

STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL)

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

VII

PART B - INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

Part C - Centers for Independent Living

State: Alaska

FISCAL YEARS: 2024

Effective Date: October 1, 2023

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

Executive Summary

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

1.1 Mission: Alaskans with disabilities live independently and are fully integrated into the mainstream of society.

1.2 Goals:

GOAL 1: TRANSPORTATION

Alaska will have a community transit system that uses a variety of modes and programs to help people with disabilities be able to live more independently in the community of their choice.

GOAL 2: HOUSING

Alaska will have accessible, affordable, available housing to help Alaskans with disabilities be able to live more independently in their community of choice.

GOAL 3 : EMPLOYMENT

Alaskans with disabilities will have the services and supports they need to secure gainful, integrated employment.

GOAL 4: HEALTH & WELLNESS

Alaskans with disabilities will have access to health information and services needed for health and wellness throughout their lifespan.

GOAL 5: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Alaskans with disabilities will have access to assistive technology devices/tools, durable medical equipment and non-durable medical supplies to support independence.

GOAL 6: DIVERSITY

Alaska CILs and CIL Programs will be representative of the populations in their regions.

GOAL 7: YOUTH TRANSITION

Alaska's youth with disabilities will have leadership training opportunities to facilitate their transition into adulthood.

GOAL 8: IL NETWORK

The Independent Living Network in Alaska promotes independent living ideals through education, outreach and partnerships.

GOAL 9: SUSTAINABILITY

The SILC will be a sustainable council.

1.3 Objectives

Objectives for the three-year period of the plan – including geographic scope, desired outcomes, target dates, and indicators.

GOAL 1- TRANSPORTATION

Objective 1.1: Increase the accessibility, affordability, availability and safety of no less than 3 modes of transportation (e.g. accessible taxis, taxi vouchers, etc.).

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: More transportation options for people with disabilities.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Significant gains and losses will be reported by CILs to the SILC, including description of the gain or loss and explanation of how or why it took place, community or communities affected, the number of people with disabilities impacted where known.

GOAL 2: HOUSING

Objective 2.1: Increase awareness of housing options for consumers and community members.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: More people pursuing accessible housing options.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Number of I&Rs on housing options.
2. Percentage increase for the above data point in 2022 and 2023, once baselines have been established in 2021

Objective 2.2: Increase or maintain the number of Alaskans with disabilities who receive home modifications through programs offered by both the state and the Alaska IL Network, especially in rural and remote communities.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: More consumers taking advantage of home modification opportunities.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Number of modifications provided.
2. Comparison to previous years.
3. Urban/rural/remote breakdown for each program.

Objective 2.3: Increase efforts to promote the use of universal design or visitability.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: More housing units built that incorporate principles of universal design and visitability.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Number of visits to SILC webpage with online resources.

GOAL 3 : EMPLOYMENT

Objective 3.1: Increase the percentage of CIL staff who experience a disability.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: People with disabilities are contributing members of society and the economy.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Number and percentage of CIL employees who experience a disability.

Objective 3.2: Increase the number of consumers selecting employment goals.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: More consumers seeking a path to employment through Independent Living services.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Number and percentage of consumers selecting employment goals.

Objective 3.3: Increase efforts to educate DVR and TVR counselors on the services provided by Centers for Independent Living.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: Improved utilization of services that support employment of people with disabilities.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Number of communications with DVR & TVR counselors to educate them on the services provided by Centers for Independent Living.

GOAL 4: HEALTH & WELLNESS

Objective 4.1: Improve consumer and public access to information on emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: Consumers are prepared for emergencies and knowledgeable of the resources that are available to them when an emergency occurs.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Number of public meetings and events the SILC participates in to gather and disseminate information.

Objective 4.2: Increase advocacy to promote participant-directed options for people with disabilities.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: The number of participant-directed options are increased.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Stakeholder groups partnered with in joint advocacy efforts.

GOAL 5: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Objective 5.1: Improve consumer and public access to information and resources related to assistive technology, durable medical equipment, and non-durable medical supplies.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: Consumers are knowledgeable of the resources available to them.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Number of visits to SILC webpage with online resources.

GOAL 6- DIVERSITY

Objective 6.1: CILs will strive to have a consumer base representing the diversity of the communities they serve.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: IL services are delivered in a manner that is more equitable across diverse populations.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Consumer demographics to be compared to census data for each region.

GOAL 7- YOUTH TRANSITION

Objective 7.1: Youth delegates will participate in the Alaska Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) each year that it is held with a 90% graduation rate.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: More youth leaders to spread the Independent Living philosophy.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Graduation rates for the Alaska YLF.

Objective 7.2: 100% of Alaska YLF graduates will demonstrate increased IL competency.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: Graduates leave the YLF program with a deeper understanding of Independent Living and its role in helping them to realize their full potential.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Scores from pre- and post-YLF surveys.

Objective 7.3: Alaska YLF graduates will have improved employment outcomes.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: YLF graduates are contributing members of society and the economy.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Percentage of graduates that become employed by the summer following graduation.

GOAL 8- IL NETWORK

Objective 8.1: CILs will strive to maintain a return rate for the quarterly CIL Consumer Satisfaction Surveys of 20% or greater.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: A better understanding of the needs of consumers.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Return rates for CIL Consumer Satisfaction Surveys.

Objective 8.2: Increase the awareness of Independent Living services in Alaska.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: Broadened public knowledge of Independent Living services.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Communities, policy-makers, and legislators that participate in awareness activities to maintain funds for rural service delivery and outreach.

GOAL 9 SUSTAINABILITY

Objective 9.1: Increase the diversity of funding streams to fund the general operation of the SILC.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: A SILC that is less vulnerable to changes in state and federal funding priorities.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Number of new funding sources and the amounts of each.

Objective 9.2: The Alaska YLF will be a sustainable SILC Program.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Desired Outcomes: A lasting program for youth with disabilities to grow and develop leadership capacity.

Target Dates: 9/30/2021, 9/30/2022, 9/30/2023

Indicators:

1. Cost of holding an annual YLF with an itemized budget.
2. Amount of funding secured from each funding stream.

Compatibility with the purpose of Title VII, Chapter 1

The Alaska Independent Living Network's new SPIL sets forth our commitment to further independent living in Alaska. The objectives and activities include:

Increasing the general awareness of the independent living philosophy by offering more workshops on independent living to the general public and our partners as well as conducting a state conference for CIL staff to attend.

Partnering with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the Department of Health and Social Services to decrease the number of individuals who live in either a nursing home or an assisted living home through transition to the least restrictive environment.

Offering comprehensive home surveys (Home Modifications for Aging in Place (HomeMap) or comparable tool) across the state to increase the number of individuals living in their own homes for as long as possible.

And, by being an advocate for better access and accessibility to community events and locations (e.g., health care, voting, sidewalks, transportation, etc.).

The Network has been re-energized and are committed to helping other communities with

independent living and consumer control values. If successful, these communities will help with the expansion of the independent living philosophy. The Network will be working with partners to advocate for better adherence to the Americans with Disabilities Act including at statewide, regional, and local events / locations.

1.2 Evaluation

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

The SILC will use the consumer satisfaction survey as a starting point in the development of a survey used to evaluate the effectiveness of the SPIL. This survey may or may not be adopted by the CILs as the new consumer satisfaction survey. A random sample of consumers from across Alaska will be selected to participate in evaluation of the SPIL. Once the target sample size has been reached by securing enough consumers willing to participate in the evaluation, these consumers will be issued a quarterly survey to monitor and evaluate consumer satisfaction tied to the desired outcomes of SPIL objectives. This sample of consumers will have the opportunity to participate for the entire 3-year period of the SPIL. However, if any volunteers drop out, an additional random selection of consumers will occur to fill any vacancies.

The IL Network is working toward a streamlined reporting process to minimize additional reporting requirements to the SILC by CILs that is beyond the quarterly 704/PPR provided to the DSE. CILs will only provide additional reporting to the SILC on SPIL Objectives as needed.

The SILC ED will compile all the CIL data from quarterly reports and include it in the quarterly SILC ED Report, along with SILC data on SPIL objectives, so that the SILC board is kept apprised of progress toward meeting SPIL objectives and can play an active role in adjusting SPIL activities where needed to improve effective implementation of the SPIL.

Timeline	Goals (copy from section 1.2)	Objectives (copy from section 1.3)	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization responsible for data collection
<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>	<u>Goal 1</u> <u>TRANSPORTATION</u> Alaska will have a community transit system that uses a variety of modes and programs to help people with disabilities be able to live more independently in the community of their choice.	<u>Objective 1.1</u> Increase the accessibility, affordability, availability, and safety of no less than 3 modes of transportation (e.g. accessible taxis, taxi vouchers, etc).	1. Significant gains and losses will be reported by CILs to the SILC, including description of the gain or loss and explanation of how or why it took place, community or communities affected, the number of people with disabilities impacted where known.	Survey of community resources.	<i>CIL's</i>

September 2021, 2022 & 2023	GOAL 2: HOUSING Alaska will have accessible, affordable, available housing to help Alaskans with disabilities be able to live more independently in their community of choice.	Objective 2.1 Increase awareness of housing options for consumers and community members.	1. Number of I&Rs on housing options.	Admin data.	<i>CIL's</i>
September 2021, 2022 & 2023			2. Percentage increase for the above 2 data points in 2022 and 2023, once baselines have been established for 2021.	Admin data.	<i>CIL's</i>
September 2021, 2022 & 2023		Objective 2.2 Increase or maintain the number of Alaskans with disabilities who receive home modifications through programs offered by both the state and the Alaska IL Network, especially in rural and remote communities.	1. Number of Modifications provided.	Admin data.	<i>CIL's</i>
September 2021, 2022 & 2023			2. Comparison to previous years.	Admin data.	<i>CIL's</i>
September 2021, 2022 & 2023			3. Urban/Rural/remote breakdown for each program	Admin data.	<i>CIL's</i>
September 2021, 2022 & 2023		Objective 2.3 Increase efforts to promote the use of universal design or visitability.	1. Number of visits to SILC website with online resources.	Admin data.	<i>SILC</i>

September 2021, 2022 & 2023	GOAL 3 : EMPLOYMENT Alaskans with disabilities will have the services and supports they need to secure gainful, integrated employment.				
September 2021, 2022 & 2023		Objective 3.1 Increase the percentage of CIL staff who experience a disability.	1. Number and percentage of CIL employees who experience a disability.	State data.	CIL's
September 2021, 2022 & 2023		Objective 3.2 Increase the number of consumers selecting employment goals.	1. Number and percentage of consumers selecting employment goals.	Admin data.	CIL's
September 2021, 2022 & 2023		Objective 3.3 Increase efforts to educate DVR and TVR counselors on the services provided by Centers for Independent Living.	1. Number of communications with TVR& DVR counselors to educate them on the services provided by Centers for Independent Living.	Admin data.	CIL's
September 2021, 2022 & 2023	GOAL 4: HEALTH & WELLNESS Alaskans with disabilities will have access to health information and services needed for health and wellness throughout their lifespan.				

September 2021, 2022 & 2023		Objective 4.1 Improve consumer and public access to information on emergency preparedness, response and recovery.	1. Number of public meetings and events the SILC participates in to gather and disseminate information.	Admin data.	SILC
September 2021, 2022 & 2023		Objective 4.2 Increase advocacy to promote participant-directed options for people with disabilities.	1. Stakeholder groups partnered with in joint advocacy efforts.	Admin data.	CIL's SILC

<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>	<u>GOAL 5 ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY</u> Alaskans with disabilities will have access to assistive technology devices/tools, durable medical equipment and non-durable medical supplies to support independence.				
<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>		Objective 5.1 Improve consumer and public access to information and resources related to assistive technology, durable medical equipment and non-durable medical supplies.	1. Number of visits to SILC website with online resources.	Admin data.	<i>SILC</i>
<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>	<u>GOAL 6 DIVERSITY</u> Alaska CILs and CIL Programs will be representative of the populations in their regions.				
<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>		Objective 6.1 CILs will strive to have a consumer base representing the diversity of the communities they serve.	1. Consumer demographics to be compared to census data for each region.	Admin data.	<i>CIL's</i>

<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>	<u>GOAL 7 YOUTH TRANSITION</u> Alaska's youth with disabilities will have leadership training opportunities to facilitate their transition into adulthood.				
<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>		Objective 7.1 Youth delegates will participate in the Alaska Youth Leadership Forum each year that it is held with a 90% graduation rate.	1. Graduation rates for the Alaska YLF.	Admin data.	<i>SILC</i>

<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>		Objective 7.2 100% of Alaska YLF graduates will demonstrate increased IL competency.	1. Scores from pre and post-YLF surveys.	Admin data.	<i>SILC</i>
<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>		Objective 7.3 Alaska YLF graduates will have improved employment outcomes.	1. Percentage of graduates that become employed by the summer following graduation.	Admin data.	<i>SILC</i>
<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>	GOAL 8 IL NETWORK The Independent Living Network in Alaska promotes independent living ideals through education, outreach and partnerships.	Objective 8.1 CILs will strive to maintain a return rate for the quarterly CIL consumer Satisfaction Surveys of 20% greater.	1. Return rates for CIL consumer satisfaction surveys.	Admin data.	<i>CIL's SILC</i>
<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>		Objective 8.2 Increase the awareness of Independent Living services in Alaska.	1. Communities, policy-makers, and legislators that participate in awareness activities to maintain funds for rural service delivery and outreach.		<i>CIL's</i>
<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>	GOAL 9 SUSTAINABILITY The SILC will be a sustainable council.	Objective 9.1 Increase the diversity of funding streams to fund the general operation of the SILC.	1. Number of new funding sources and the amounts of each.	Admin data.	<i>SILC</i>
<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>		Objective 9.2 The Alaska YLF will be a sustainable SILC Program.	1. Cost of holding an annual YLF with an itemized budget.	Admin data.	<i>SILC</i>

<i>September 2021, 2022 & 2023</i>			2. Amount of funding secured from each funding stream.	Admin data.	<i>SILC</i>
--	--	--	--	-------------	-------------

Financial Plan

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

Fiscal Year(s):					
Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
Title VII Funds					
Chapter 1, Part B (including state match)			332,044		
Chapter 1, Part C			947,003		
Other Federal Funds					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	60,000				
Social Security Reimbursement					
Cares Act					
Other					
Non-Federal Funds					
State Funds	140,000	25,000	924,000		
Other					

Description of financial plan narrative.

Financial Plan Narratives

- Part B funds will further all objectives.
- Part C funds will further all objectives.
- No Chapter 2 (Older Blind) funds will be used to further SPIL objectives. The Chapter 2 (Older Blind) funds will stay with the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation while the part B, part C and Sec. 101 (a) (18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion) funds will be used to fund the SILC.

Efforts to coordinate Federal and State funding for centers and IL services, including the amounts, sources and purposes of the funding to be coordinated.

We are continuing to work with the DSE and other state entities to ensure fee for service opportunities are available for the CILs. We are able to serve individuals in approximately ½ of the cities in Alaska. The Alaska Independent Living Network is committed to diversifying its base. To go about that diversification in a variety of ways, including using Medicaid billing (Access Alaska), being an Aging and Disability Resource Center (SAIL and ILC), and slowly growing the size of the organization (Arctic Access). Each organization also gets funding from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Service grants to perform programs that are related or complimentary to the base IL grant. Each Center works to increase the amount of fee for service it provides and have become community rehabilitation providers for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The DSE (Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities Services) distributes Part B funds with additional match (state funds to the designated CILs) based on the funding formula. The total amount of funding is applied to the funding formula and each CIL receives the balance of funds after their Part C funding is backed out. The funds are distributed through a grant agreement and activities and responsibilities are described in their responses to a Request for Proposal released by the state. CILs send SDS their 704/PPR data on a quarterly basis to meet reporting requirements for the state. The Performance Measure Framework is due at the end of the fiscal year (Final Report). The Demographic report is due quarterly, and the biannual program narrative is due semi-annually.

The SILC is awarded a contract by the Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities Services after submitting a letter that explains why the SILC should be considered for a sole source contract, to provide the services of the state's independent living council. The SILC is funded by a mix of I&E and State General Funds, so the I&E funding is transferred to SDS through a Reimbursable Services Agreement prior to distribution to the SILC. The SILC fulfills its reporting requirements by submitting its 704/PPR to SDS annually.

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.

The Alaska Independent Living Network resource plan includes each center for independent living (CIL) raising 50% of the funding needed to meet the goal of a fully served state. The CILs appreciate the individuals who volunteer for their respective organizations. The SILC and CIL board of directors are important volunteers along with those who are participating in Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation work assessments by volunteering in the offices of the IL Network. The Network also uses paid volunteers, such as the Jesuits, VISTA, and Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). These individuals are critical to the strategies the Network is using to increase the amount of funding directed at services and outreach.

The Network also accepts in-kind donations. This is especially true in rural Alaska. In rural Alaska, the Nome and Kotzebue office spaces (for Arctic Access) are in-kind donations. This

includes the square footage of the office, the heat, phones, and internet. All of the CILs accept donations of funds and equipment (e.g., loan closet materials, office equipment, etc.). Donations vary greatly, but all centers receive some amount of funding from donations. The SILC is in the process of developing new funding streams for long-term sustainability. We are now receiving donations but have not reached the contribution level to apply for Pick Click Give.

CIL Funding

In 2011, The Alaska IL Network worked with Agnew / Beck to determine a new funding formula, which took a variety of factors into effect. This past year, it was determined that the formula was too difficult to use for calculations. The SILC, CILs, DSE, and DVR have been in discussions about what to use in place of the current funding formula. Our weighted factors are the following:

- Urban/Rural/Remote categories,
- Cost of living Allowance, and
- Whether or not the areas are unserved, underserved, or served.

Alaska is the largest state by measure of land mass, with communities being geographically dispersed and have low population basis. Service delivery off the road system is more expensive due to higher transportation costs and fewer service providers. The application of “rural” used in previous funding plans does not distinguish between small communities on the road system versus those that are remote and only accessible by air or water.

The Task Force decided to expand the former urban-rural distinction to an “urban-rural-remote” continuum that employs the classification system developed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Neither. The taskforce compared the OMB census areas designations and found that the definitions used for Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Neither matched the wide variety of conditions and classification systems used to define urban, rural, and remote for purposes of the funding formula. Thus, we will use:

- Using the OMB census area designations;
- Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough are considered Urban;
- Kenai Peninsula Borough, Juneau City and Borough, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, and Kodiak Census area are considered rural;
- The remaining census areas are considered remote.

The essence of the cost of living factor was a combination of the degree to which a census area has the infrastructure to provide services plus the cost of obtaining the necessary commodities and labor to provide those services. The Department of Health and Social Services used these COLA factors to arrive at Medicaid rates in different areas of the state.

Finally, the state population base is very spread out, with the size of communities varying between less than 100 people to over 300,000 people. Additionally, as stated before, the state has large swaths that aren’t accessible by a road system (only by air or water); thus the Alaska IL

Network will determine funding, in part, based on the size of the communities in the CIL’s region. For an area to be considered “served” there must be a local CIL within 100 miles and that CIL must be able to provide all five core services. The “unserved” communities have no local presence or on-going communications with residents to provide any one of the five core services (and, if on the road system, is more than 100 miles away from a CIL office). We added “underserved” as a category, because the CILs can only provide in-person assistance on one or more of the five core services on an intermittent basis only.

The formula will calculate the percentage of funding for each CIL based on these weighted factors. If the CIL receives Part C funding, then that amount will be subtracted from the total.

Future Funding

Wherever possible this plan assumes the same level of funding for CILs as the preceding year, unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. not meeting the standards and indicators or decrease or increase in funding).

Future Increases in Federal Part C, Federal Part B and/or State IL funds:

If there are any increases in federal Part B and/or state funding during any year of the SPIL or should Part B and or state funds become available as the result of increases in Part C funding, the CILs will receive a commensurate increase in funding based on the current funding formula.

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services

2.1 Services

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

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Core Independent Living Services, as follows:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information and referral - IL skills training - Peer counseling - Individual and systems advocacy - Transition services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transition from nursing homes & other institutions ▪ Diversion from institutions ▪ Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life 	X	X	CIL
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services			

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with disabilities) Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.	X	X	CIL
Rehabilitation technology	X	X	CIL
Mobility training	X	X	CIL
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training and interpreter and reader services	X	X	CIL
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	X	X	CIL
Surveys, directories, and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation and other support services	X	X	CIL
Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and IL services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act	X	X	CIL
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	X	X	CIL
Supported living			
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	X	X	CIL
Physical rehabilitation			
Therapeutic treatment			
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	X	X	CIL
Individual and group social and recreational services	X	X	CIL

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with significant disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options	X	X	CIL
Services for children	X	X	CIL
Services under other Federal, State or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling or other assistance, of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity and quality of life of individuals with disabilities	X	X	CIL
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	X	X	CIL
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	X	X	CIL
Such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act	X	X	CIL

2.2 Outreach

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

Targeted Populations

Seniors with disabilities, Youth with disabilities in transition to adulthood (16-24 year old’s), People with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder/fetal alcohol syndrome (FASD/FAS), People with traumatic brain injuries (TBI), People with mental illness, Deaf (and hard of hearing) Alaskans, African-Americans with disabilities, Asian-Americans with disabilities, Hispanics with disabilities, Alaska Natives with disabilities.

Geographic Areas

To target one or more geographic regions seems disingenuous, because of the expanse of the state and the relatively small areas that are routinely covered by the IL staff members. We know that we need to find new ways to reach out to more communities and find ways to bring services to individuals with disabilities living 50 or more miles away from a center for independent living or its satellite.

Outreach activities and methods to be conducted and who will conduct each

Many new outreach efforts have been started. The SILC has taken over the responsibility of getting consumer satisfaction surveys through the U.S. Postal service. The surveys have a cover letter which explains who we are, which CIL they received services from, why we are doing these letters and surveys, and the opportunity to win a small prize if they return the survey. Every CIL and the SILC uses social media to get the word out to the community about certain ideas and opportunities. These posts are picked up by other groups who get them out to their communities. In rural Alaska, this is an important mechanism for the exchange of information; it is more influential than television ads. The SILC and the CILs participate in rural outreach, such as Health Fairs, to get exposed to more individuals in more communities. The IL Network also uses sister boards to get the independent living message to more communities, such as during rural outreach trips and to specific disabilities (e.g., developmental). The CILs will participate in cultural events and fairs as part of the attempt to reach out to specific cultures and races. One of the easiest ways to reach out to a community is through one to one contact. Peer mentoring is one of the best ways to overcome divisions based on our outward appearance and bring a community in from the cold.

2.3 Coordination

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

We look forward to our continued relationship with DVR and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development as we work on issues of employment, transportation, assistive technology issues, and transition age youth. Similarly, we have continued to work with the State Rehabilitation Committee on issues around employment, youth transition and service dogs.

The DHSS (specifically SDS and its Grant Unit) have made the transition of the DSE smooth. We continue to have a good working relationship with them.

The Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities (SDS) continues to be a major stakeholder committed to offering IL activities to Alaskans with disabilities. The department and its divisions, including SDS and the Alaska Division of Public Health, have been integral to providing IL services, transportation, housing, transition of youth out of foster care and of individuals who want to live in the least restrictive environment, health care access, emergency preparedness, recreation, community involvement, peer support, as well as information and referral.

The SILC will continue to work with the various boards housed in the Department of Health and Social Services. The SILC has a variety of ongoing projects with the DD Council, including working on creating a new advisory group, led by the SILC, for FEMA and Alaska's emergency management teams, transportation issues, assistive technology, and Medicaid Reform. The IL Network works with the Alaska Commission on Aging, the Alaska Long Term Care Ombudsman office, Age-Net and the trade association for senior service providers, to improve

the lives of Elders and seniors (with disabilities). We are working together on the following issues: transportation (e.g., accessible taxis, community transit), emergency preparedness, and least restrictive housing options. The Alaska Mental Health Board and the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse share an Executive Director and partners with the SILC on legislative education and awareness, transportation, voting access and youth transition.

There are several other committees that the SILC has strong relationship with including those belonging to the Alaska Department of Revenue, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and those who are non-profits and are aligned with a state agency. The Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) is a non-profit agency that focuses on community transit that is safe, affordable, accessible and available for the general public; including specifically persons with disabilities. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, a state agency in the Department of Revenue, is a conduit for change in the way services are provided to individuals with specific disabilities (mental illness, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's and Related Dementia, alcoholism/drug abuse, and/or brain injury.) Luckily, because of the amount of funding available through the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (the Trust), the positive outcomes are felt by many people with other disabilities. The Trust is able to sway public policy by offering grant funding that is cost effective, person centered and uses best practices. The SILC has been able to work with the Trust to ensure independent living opportunities are available to more individuals in Alaska including selection tools for selecting Conflict-Free Case Managers and a program for the transition of individuals who are in assisted living homes and would rather be living in less restrictive environments. The Alaska Brain Injury Network is in flux and the SILC is working with its partners to create a new state plan for individuals with traumatic and acquired brain injury.

The SILC actively seeks out ways to blend and braid funding and responsibilities with other federal (FEMA), state (Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities), and local partners on activities surrounding transportation, emergency preparedness, information and referral, transitions, assistive technology and durable medical equipment, as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act implementation.

The Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Consortia (TVRC), Alaska University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UAA Center for Human Development), and the Protection and Advocacy agency (Alaska Disability Law Center) will continue to be important resources for the Network's efforts to increase accessibility and awareness on disability rights issues. These agencies act as a medium for our message and to ensure that the concerns of rural Alaskans are received.

Section 3: Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Centers

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

Legal name	Counties (Census Regions) served	Funding	Oversight process	Oversight entity	SPIL Signatory (yes/no)
Access Alaska	Anchorage- full Denali- limited Fairbanks- full Mat-su- full North Slope- limited SE Fairbanks- limited	Part B, Part C, State and other funds	CIL submits CIL PPR to ACL/OIP and DSE	DSE and ACL/OILP	Yes
Arctic Access	Nome- full Northwest Arctic- full	Part B, State and other funds	CIL submits PPR to DSE	DSE	Yes
Independent Living Center, Inc.	Kenai Peninsula- full Kodiak Island- full Valdez Cordova Census- limited	Part B, Part C, State and other funds	CIL submits CIL PPR to ACL/OIP and DSE	DSE and ACL/OILP	Yes
Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Inc.	Angoon/Hoonah- full Haines- full Juneau- full Ketchikan- full Petersburg- limited Prince of Wales- full Sitka- full Skagway- limited Wrangell- limited Yakutat- full	Part B, Part C, State and other funds	CIL submits CIL PPR to ACL/OIP and DSE	DSE and ACL/OILP	Yes

Criteria for Defining the CIL network

The Alaska CIL Network is composed of representatives of the Alaska Statewide Independent Council, the SILC/CIL Designated State Entity Alaska; and all four Alaska CILs. Each Alaska CIL is eligible to sign the SPIL.

How Services are Configured

CIL services in Alaska are provided by four CILs.

- 1) Access Alaska
- 2) Arctic Access
- 3) Independent Living Center, Inc.
- 4) Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Inc.

Access Alaska

Access Alaska serves the largest population centers in Alaska, with offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Wasilla. From these offices, Access Alaska provides all core services in the Anchorage Municipality, Fairbanks NorthStar Borough and Matanuska-Susitna (Matsu)

Borough, with a 2010 Census of 478, 402 people, and itinerant services in the North Slope Borough, Denali Borough, and SE Fairbanks census area to 18,282 of people.

Arctic Access

Arctic Access maintains offices in Nome and Kotzebue. From these offices, Arctic Access provides all 5 core services in the Northwest Arctic Borough and the Nome census areas. The number of individuals living in the Northwest Arctic Borough and the Nome census area, according to the 2010 Census is 17,015. There are small hubs with many villages.

Independent Living Center (ILC)

The Independent Living Center (ILC) maintains offices in the communities of Homer, Kodiak, Soldotna, and Seward. From these offices, ILC provides all 5 core services in the Kenai Peninsula Borough and Kodiak Island and itinerant services to the Valdez-Cordova census region. The number of individuals living in this section of the state, according the 2010 Census, is 68,992. They serve another 9,639 community members with itinerant services.

Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL)

Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) maintains offices in Juneau, Haines, Sitka, Ketchikan, and Klawock. Additionally, through agreements with local tribes, SAIL has part-time staff in the villages of Kake and Yakutat. From these seven locations, SAIL provides all five core services in the Hoonah-Angoon Census Area; Haines Borough; Juneau; Ketchikan Gateway Borough; Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area; Sitka City and Borough; and Yakutat City and Borough. These 7 census regions have a total population of 62,616 according to the 2010 Census. SAIL provides itinerant services to the Petersburg Borough, Skagway, and Wrangell census regions. According to the 2010 Census, 6,540 individuals live in these regions of the state.

In FY 2019, 3116 consumers were served by the Alaska CILs. Statewide, the age-range of consumers most often served by the Alaska IL Network was almost equally divided between the age group 25-59 and the group 60+, with 1271 and 1287 individuals respectively. Consumers with physical disabilities, 827, were the most often served, followed by 642 individuals whose primary disability was listed as cognitive, followed by 535 individuals who identified as having a mental/emotional disability. Statewide, the vast majority of ethnicities served were Caucasian, Alaska Native/American Indian, and those who selected “two or more races”. This is similar to the breakdown of the population of Alaska.

Disaster and Emergency Response Services

During and following a disaster or other emergency, Alaska’s IL entities expect to play a role in addressing the daunting challenges individuals with disabilities and their families face in such times to maintain their safety, health, independence and well-being. Alaska’s IL entities have begun working with other disability organizations and FEMA on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Response. We will continue to develop this coordination, and work on the development of long-term strategies for the IL Network to better prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters.

For these reasons, it is the intent of this plan that, unless specifically prohibited for any funding stream, funding streams identified in the SPIL’s financial plan be allowed to be used

at the discretion of the recipient in the areas listed below. This includes new emergency response funding that becomes available during the period of the plan.

1. Within the entity's assigned service area.
2. In a service area assigned to another entity. In such cases the entity(ies) providing the service will be guided by a memorandum of agreement with the CIL assigned to that area. Should the nature of the disaster/emergency prohibit the home CIL from participating in the coordination agreement, the assisting entities will still use a mutual memorandum of agreement to guide/coordinate the response.
3. In areas unserved by any CIL. In this case, if multiple IL entities will be responding, a mutual memorandum of agreement between the entities will guide/coordinate the response.

Use of funds should follow the principles outlined in the Administration for Community Living/Office of Independent Living Programs (ACL/OILP) *Disaster Services Policy*, and other guidance issued at the time of the emergency, with regard to particular funding sources

3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network

The CILs will use Part B and/or C funds, I & E, state funds, individual and corporate donations, municipal grants, foundation grants, fees for service, other state grants, and other federal grants. The SILC will use I&E, State General Funds, administrative fees from foundation grants, and donations.

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

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

The minimum funding level for a Center is \$250,000. This funding level is based on a study conducted by APRIL in 1995, then again in 2012. This does not account for inflation. A formula/plan still needs to be developed to ensure that each Center receives at least the minimum.

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

In the event that funds are relinquished or removed from a CIL and/or a CIL closes, the following steps will be taken:

1. The SILC will take the lead in the formation of a review committee with representation from the SILC, DSE, and stakeholder organizations (e.g. The Alaska Mental Health Trust, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Alaska Commission on Aging, etc.), which will issue a competitive RFP to the remaining CILs.

2. The remaining CILs may submit a single proposal, which outlines a plan for serving one, more or all of the communities formerly served by the CIL in question.
3. The review committee will meet to approve plans of service on a community by community basis.
4. Notice of approval will be issued immediately as decisions are made, in order to minimize lapses in service for each community that is up for review.
5. The funding formula will be updated to reflect the change in service areas and include only the CILs that remain.
6. If there are no respondents to the RFP or some communities are not included in CIL proposals, funds will go back into the funding formula for redistribution. Part C funds will be redistributed in the same manner that Part B and State GF are distributed in the existing funding formula.

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

CIL's will receive a decrease in funds commensurate with the funding formula.

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

Any expansion would occur through an increase of Part C or State funds. Our current funding formula is capable of adjusting according to any increases or decreases in funds (including Part B, Part C, other funds, and one-time funds), unless state or federal regulations prohibit the method of distribution used in the funding formula. In the event of an increase or decrease in funds, each CIL receives an increase or decrease of funds commensurate with the funding formula.

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

The funding formula is capable of accounting for any adjustments of service regions. There are no proposed changes to service regions at this time. However, CILs may enter MOAs with one another at any time, in order to provide IL services outside of designated service regions.

Unserved/Underserved

To determine who is currently unserved / underserved, we surveyed Alaskans, held focus groups, and reviewed our sister agencies data (e.g., DVR, DD Council) about which groups are currently unserved / underserved by their organization. The team also used the U.S. Census (as well as the American Community Survey), the Disability Compendium, and State of Alaska data. After reviewing the information, we created a list of unserved / underserved individuals that live in pockets throughout the state, but specifically in areas served by the CILs. It was determined that the following segments of the population should be considered unserved / underserved.

Age Ranges: Seniors with disabilities, Youth with disabilities

Gender/Sexual Orientation: LGBTQ

Disability type: People with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder/fetal alcohol syndrome, People with traumatic brain injuries, People with mental illness, Deaf and hard of hearing

Race/Nationality: African Americans with disabilities, Asian Americans with disabilities, Hispanics with disabilities, Alaska Natives with disabilities

Geographically unserved areas of the state are illustrated in the IL Network's annual infographic (see attached).

There is a great need for Independent Living services in the southwestern portion of the state, but to be able to ensure a CIL would be successful requires enough funding to pay the higher costs of utilities, personnel costs, and travel. With the current funding levels, we do not see any expansion happening in the near future. Instead, focus will be given to integrating Independent Living into existing services in unserved areas of rural Alaska.

Section 4: Designated State Entity

Alaska Division of Senior and Disability Services will serve as the entity in Alaska designated to receive, administer, and account for funds made available to the state under Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Act on behalf of the State. (*Sec. 704(c)*)

4.1 DSE Responsibilities

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

4.2 Grant Process & Distribution of Funds

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

The DSE (Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities Services) distributes Part B funds with additional match (state funds to the designated CILs) based on the funding formula. The total amount of funding is applied to the funding formula and each CIL receives the balance of funds after their Part C funding is backed out. The funds are distributed through a grant agreement and activities and responsibilities are described in their responses to a Request for Proposal released by the state. CILs send SDS their 704/PPR data on a quarterly basis to meet reporting requirements for the state. The Performance Measure Framework is due at the end of the fiscal year (Final Report). The Demographic report is due quarterly, and the biannual program narrative is due semi-annually.

The SILC is awarded a contract by the Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities Services after submitting a letter that explains why the SILC should be considered for a sole source contract, , to provide the services of the state’s independent living council. The SILC is funded by a mix of I&E and State General Funds, so the I&E funding is transferred to SDS through a Reimbursable Services Agreement prior to distribution to the SILC. The SILC fulfills its reporting requirements by submitting its 704/PPR to SDS annually.

4.3 Oversight Process for Part B Funds

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

The Alaska Division of Senior and Disability Services is the State of Alaska’s Designated State Entity (DSE) and provides oversight and manages the Independent Living Part B funds as well as continued use of the Innovation and Expansion funds to fund the SILC. The Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation intends to keep the OIB funding and the Assistive Technology Act funding. The DSE will require reviews to ensure the CILs and SILC maintain good standing with the State in regard to OSHA, Workers’ Compensation, Wage and Hour, etc.

4.4 Administration and Staffing

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE.

The Grants Unit Manager of the Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) serves on the SILC as an ex-officio member and has been active in the development of the new SPIL. Fiscal staff from Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and the SDS have worked together to provide input into the resource plan. Both are available to the Alaska IL Network.

4.5 State Imposed Requirements

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

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

The DSE issues IL Part B contracts to each CIL annually and monitors each contract for compliance with state and federal regulations including the federal standards and indicators for Centers for Independent Living. The DSE also has performance measures to ensure cost effective services are being provided to as many individuals as possible. Also, the DSE plans to reinvigorate the review program for both CILs and the SILC. The DSE will review financials and service delivery data on a quarterly basis and provide recommendations for improvement as necessary.

4.6 722 vs. 723 State

Check one:

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

4.7 723 States

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

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

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 Establishment of SILC

How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.

The SILC of Alaska was established during the state fiscal year (SFY) of 1994. In that year, the Governor of Alaska appointed 13 members, on an interim basis, to the SILC of Alaska through an Executive Order. In SFY1995, the Senate passed an act to establish the SILC and clarified its relationship with the Designated State Unit (DSU). The SILC is described in Alaska Statute 47.0780.300. In the statute, the relationship between the SILC and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DOLWD/DVR) is established to provide a funding, professional development, and technical assistance to the SILC. In SFY 2002, the SILC became a non-profit, with nine (9) voting members and two (2) ex-officio, non-voting members. In SFY2016, the Governor issued Executive Order 117 which stated that starting on the first day of the SFY2017 the Designated State Entity for the Independent Living Network will be moved to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services/Division of Senior and Disability Services (DHSS/SDS). The SILC and its state partners have a strong working relationship built on trust.

5.2 SILC Resource plan

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

For FY 2021 (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021), the SILC will use the following funding:

\$ 60,000 (Innovation and Expansion funds)
\$140,000 (State funds)

The SILC will receive \$200,000 in State Funds for both FY 2022 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022) and FY 2023 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023).

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

The DSE contract is negotiated with the DSE each May. The annual contract does not include any conditions or requirements that would compromise the independence of the SILC.

The SPIL goals, objectives, and activities and the SILC Resource Plan are developed based on the understanding that federal and state funds may fluctuate. The financial tables are developed based on conservative estimates, using current fiscal indicators and trends from the previous two years as guides for cost estimations. It is important to recognize that the SILC has limited staff and resources; therefore, it is critical to collaborate and partner with the CILs, the DSE and other agencies to complete the goals, objectives and activities identified in the SPIL.

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

Funds for the SILC Resource Plan will be disbursed by the DSE, upon receiving monthly invoices with supporting documentation. Per the SILC's contract with the DSE, all invoices are to be paid within no more than 30 days of receipt. However, the SILC and DSE are working together to ensure more timely reimbursement, in order to prevent any undue hardship on the SILC, which could disrupt continuous and effective ongoing operations.

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

N/A

5.3 Maintenance of SILC

How State will maintain SILC over the course of the SPIL.¹

SILC Board

Members are appointed by the Governor of Alaska. Per the federal requirements, the Alaska Statue outlines that the SILC must include a representative from the DSE and the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (as nonvoting, Ex-Officio members). The SILC will have at least 1 director of a CIL on the council as a voting member. Additionally, if the State had a tribal run center for independent living, then we would include that person as well. Our bylaws still state that we will have a Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation provider and until that is changed, we will continue to designate a seat for one of the consortia members. Boards and Commission is usually willing to listen to the SILCs concerns, responsibilities and needs. We have reviewed the other councils, committees, and boards the SILC members sit on and have noticed a wide diverse network to build awareness with and partner. We encourage individuals to apply for the council, however the Boards and Commissions staff will put all of the individuals applying for a board with a disability focus into one group and appoint people from that group. We have tried to explain the process recommended by the Independent Living Reutilization Unit (ILRU), but the belief, or push-back, is the process should be standard between all state-appointed boards.

Additionally, centers for independent living employees and consumers; parents and guardians of individuals with disabilities; individuals with disabilities; representatives from private businesses, specific disability organizations, and disability service providers will be encouraged to apply to the SILC board. The SILC members and staff will describe the nomination/ appointment process to any potential candidate. A majority of members shall be persons with disabilities and not employed by any state agency or center for independent living. The Council elects the chair from among its membership.

The SILC will strive to have representation from all geographic regions in the state to achieve cultural/ethnic diversity, reflective of the population of the state of Alaska. The council will include members from a wide variety of disability categories in order to ensure proper and adequate input from the disability community. The SILC shall select a chairperson from its voting members.

If there is an opening on the council because a member is unable to continue in his/her tenure, then the SILC Executive Committee, the SILC Executive Director, and Boards and Commission staff will work together to fill that opening as soon as possible.

Each member is appointed for a three (3) year term; members can only serve for two (2) consecutive terms. A person who has fulfilled his/her terms to the maximum extent possible will not be eligible to reapply for membership for one full term (3 years). Individuals serve at the pleasure of the governor.

Staffing

According to the Alaska SILC Personnel Policies, the council members constitute the Board of Directors of the corporation. As such, the SILC council members approve the personnel policy and are the only ones who may alter, change, or waive any policy contained herein.

When hiring a new Executive Director, the full Board must approve the hiring, but authorizes the Executive Committee to enter into a written contract of service with an approved candidate for the position of Executive Director and provide guidance to the position through the Chairperson.

The Board of Directors has delegated to the Executive Director authority to employ and discharge all other staff of the corporation, whether full-time, part-time, and/or temporary. The Board of Directors must approve position descriptions and pay before positions are filled, and only if an approved budget allows for it.

All staff must recognize that Alaska is an “at will” state, meaning either the employer (the SILC) or employee may terminate the employment relationship at any time with or without cause and with or without notice. No supervisor or director is authorized to enter into anything other than an at-will employment relationship with any employee on behalf of SILC.

The Executive Director, at least annually, will make a written evaluation of the effectiveness of each employee in carrying out duties included in his/her job description, review the evaluation with the employee, and place a copy of the evaluation in the employee’s personnel file. Each

employee shall sign the evaluation to denote that he/she has reviewed the evaluation with the Director or designee. The signature does not necessarily mean agreement with the evaluation, and the employee may write a response to the evaluation, which will also be placed in the employee's personnel file.

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

The SILC's personnel policy covers conflict of interest issues by stating: "All employees will act consistent with the Ethics and Conflict of Interest policy contained herein. No employee will attempt to use his/her position to promote personal gain. Each employee will avoid actual, or the appearance of, financial or other benefits from relationships with clients, agencies, commercial institutions, or activities with which the corporation does business or has working relationships."

Section 6: Legal Basis and Certifications

6.1 Designated State Entity (DSE)

The state entity/agency designated to receive and distribute funding, as directed by the SPIL, under Title VII, Part B of the Act is Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities Services.
Authorized representative of the DSE Anthony Newman Title Deputy Director.

6.2 Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

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

6.3 Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

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

Access Alaska Inc.
Independent Living Center
Southeast Alaska Independent Living
Arctic Access

6.4 Authorizations

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

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

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

Section 7: DSE Assurances

Anthony Newman acting on behalf of the DSE Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities Services located at 550 West 8th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501, Phone: 907-269-3666

45 CFR 1329.11 assures that:

- 7.1. The DSE acknowledges its role on behalf of the State, as the fiscal intermediary to receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State to support Independent Living Services in the State based on the plan;
- 7.2. The DSE will assure that the agency keeps appropriate records, in accordance with federal and state law, and provides access to records by the federal funding agency upon request;
- 7.3. The DSE will not retain more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for administrative expenses;¹
- 7.4. The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in *45 CFR 1329.14*;
- 7.5. The DSE will not interfere with the business or operations of the SILC that include but are not limited to:
 1. Expenditure of federal funds
 2. Meeting schedules and agendas
 3. SILC board business
 4. Voting actions of the SILC board
 5. Personnel actions
 6. Allowable travel
 7. Trainings
- 7.6. The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff:
 1. If the SILC informs the DSE that the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff, the DSE assures that management of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC is the sole responsibility of the SILC in accordance with Sec. 705(e)(3) of the Act (Sec. 705(e)(3), 29 U.S.C.796d(e)(3)).
- 7.7. The DSE will fully cooperate with the SILC in the nomination and appointment process for the SILC in the State;
- 7.8. The DSE shall make timely and prompt payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs:
 1. When the reimbursement method is used, the DSE must make a payment within 30 calendar days after receipt of the billing, unless the agency or pass-through entity reasonably believes the request to be improper;
 2. When necessary, the DSE will advance payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs to cover its estimated disbursement needs for an initial period generally geared to the mutually agreed upon disbursing cycle; and

3. The DSE will accept requests for advance payments and reimbursements at least monthly when electronic fund transfers are not used, and as often as necessary when electronic fund transfers are used, in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693-1693r).

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

Anthony Newman, Deputy Director

Name and Title of DSE director/authorized representative

Signature

Date

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

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

8.1 Assurances

Jenifer Galvan acting on behalf of the SILC Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska located at 35555 Kenai Spur Hwy, PMB 285, Soldotna, AK 99669 45 CFR 1329.14 assures that:

- (1) The SILC regularly (not less than annually) provides the appointing authority recommendations for eligible appointments;
- (2) The SILC is composed of the requisite members set forth in the Act;¹
- (3) The SILC terms of appointment adhere to the Act;¹
- (4) The SILC is not established as an entity within a State agency in accordance with 45 CFR Sec. 1329.14(b);
- (5) The SILC will make the determination of whether it wants to utilize DSE staff to carry out the functions of the SILC;
 - a. The SILC must inform the DSE if it chooses to utilize DSE staff;
 - b. The SILC assumes management and responsibility of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC in accordance with the Act.¹
- (6) The SILC shall ensure all program activities are accessible to people with disabilities;
- (7) The State Plan shall provide assurances that the designated State entity, any other agency, office, or entity of the State will not interfere with operations of the SILC, except as provided by law and regulation and;
- (8) The SILC actively consults with unserved and underserved populations in urban and rural areas that include, indigenous populations as appropriate for State Plan development as described in Sec. 713(b)(7) the Act regarding Authorized Uses of Funds.¹

Section 8.2 Indicators of Minimum Compliance

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

(a) STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL INDICATORS. –

(1) SILC written policies and procedures must include:

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

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

- iv. Meeting expenses including meeting space, alternate formats, interpreters, and other accommodations;
- v. Resources to attend and/or secure training and conferences for staff and council members and;
- vi. Other costs as appropriate.

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

Jenifer Galvan
 Name of SILC chairperson

 Signature Date

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

Section 9: Signatures

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

The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2020 (year)

 SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON DATE

Jenifer Galvan
 NAME OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

Access Alaska
 NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

 SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR DATE

Eric Gurley
 NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Arctic Access

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Denice Gilroy

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Independent Living Center

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Joyanna Geisler

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL)

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Joan O'Keefe

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

(INSERT ADDITIONAL CILS AS NEEDED)

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