. The funds are to be used to support the Council duties as outlined in Section 705, Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and to complete the assigned State Plan for Independent Living objectives.

For 2016-17, Centers for Independent Living will be funded from four sources - These include Title VII, Part B; Title VII, Part C; Social Security Reimbursements; and state General Revenue. Funds provided to the Centers through the Memorandums of Agreement may be used to complete their assigned State Plan for Independent Living Objectives. The Centers have the flexibility to determine how they will spend Part C, Part B and other sources of funding to carry out State Plan for Independent Living objectives.

Funding for future years will be based on documentation of need, the availability of Social Security reimbursements, and/or state and federal appropriations.

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

Florida successfully requested and received, state General Revenue funds to support services delivered by the Centers for Independent Living. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation funds state independent living program staff members from program income. The State Plan for Independent Living objectives have been assigned to the Designated State Entity, the Council and Centers so that each party understands its responsibilities.

The Council: Complete requirements outlined in Section 705, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and to achieve assigned objectives in the State Plan for Independent Living.

Council: Innovation and Expansion \$365,740

Council: Part B from Blind Services (17 percent) \$30,080

Total: \$395,820

Centers for Independent Living: To expand services as outlined in Part C of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and to achieve the assigned objectives in the State Plan for Independent Living.

State General Revenue \$1,232,004,004

Social Security Reimbursements \$3,472,193 (if available)

Title VII Part B \$840,000

Total State Agreements with CILs \$5,883,150



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

NA

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

The DSE distributes funds to the Centers via a funding formula that was included in the 2005-2007 State Plan for Independent Living. At that time, the formula was subjected to public review. A summary of the methodology is available on the DSE website. The 2016-2017 Florida Legislature has required that the funding for 2016-2017 be distributed based on the 2005-2007 formula. Any future modifications will be made in consultation with the Council and the Centers. The DSE will hold at least one public hearing on any modifications to the formula and will provide other opportunities for public comment.

1.4 Compatibility with Chapter 1 of Title VII and the CIL Work Plans

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

This State Plan for Independent Living reflects the State's commitment to carry out an Independent Living Plan under Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Chapter 1), and also the State's planning and implementation activities related to the plan. The State Plan objectives provide the opportunity for persons with disabilities in the state of Florida to maximize opportunities which allow for integration and full inclusion in the mainstream of society in all aspects of daily life. This is accomplished by promoting community integration via consumer-controlled community-based services and advocacy in the areas of transportation, housing, voting, emergency management, access to health care and youth transition. The Council, the Network of Centers and the Designated State Entity will collaborate in these efforts.

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

One hundred percent of the Florida Centers for Independent Living participated in the development of the goals and objectives of the plan. The Network of Centers, FILC and DSE participated in conference calls to develop a methodology for writing goals and objectives that reflected the work they expect to do over the three years of the plan. The CILs, FILC and DSE agreed upon the five goals of the plan. This information was compiled to develop the indicators for the objectives that are found in the Evaluation section of the plan. A system for reporting on the achievement of the activities of the CILs as they relate to the goals and objectives of the plan will be implemented.

1.5 Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships Among Various Entities

Describe the steps that will be taken to maximize the cooperation, coordination and working relationships among the SILS program, the SILC, and centers; the DSU, other State agencies represented on the SILC and other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues; and other public and private entities determined to be appropriate by the

SILC.

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

The Council, Centers and the Designated State Entities have together coordinated the entire development of the three-year state plan through teleconferences, face-to-face meetings, Center focus groups and three formal public forums.

Florida's rehabilitation program is divided into a general program and a program that serves individuals who are blind. The Council continues to hold a voting membership on the Florida Rehabilitation Council (FRC) and attends their meetings regularly. The Council assists with the Designated State Entity State Plan Public Forums and coordinates activities with Florida Rehabilitation Council. The Council also continues to have representation with the Florida Rehabilitation Council for the Blind.

Through various collaborations, such as the Florida Rehabilitation Council, Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida Housing Coalition, Agency for Person with Disabilities, Disability Rights—Florida's Protection and Advocacy Agency, Florida's Developmental Disabilities Council, Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Department of Elder Affairs and the Department of Children and Families, the Council is being invited to speak to organizations serving persons with disabilities, therefore increasing its recognition and collaboration throughout the State. The Council also participates in a number of other activities.

#### 1.6 Coordination of Services

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

The Council does not provide direct services to consumers.

The Centers provide services in specific geographical areas. The agreement between the Centers and Vocational Rehabilitation requires them to provide services in a coordinated effort with community-based and other service providers. Centers implement this requirement based on local priorities and relationships. Generally, the Centers conduct regular needs assessments to set the priorities for independent living services. The Centers participate in a wide range of activities to coordinate with other organization to maximize resources for consumers and have a greater systemic impact. For instance:

1. Special Education - The Centers collaborate with special education providers to assure that the independent living needs of students are met. Some collaborate to secure additional funding for High School/High Tech programs and many work with the schools to improve transition services for youth with disabilities. Additionally, some centers provide systemic advocacy services, IEP's and 504 Plans along with educational training being provided in the schools.
2. Older Individuals who are Blind program - Centers coordinate services with local organizations that serve individuals who are blind to maximize opportunities for inclusion and resource sharing.

3. Vocational Education - The Centers work with vocational education providers to enhance the educational opportunities for students with disabilities who are transitioning from high school to work. The collaboration also often includes local workforce development organizations.

4. Developmental Disabilities Services - Centers work with organizations that specialize in providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities to coordinate peer support, roommate matching and other services.

5. Public Health - The Centers collaborate closely with public health agencies because the public health system is one of the primary partners in the provision of special needs emergency shelters. The Centers are very involved in educating the public health system about the needs of individuals with disabilities during disasters, and working to improve service coordination, planning and communication throughout the year.

a) Working with health departments (HD), to tailor their health promotion programs / services (such as chronic disease management classes), facilities, materials and activities so it is accessible to persons with disabilities. This would involve incorporating principles of Universal Design into written and verbal by HD staff with our consumers.

b) Providing education to HD staff on health disparities existing in the population of persons with disabilities.

c) Provide cultural competency and disability sensitivity training to HD staff about delivering health care services to persons with disabilities.

d) Provide tips on how to promote health literacy skills between HD staff and persons with disabilities.

6. Mental Health - Much of the Centers' collaboration with mental health providers involves work on the needs of people who have disabilities and are homeless. The Centers collaborate on homeless coalitions and other organizations to maximize available services and to advocate for additional resources.

7. Housing - The need for safe, affordable, accessible housing is critical to the Centers in Florida. The lack of housing is commonly identified as the main barrier to independent living. The Centers work with local coalitions to advocate for additional resources. They also work closely with local providers to build the partnerships necessary to assure that Center consumers with housing needs can quickly take advantage of any opportunities for housing alternatives arise.

8. Transportation - Transportation is also typically identified as a major barrier to independent living. The Centers work closely with local policymakers, providers and consumer organizations to address the lack of transportation resources and to assure that the transportation options that are available meet the needs of consumers.

9. Veterans: Programs - The Centers are working to collaborate with veterans' programs to assist individuals transitioning into the community from a veterans' facility. The collaboration is intended to avoid duplication of services and to infuse the independent living philosophy into veterans' programs.

10. Social Security Programs - The Centers work closely with public health and benefits providers, Children's Medical Services and the Agency for Health Care Administration. The Centers collaborate in different ways, including providing benefits counseling, facilitating

applications for consumers and working with organizations to promote the independent living philosophy.

In the current service delivery climate, the Centers, Council and Designated State Entities recognize that coordination of services and collaboration with both traditional and non-traditional partners is essential to meeting the independent living needs of consumers. The system is complex, and the services cannot meet the large demand. Accordingly, when services are duplicated with other programs, it is necessary because no single organization or agency can meet all of the needs of Floridians with disabilities.

1.7 Independent Living Services for Individuals who are Older Blind

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

The Division of Blind Services representative will report outputs, outcomes and any new methods or approaches of service provision identified in their OIB contracts (Community Rehabilitation Programs) to the Council Planning and Evaluation Committees. These findings are utilized in the development of the objectives and monitoring tools utilized in the plan.

**Part II: Narrative: Section 2 - Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services**

2.1 Scope and Extent

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

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided by the DSU (directly)	Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/grants)
Core Independent Living Services - Information and referral	No	Yes	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - IL skills training	No	Yes	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - Peer counseling	No	Yes	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - Individual and systems advocacy	No	No	No

Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	No	Yes	Yes
Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with significant disabilities)	No	Yes	Yes
Rehabilitation technology	No	Yes	Yes
Mobility training	No	Yes	Yes
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	No	Yes	Yes
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	No	Yes	Yes
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services	No	Yes	Yes
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	No	Yes	Yes
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	No	Yes	Yes
Supported living	No	No	Yes
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	No	Yes	Yes
Physical rehabilitation	No	No	No
Therapeutic treatment	No	Yes	Yes
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	No	Yes	Yes

Individual and group social and recreational services	No	Yes	Yes
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	Yes	Yes	Yes
Services for children with significant disabilities	No	Yes	Yes
Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with significant disabilities	No	Yes	Yes
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	No	Yes	Yes
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	No	Yes	Yes
Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act	No	Yes	Yes

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

Service provision priorities included in the State Plan for Independent Living include; Youth, Health, Wellness and Safety, Facility Transition, Outreach and Infrastructure and Resource Development. Priority populations include racial and ethnic minorities and youth and the LGBT community. The Division of Blind Service’s priority is the adjustment to blindness targeting elder Blind/Visually Impaired individuals whose priority is not a vocational outcome.

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

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

Indicate N/A if not applicable.

Subject to verification by Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. of specific authority, the Centers for Independent Living in Florida may implement

financial needs testing and/or financial participation pursuant to guidelines developed in collaboration with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Florida Independent Living Council, and approved by a majority of the Center Directors. The guidelines will establish:

- The specific services for which financial needs testing and/or financial participation will be allowed, with the following caveats:
  - Information and referral services, peer counseling services and independent living skills training are specifically excluded from financial needs testing and/or financial participation.
  - Advocacy services may be included pursuant to specific criteria established in the guidelines.
  - Other services may be included pursuant to the guidelines.
- The criteria for assessing financial need.
- Mechanisms for ensuring that consideration of financial need is applied uniformly if a Center chooses to implement financial needs testing and/or participation.

## 2.2 Arrangements for State-Provided Services

2.2A If the DSU will provide any of the IL services identified in section 2.1A through grants or contractual arrangements with third parties, describe such arrangements.

The Division of Blind Services utilizes flat rate contracts with eighteen Certified Rehabilitation Programs statewide. All contract services are negotiated and documented. There are no third party contracts.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation enters into agreements with each member of the Network of Centers.

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

The Division of Blind Services Community Rehabilitation Program contracts enable Certified Rehabilitation Professionals to enter data on a shared case management system. Contract vendors and Blind Services have shared eligibility determination documentation. Consumer records are reviewed periodically for compliance by Blind Services.

The Division's agreement with each Center requires the Center to determine and document the eligibility of each consumer seeking services. During periodic technical assistance reviews, consumer service records are reviewed to assure that eligibility determinations are made and documented.

## **Part II: Narrative: Section 3 - Design for the Statewide Network of Centers**

### 3.1 Existing Network

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

The State has a statewide Network of Centers that complies with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act and meets the geographic requirements of the state. Florida has 67 counties, all of which are served by a Center. All of the Centers serve all eligible consumers.

All Centers are required to meet the definition of a Center for Independent Living as stated in Section 702 and the standards and assurances set forth in Section 725 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended. Other services identified by consumers in the area may be provided within the constraints of available funding. All Centers are subject to being monitored by the Designated State Entity and the Independent Living Administration (ILA).

Below is the listing of Centers for Independent Living in the state of Florida, the counties served by those Centers and the sources of funds included in the resource plan.

1. CIL Disability Resource Center - Pensacola, Florida

Serves: Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton Counties

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

2. Disability Resource Center - Panama City, Florida

Serves: Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington Counties

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

3. Ability 1st - Tallahassee, Florida

Serves: Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla Counties

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

4. CIL of North Central Florida - Gainesville, Florida

Serves: Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Sumter, Suwannee, and Union Counties

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

5. Independent Living Resource Center of Northeast Florida - Jacksonville, Florida

Serves: Duval Baker, Clay, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

6. disAbility Solutions for Independent Living - Daytona Beach, Florida

Serves: Flagler and Volusia Counties



Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

7. Center for Independent Living in Central Florida - Winter Park, Florida

Serves: Lake, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

8. Center for Independent Living in Central Florida - Lakeland, Florida

Serves: Desoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

9. Caring and Sharing Center for Independent Living (dba Disability Achievement Center) - Largo, Florida

Serves: Pasco and Pinellas Counties

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

10. Self-Reliance Center for Independent Living - Tampa, Florida

Serves: Hillsborough County

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

11. Space Coast Center for Independent Living - Cocoa Beach, Florida

Serves: Brevard and Indian River Counties

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

12. SunCoast Center for Independent Living - Sarasota, Florida

Serves: Manatee and Sarasota Counties

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

13. Coalition for Independent Living Options - West Palm Beach, Florida

Serves: Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie Counties

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

14. Center for Independent Living of Broward - Tamarac, Florida

Serves: Broward County

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

15. Center for Independent Living of Broward (dba CIL Gulf Coast) - Fort Myers, Florida

Serves: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

16. Center for Independent Living of South Florida - Miami, Florida

Serves: Miami-Dade County

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

17. Center for Independent Living of the Keys - Key Largo, Florida

Serves: Monroe County

Funding sources: State General Revenue, Social Security Reimbursement funds, and Title VII, Parts B and C

### 3.2 Expansion of Network

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

All 67 counties in Florida are currently served by Centers.

Funding for the CILs will be distributed in accordance with the 2005-2007 SPIL, unless an alternative is provided in the annual state General Appropriations Act, with the following exceptions.

For the purposes of the rest of this section, the following definitions apply:

**Base Funding:** The state and federal funds distributed during the 2016-2017 state fiscal year (minus the adjustment for the CIL of the Keys).

**Minimum Funding Level:** Effective July 1, 2017, the minimum funding level for CILs is \$570,000.

**Revised Base Funding:** The state and federal funding distribution point at which all Florida CILs have achieved the minimum funding level.

State General Revenue, Part B funds and Social Security Reimbursement funds over the base funding amount will be distributed as follows:

Until the Revised Base Funding level is achieved, any decrease in funding from the above funding sources will be divided equally among all CIL's regardless of the Minimum Funding Level.

Part C COLA increases will not be included in the calculation of the Minimum Funding Level.

New funds coming to the state of Florida not anticipated in the description above will be divided between the existing Centers as negotiated between the Network of Centers and the Designated

State Entity, in consultation with the Council. A description of the funding methodology can be found at [www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL) (Description of CIL Funding Methodologies).

In the event that a CIL must or choose to relinquish its Part C grant, Florida will proceed to take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the Part C funding will remain in the area designated by the terms of the grant award and this plan.

### 3.3 Section 723 States Only

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

N/A

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

N/A

## **Part II: Narrative: Section 4 - Designated State Unit (DSU)**

### 4.1 Administrative Support Services

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

Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about administrative support services.

Vocational Rehabilitation enters into an agreement with each of the Centers. The agreements provide financial assistance to support the independent living services, planning, evaluation activities, financial management, personnel development and record keeping activities.

Vocational Rehabilitation provides technical assistance to the Centers on programmatic and financial management issues, approves invoices and reports, and monitors the agreements.

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

The Division of Blind Services (OIB) Program enters into agreements with 18 CRPs (Community Rehabilitation Programs) to provide the following adjustment to blindness services: Information and Referral, Home Management, Personal Management, Communication Skills Training, Orientation and Mobility skills training.

## **Part II: Narrative: Section 5 - Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

### 5.1 Resource plan

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

- Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

For more information click the icon.

The Division of Blind Services, through a Cooperative Agreement with the State Independent Living Council, Inc. and Vocational Rehabilitation arrange for 17 percent of their Part B dollars to be diverted to Vocational Rehabilitation to assist the functions of the State Independent Living Council, Inc.

Following is a brief description of the legal status and placement of the State Independent Living Council:

The Division of Blind Services, through a Cooperative Agreement with the State Independent Living Council, Inc. and Vocational Rehabilitation arrange for 17 percent of their Part B dollars to be diverted to Vocational Rehabilitation to assist the functions of the State Independent Living Council, Inc.

Following is a brief description of the legal status and placement of the State Independent Living Council:

The administrative offices for Council staff members are independent of both the Designated State Entity and all other state agencies, and the Council continues to strive for full autonomy in meeting its federal mandates. Funding is dispersed through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation through the Florida Department of Education.

The State Independent Living Council, in conjunction with the DSEs, prepares a Resource Plan specifying the resources, including staff and personnel, rent, supplies, telephone expenses, travel, and other expenses that will be necessary to carry out the functions of the Council during the term of the State Plan for Independent Living. The Council will be responsible for the proper expenditure of funds and the use of resources it receives under the Council Resource Plan.

No conditions or requirements are included in the Council Resource Plan that will compromise the independence of the Council.

While assisting the State Independent Living Council in carrying out its duties under the State Plan for Independent Living, staff and other personnel assigned to the Council under the Council Resource Plan will not be assigned duties by the Designated State Entity or any other agency or office of the State that would create a conflict of interest.

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

- The SILC's responsibility for the proper expenditure of funds and use of resources that it receives under the resource plan.

All requirements of the Florida Independent Living Council, Inc., with regard to expectations and expenditure of funds will be outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement.

The Council is responsible for the proper expenditure of funds under this resource plan. The funds will be used to carry out the State Plan for Independent Living, funding staff, meeting and travel expenses and other costs associated with Council operations, including its office expenses.

- Non-inclusion of conditions or requirements in the SILC resource plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC.

The Council is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) corporation, established in 1999 pursuant to Chapter 413, Florida Statutes. The State Independent Living Council is not established as an entity within any State agency, including the Designated State Entity, and is independent of the Designated State Entity and all other State agencies.

The State Independent Living Council and the Designated State Entity work together to manage their contractual relationship ensuring the autonomy of the State Independent Living Council. This relationship is formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Division of Blind Services and the Council.

- Reliance, to the maximum extent possible, on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the State plan.

The Council resource plan is based on funds that are generally available from the DSEs on an annual basis.

## 5.2 Establishment and Placement

Describe how the establishment and placement of the SILC ensures its independence with respect to the DSU and all other State agencies. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

The Council is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) corporation, established in 1999 pursuant to Chapter 413, Florida Statutes. The State Independent Living Council is not established as an entity within any State agency, including the Designated State Entity, and is independent of the Designated State Entity and all other State agencies. The State Independent Living Council and the Designated State Entity work together to manage their contractual relationship ensuring the autonomy of the State Independent Living Council. This relationship is formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Division of Blind Services and the Council.

## 5.3 Appointment and Composition

Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b). Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

Florida's Governor appoints members to the Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. Potential nominees for the Council must complete an application that is reviewed by the Nominating Committee.

The recruitment of members is accomplished through the following mechanisms:

- The Council Executive Director informs the Executive Committee of up-coming/current openings.
- The Executive Committee then informs the Full Council of up-coming/current openings.
- The Full Council is then requested to solicit applications to various organizations while attending agency meetings, sitting on boards, attending conferences.
- The Council website includes the gubernatorial appointment forms and request for submission of applications.

- The announcement of vacancies is also advertised through the Governor’s website (www.myflorida.com).
- Application forms request self-identification from potential applicants.

The Council has several mechanisms for assuring that members are knowledgeable about Centers and independent living services:

1. Nominees for membership on the Council complete application forms issued by the Governor-s office. The candidates are provided with ample opportunities to discuss their qualifications for serving on the Council, including their prior experience with Centers, independent living services and disability-related issues in general.
2. Applications are reviewed in detail by the Council’s Nominating Committee members and staff members.
3. If the Nominating Committee has questions about the qualifications of the applicant, follow-up interviews with potential members are conducted. In addition, applicants may attend meetings and interact directly with Council members and staff members.
4. The Council’s members scrutinize applications in great detail to assure that the most qualified applicants are recommended to the Governor-s Office for consideration. One of the primary focuses of the Council has been to ensure statewide representation on the Council, as Federal law and Florida Statutes mandate. In order to do this the Council has tried to select one representative from each of the 17 Center catchment areas. The Nominating Committee reviews applications in order to make its recommendations to the Full Council for consideration. The recommendations are then voted on by the full Council and forwarded to the Governor’s office for his/her approval. The Council also seeks members that reflect the diversity of Florida’s population including various disabilities, ages, racial and ethnic, and LGBT representation.
5. Each Council Member is appointed by the Governor for a three-year term, and may be appointed for a total of two consecutive terms. Pursuant to the applicable Federal law, and Florida’s Constitution, Council Members continue to serve until (i) the Member is reappointed by the Governor; (ii) a replacement is named by the Governor following expiration of the term; or (iii) the Council Member resigns or is otherwise removed prior to the end of the term.
6. The Nominating Committee also researches and votes upon the slate of officers for the State Independent Living Council and then makes its recommendation to the full Council. The full Council then chooses to accept or reject the recommendation.

#### 5.4 Staffing

Describe how the following SILC staffing requirements will be met.

- SILC supervision and evaluation, consistent with State law, of its staff and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

The Council shall, consistent with state law, continue to hire, fire, supervise and evaluate its staff and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

1. A Board of Directors serves as the governing body of the Council. Its functions and authority are contained in the Charter and Bylaws of the corporation.

2. The personnel policy is the Board of Directors- approved plan to carry out the day-to-day functions of the corporation. The personnel policies of the Board have been established to assure consistent, efficient, and equitable personnel management practices.
3. The Board of Directors of the corporation approves the personnel policy as recommended by the Executive Committee. The Board hires the Executive Director and provides guidance to the position through the President.
4. The Board of Directors has delegated to the Executive Director authority to employ and discharge staff. Terms of employment are established by the Board and are found in the Personnel Policy Manual, reviewed and approved by the board and legal counsel.
5. The Executive Director is employed by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director hires, discharges, reprimands, promotes and directs the daily functions of the employees of the corporation and administers the corporation consistent with established policy. Individual Board and/or Committee members address their recommendations to the Executive Director through the President.
6. The number of personnel employed by the Council shall be determined by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Executive Director. At least 51 percent of the Council staff and Board members have a disability.

There are currently one full time and one part-time State Independent Living Council Staff:

The Council Interim Executive Director

The Council Administrative Assistant (average 10 hours weekly)

- Non-assignment of duties to SILC staff and other personnel made available by the DSU, or any other State agency or office that would create a conflict of interest while assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties.

NA

## **Part II: Narrative: Section 6 - Service Provider Requirements**

Describe how the following service provider requirements will be met:

### 6.1 Staffing

- Inclusion of personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers.

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The

Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits or the Independent Living Administration's monitoring of Centers for Independent Living, only when requested to do so in writing by the Center.

- Availability, to the maximum extent feasible, of personnel able to communicate (1) with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille, or audio tapes and (2) in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act.

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

- Establishment and maintenance of a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, where appropriate, in administering the CIL program, improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy.

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

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

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on



the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

## 6.2 Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

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

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

## 6.3 Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

- Maintenance of records that fully disclose and document the information listed in 34 CFR 364.35.

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

- Submission of annual performance and financial reports, and any other reports that the Secretary determines to be appropriate

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars,

manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

- Access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews, to the information listed in 34 CFR 364.37.

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

#### 6.4 Eligibility

- Eligibility of any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs.

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

- Ability of any individual to seek information about IL services under these programs and to request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities.

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars,

manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

- Determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs in a manner that meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51.

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

- Application of eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services.

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

- Non-exclusion from receiving IL services of any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for IL services, based on the imposition of any State or local residence requirement.

There are no State residency requirements imposed on consumers of the CILs. Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts

periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

#### 6.5 Independent Living Plans

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

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

#### 6.6 Client Assistance Program (CAP) Information

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

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

#### 6.7 Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information

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

Each agreement between Vocational Rehabilitation and a Center includes this requirement as a responsibility of the Center. Vocational Rehabilitation promotes compliance with these requirements through a variety of methods. The Designated State Entity: maintains a website ([www.rehabworks.org/IL](http://www.rehabworks.org/IL)) providing all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, circulars, manuals for expending state funds, training materials, and questions and answer documents on the agreement; conducts periodic technical assistance visits to assess compliance with assurances and technical assistance needs related to programmatic and contract administration; reviews all 704 Reports and monthly performance reports submitted by the Centers; reviews satisfaction survey results submitted by the Centers, and; other monitoring activities as necessary. The Council will participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation technical assistance visits if requested to do so in writing by the Center.

## Part II: Narrative: Section 7 - Evaluation

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

### Section 7: Evaluation

Goal(s) and the related Objective(s) from Section 1	Method that will be used to evaluate
	<p>The Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. will evaluate the progress of the implementation of the 2014-16 State Plan for Independent Living in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Council, in conjunction with the DSE, will continue to collect the annual 704 Reports and performance reports submitted by the Centers for Independent Living to the DSE, aggregate the data and report the progress of specific State Plan Goals and Objectives to the Evaluation Committee and to the full Council at its meetings.</li> <li>- The Council will continue to gather reports of activities it participates in related to a specific State Plan Goal/Objective or Strategy. These will be compiled by the Evaluation Committee and maintained by the Council with reports generated at least annually.</li> <li>- The Council Executive Director will provide the DSE with monthly invoices and scheduled deliverables and summarize the monitoring, review, and evaluation of the implementation of the State Plan, according to the Memorandum of Agreement between the DSE and the Council.</li> </ul>
Goal(s) from Section 1.1	Objective to be achieved

<p>Goal 1—Youth</p> <p>Facilitate the transition of youth with disabilities, including youth who were eligible for Individualized Education Programs and have completed or left secondary education to postsecondary life.</p>	<p>During each quarter of the plan, the CILs will report on data and activities related to the goal, objectives and strategies. The information will be compiled by the Council for review by the Evaluation Committee. Progress will be monitored, and achievements, barriers and other pertinent information will be shared with all parties to the plan for appropriate action (advocacy, collaboration, coordination of services, etc.).</p>
<p>Goal 2—Health, Wellness and Safety</p> <p>Goal Description: Improve the health, wellness and safety of children and adults with all types of disabilities throughout Florida.</p>	<p>During each quarter of the plan, the CILs will report on data and activities related to the goal, objectives and strategies. The information will be compiled by the Council for review by the Evaluation Committee. Progress will be monitored, and achievements, barriers and other pertinent information will be shared with all parties to the plan for appropriate action (advocacy, collaboration, coordination of services, etc.).</p>
<p>Goal 3—Outreach</p> <p>Goal Description: FILC and CILs will facilitate outreach to individuals with disabilities and other stakeholders who are underrepresented and/or underserved in communities across Florida.</p>	<p>During each quarter of the plan, the CILs will report on data and activities related to the goal, objectives and strategies. The information will be compiled by the Council for review by the Evaluation Committee. Progress will be monitored, and achievements, barriers and other pertinent information will be shared with all parties to the plan for appropriate action (advocacy, collaboration, coordination of services, etc.)</p>
<p>Goal 4—Facility Transition</p> <p>Goal Description: Facilitate the transition of persons with significant disabilities by increasing the number of individuals with disabilities who reside in their chosen least restrictive community environment.</p>	<p>During each quarter of the plan, the CILs will report on data and activities related to the goal, objectives and strategies. The information will be compiled by the Council for review by the Evaluation Committee. Progress will be monitored, and achievements, barriers and other pertinent information will be shared with all parties to the plan for appropriate action (advocacy, collaboration, coordination of services, etc.).</p>
<p>Goal 5—Infrastructure and Resource Development</p> <p>Goal Description: To increase Independent Living Program (ILP) capacity of infrastructure and resource</p>	<p>During each quarter of the plan, the CILs will report on data and activities related to the goal, objectives and strategies. The information will be compiled by the Council for review by the Evaluation Committee. Progress will be monitored, and achievements, barriers and other pertinent information will be shared with all parties to the plan for appropriate</p>

development through combined FILC, CIL and VR statewide initiatives.

action (advocacy, collaboration, coordination of services, etc.).

## **Part II: Narrative: Section 8 - State-Imposed Requirements** **State-Imposed Requirements Identify any State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL.**

The Centers and the Council shall comply with the applicable provisions of:

1. Section 215.97, Florida Statutes - This section of statute is the Florida Single Audit Act. The purpose of the act is to promote sound financial management, including effective internal controls, with respect to state financial assistance administered by non-state entities by establishing uniform state audit requirements for state financial assistance provided by state agencies to non-state entities to carry out state projects.
2. Section 112.061, Florida Statutes - This section establishes rates for travel reimbursement using funds that flow through the State Treasury.
3. Florida Department of Financial Services Reference Guide for State Expenditures - The Reference Guide for State Expenditures provides comprehensive information about appropriate expenditures using funds that flow through the State Treasury.
4. Section 286.011, Florida Statutes - This section of statute is the Government in the Sunshine Act. It establishes open meeting and public records requirements for certain entities operating using state funding to carry out a public purpose, including the Centers and the Council.
5. Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, providing for public access to certain documents generated by the Council and, through the DSE, documents generated by the Centers.
6. Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, governing appointment and conditions of terms of appointed public officials, code of ethics and removal from office.
7. Chapters 413 and 435, Florida Statutes, related to background screening of certain independent living services providers, board members, executives and volunteers.