

# State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

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

*Amended Plan: FY2027*

### SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) recently commented that many states have a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) with too many goals, recommending to Statewide Independent Living Councils that goals be limited to three or four that are more likely to result in progress over the three-year cycle of a SPIL. In response, we are proposing changes to streamline the SPIL and better reflect the current needs of Alaskans with disabilities. The updated goals and objectives are designed to be measurable and trackable, allowing the Independent Living Network to clearly demonstrate progress and outcomes.

This document also includes the Financial Plan, Scope of Services, Network of Centers, Designated State Entity, and Statewide Independent Living Council sections of the current SPIL. While ACL did not offer specific feedback on these sections as they did with the goals and objectives, and no changes are being proposed to them at this time, we believe it is important that all Alaskans have the opportunity to review and comment on the SPIL in its entirety. These sections reflect how Independent Living services are funded, delivered, and governed across the state, and we want to ensure they continue to reflect the needs of Alaskans with disabilities and remain responsive to current issues and realities.

We value the input of all Alaskans and ask that you review this document and share your thoughts before the amended SPIL is finalized for FY2027. Please email any feedback to [info@alaskasilc.org](mailto:info@alaskasilc.org). Your perspective matters, and we appreciate your time and participation in this process.

### GOAL 1: EMPLOYMENT

**Alaskans with disabilities will have the services and supports they need to secure the employment options of their choice.**

**Objective #1.1: Increase the number of participants selecting employment goals.**

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#### Measurable Indicators:

- Indicator #1.1.1: Compare current and previous year numbers and percentage of participants selecting employment goals.

#### Desired Outcomes:

More participants seeking a path to employment through Independent Living services.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2025, 9/30/2026, 9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

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**Objective #1.2: Participate in activities that promote microenterprise, self-employment opportunities, subsistence, and seasonal work, for Alaskans with disabilities, including elevating policy, funding, and technical assistance considerations that affect small business development and self-employment.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #1.2.1: Number of activities participated in that promote microenterprise, self-employment, subsistence, and seasonal work opportunities for Alaskans with disabilities.
- Indicator #1.2.2: Number of participants receiving information and referrals related to self-employment, microenterprise, subsistence, or seasonal work options during CIL intake and service planning.

**Desired Outcomes:**

Alaskans with disabilities will have increased access to self-employment and microenterprise information and opportunities through active IL Network participation in funding review, resource referral, and policy education. Policy makers and funders will have a better understanding of the unique barriers and considerations facing Alaskans with disabilities in small business development and self-employment.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

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**Objective #1.3: Serve as a statewide partner and resource for employment options, by supporting coordination, information sharing, and systems alignment among education, employment, and service partners.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #1.3.1: Number of IL Network members serving on workforce development boards, education subcommittees, and interagency workgroups related to employment for Alaskans with disabilities.
- Indicator #1.3.2: Number of collaborative activities and events attended or participated in with employment and education partners, including job fairs, PreETS activities, and workgroup meetings.

**Desired Outcomes:**

Alaskans with disabilities will benefit from a stronger, more coordinated network of employment and education partners that share information, align services, and reduce barriers to employment. The IL Network will be a recognized statewide resource and partner in employment systems for people with disabilities.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

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**Objective #1.4: Youth Program participants will have improved employment outcomes.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #1.4.1: Percentage of participant respondents that become employed, enrolled in higher education or enrolled in a job training program within one year of program completion.

**Desired Outcomes:**

Youth with disabilities who participate in IL youth programs will have improved employment outcomes, including securing employment, enrolling in higher education, or entering job training programs within one year of program completion. Youth will leave these programs better equipped with the independent living skills, self-advocacy tools, and employment knowledge needed to pursue their goals.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

## **GOAL 2: SELF DIRECTION**

**Alaskans with disabilities will direct their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job, and their community.**

**Objective #2.1: Increase education, build cross organizational collaborative partnerships, and advocacy, to promote self-directed options for people with disabilities.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #2.1.1: Number of stakeholder groups partnered within joint education and advocacy efforts to promote self-directed options for people with disabilities.
- Indicator #2.1.2: Number of new or enhanced programs, tools, and systems publicly educated on and/or implemented statewide that expand self-directed participation options

for people with disabilities, including but not limited to self-directed planning tools, IEP supports, and participant-led service options.

**Desired Outcomes:**

Alaskans with disabilities will have access to an increased number of self-directed options, including self-directed Medicaid waiver programs and personal care attendant choice, allowing them to make informed decisions about their own supports and services. People with disabilities will have greater control over how, when, and by whom their supports are delivered.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

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**Objective #2.2: Establish a statewide network of organizations to assist Alaskans with disabilities in the creation of Supported Decision-Making Agreements.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #2.2.1: Number of organizations and partners engaged in the statewide network working to support the creation of Supported Decision-Making Agreements.
- Indicator #2.2.2: Number of participants receiving education and information on Supported Decision-Making Agreements as an alternative to guardianship and conservatorship.

**Desired Outcomes:**

Alaskans with disabilities and their supporters will have access to a growing statewide network of organizations equipped to provide education on Supported Decision-Making Agreements and assist in their creation. People with disabilities will be better informed about Supported Decision Making Agreements as a less restrictive alternative to full guardianship and conservatorship, and will have access to referral pathways to organizations that can assist them in drafting agreements.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

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**Objective #2.3: Increase education, build cross-organization collaborative partnerships, that promote, advocate for, and support policies and regulations that prioritize Supported Decision-Making Agreements and other less restrictive arrangements as alternatives to full guardianships and conservatorships.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #2.3.1: Number of advocacy activities undertaken in support of policies and regulations that prioritize Supported Decision-Making Agreements and less restrictive alternatives to guardianship and conservatorship, including letters of support, op-eds,

public testimony coordination, and educational materials distributed to legislators and their staff.

**Desired Outcomes:**

Alaska's legal and legislative systems will move toward policies and statutes that prioritize Supported Decision-Making Agreements and other less restrictive alternatives to full guardianship and conservatorship. Policy makers, court systems, and the public will be better educated on the rights of people with disabilities to direct their own lives, resulting in systemic changes that reflect and protect those rights.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

## **GOAL 3: TRANSITION AND DIVERSION**

**Alaskans with disabilities will have the information, services, and supports they need to successfully transition into or remain in, the community of their choice. Alaskan youth with disabilities will develop the leadership and independent living skills to successfully transition to adulthood.**

**Objective #3.1: Improve outreach, programs, policies, and regulations that facilitate nursing home and assisted living facility transitions.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #3.1.1: Number of Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facility Transitions.

**Desired Outcomes:**

More Alaskans with disabilities will have access to the information, services, and supports needed to successfully transition out of nursing homes and assisted living facilities and into the community of their choice, rather than remaining in a more restrictive environment.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

**Objective #3.2: Increase or maintain the number of Home Modifications through programs available for Alaskans with disabilities, especially in rural and remote communities.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #3.2.1: Number of modifications provided.
- Indicator #3.2.2: Comparison to previous years.

- Indicator #3.2.3: Urban/rural/remote breakdown for each program.

**Desired Outcomes:**

More Alaskans with disabilities, particularly those in rural and remote communities, will be able to remain safely and independently in their own homes through access to needed home modifications, reducing the likelihood of unnecessary placement in more restrictive settings.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2025, 9/30/2026, 9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

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**Objective #3.3: Explore options and activities that create pathways for re-entry and reduced recidivism for Alaskans with disabilities transitioning out of correctional facilities.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #3.3.1: Number of partnerships, conferences, trainings, and outreach activities participated in that support the development of pathways for re-entry and reduced recidivism for Alaskans with disabilities transitioning out of correctional facilities.
- Indicator #3.3.2: Number of tools, educational materials, and resources developed or in development to support Alaskans with disabilities in navigating re-entry from correctional facilities, including but not limited to Personal Re-entry Plans and informational resources connecting individuals to IL services and community supports.

**Desired Outcomes:**

The IL Network will establish the partnerships, framework, and infrastructure needed to develop and expand programs supporting Alaskans with disabilities transitioning out of correctional facilities. In the near term, people with disabilities involved in the correctional system will have increased access to IL Network outreach and information, with the goal of developing more comprehensive re-entry programming in future years.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

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**Objective #3.4: Alaska youth will have access to leadership information and education on IL competency.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #3.4.1: Scores and responses from post-event surveys and follow-up check-ins with youth participants throughout the year, measuring gains in leadership skills, IL knowledge, self-advocacy confidence, and readiness for adulthood, through IL youth

programs including but not limited to the SILC's Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) and CIL summer work programs.

**Desired Outcomes:**

Alaska youth with disabilities will develop stronger leadership skills, greater self-advocacy confidence, and a deeper understanding of independent living competencies through participation in IL youth programs. Youth will leave these programs better prepared to navigate adulthood, direct their own lives, and advocate for themselves and their communities.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

## **GOAL 4: EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY**

**Alaskans with disabilities will benefit from a more informed public, from policy makers and systems, across disciplines, that understand and respond to the unique experiences, needs, and rights of people with disabilities in all aspects of civic and community life.**

**Objective #4.1: Participate in Statewide task forces, coalitions, and advisory groups that are formed to address specific issues within the state, to educate and provide feedback on the intersectionality of these issues and impacts on Alaskans with Disabilities.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #4.1.1: Number of statewide task forces, coalitions, and advisory groups that IL Network members collectively serve on to represent the perspective of Alaskans with disabilities.
- Indicator #4.1.2: Number of conferences, presentations, and educational materials developed and delivered to educate partners and policy makers on the intersectionality of statewide issues and their impact on Alaskans with disabilities.

**Examples:**

Food security, homelessness, public transportation, domestic violence, court systems, and emergency management.

**Desired Outcomes:**

Policy makers, state departments, and community organizations will be more informed on how decisions, actions, and regulations affect Alaska's disability community. The disability perspective will be consistently represented in statewide conversations on issues including but not limited to food security, homelessness, public transportation, domestic violence, court systems, and emergency management.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

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**Objective #4.2: Join with disability organizations and agencies throughout the state and participate in events held to educate the public on disability related topics.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #4.2.1: Number of public facing events, activities, and outreach efforts participated in or hosted by the IL Network to educate the public on disability related topics.
- Indicator #4.2.2: Number of public facing educational materials produced and distributed, including op-eds, social media content, and informational resources.

**Examples:**

Voter accessibility, accessible transportation and public spaces, state and federal resources.

**Desired Outcomes:**

The general public will have a greater awareness and understanding of the experiences, rights, and needs of Alaskans with disabilities. Communities across Alaska will be better equipped to support full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of civic and community life.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

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**Objective #4.3: Serve as a resource for technical assistance to include education, needs assessments, informational resources, current data and statistics, and impact analysis on issues affecting Alaskans with disabilities to policy makers, state departments, and the general public.**

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**Measurable Indicators:**

- Indicator #4.3.1: Number of technical assistance and referral requests responded to, including provision of educational resources, data and statistics, needs assessments, and impact analysis for policy makers, state departments, and community organizations.
- Indicator #4.3.2: Number of stakeholder groups and organizations connected through IL Network coordination and resource sharing efforts.

**Other Objective Info:**

Share direct feedback from community listening sessions and public testimony.

**Desired Outcomes:**

The IL Network will be recognized as a go-to statewide resource that connects policy makers, state departments, community organizations, and the public with the information, data, and

expertise needed to understand and respond to the needs of Alaskans with disabilities. Collaboration across systems will increase, reducing silos and ensuring that the disability perspective is woven into decision making at all levels.

**Target Dates:**

9/30/2027

**Geographic Scope:**

Statewide

**PART I: FINANCIAL PLAN**

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

Fiscal Year(s): 2025 – 2027 | October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2027

Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses					
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Admin. Costs	TOTAL
<b>Title VII Funds</b>						
Chapter 1, Part B	\$0	\$0	\$338,717	\$0	\$0	\$338,717
Chapter 1, Part C	\$0	\$0	\$995,262	\$0		\$995,262
<b>Other Federal Funds</b>						
Sec. 101(a)(18) Innovation and Expansion	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>						
Part B State Match	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Funds	\$350,000	\$0	\$1,510,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,860,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,843,979</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,193,979</b>

## PART II: FINANCIAL PLANNING 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) Innovation and Expansion funds will be used to fund the SILC.

### Efforts to Coordinate Federal and State Funding

We are continuing to work with the DSE and other state entities to ensure fee-for-service opportunities are available for the CILs. The Alaska Independent Living Network is committed to diversifying its funding base in a variety of ways, including Medicaid billing (Access Alaska), serving as an Aging and Disability Resource Center (SAIL and ILC), and slowly growing organizational size (Arctic Access). Each CIL also receives funding from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services grants to perform programs complementary to the base IL grant, and each Center works to increase fee-for-service revenue as community rehabilitation providers for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The DSE (Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities Services) distributes Part B funds with additional state match to the designated CILs based on the funding formula. The total amount of funding is applied to the formula and each CIL receives the balance after their Part C funding is backed out. Funds are distributed through a grant agreement with activities and responsibilities described in responses to a Request for Proposal released by the state. CILs send SDS their 704/PPR data quarterly to meet state reporting requirements.

The SILC is awarded a contract by the Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities Services after submitting a letter explaining why the SILC should be considered for a sole source contract. The SILC is funded by a mix of Innovation and Expansion (I&E) and State General Funds; 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

The Alaska Independent Living Network resource plan includes each CIL raising 50% of the funding needed to meet the goal of a fully served state. The Network relies on board members and community volunteers, as well as paid volunteers such as the Jesuits, VISTA, and Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). In rural Alaska, the Nome office and Kotzebue home-office space (for Arctic Access) are in-kind donations, including square footage, heat, phones, and internet. All CILs accept donations of funds and equipment (e.g., loan closet materials, office equipment). The SILC is in the process of developing new funding streams for long-term sustainability.

### CIL Funding Formula

In February 2024, the IL Network updated the CIL Funding Formula. After several Network meetings, the changes were presented to the DSE and approved by the SILC during the April 2024 meeting in Wasilla, Alaska. The updated formula uses disability population data for each census area in Alaska (Disability Counts from the University of Montana) and applies to all Part B, Part C, and State General Fund IL funds. The formula includes the following weighted factors:

- A Rural Factor: Urban, Rural, and Remote designations using the Alaska Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definition.
- A Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) based on the Alaska Medicaid Waiver rate chart.
- A Service Factor designating a region as unserved, underserved, or served based on updated definitions. Two additional Service Factors were added to accommodate unique issues with two CILs.

The OMB census area designations for the Rural Factor are: Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Urban); Kenai Peninsula Borough, Juneau City and Borough, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, and Kodiak Census areas (Rural); and all remaining census areas (Remote). The formula calculates the percentage of funding for each CIL based on these weighted factors; if the CIL receives Part C funding, that amount is 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 a decrease or increase in funding). 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 significant disabilities that promote full access to community life, including geographic scope, determination of eligibility, and statewide reach. All services listed below are provided by CILs using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds and other funds.

- Core Independent Living Services: Information and referral
- Core Independent Living Services: IL skills training
- Core Independent Living Services: Peer counseling
- Core Independent Living Services: Individual and systems advocacy
- Transition Services: Transition from nursing homes and other institutions
- Transition Services: Diversion from institutions
- Transition Services: Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life
- Housing-related services including adaptive housing services and appropriate accommodations and modifications (Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing)
- Rehabilitation technology
- Mobility training
- Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training and interpreter and reader services
- Personal assistance services, including attendant care and training of personnel providing such services

- Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, accessible transportation, and other support services
- Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and independent living services, especially for minorities and individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved
- Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities
- Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation and training in the use of public transportation vehicles and systems
- Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices
- Individual and group social and recreational services
- Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths with significant disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options
- Services for children
- 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
- Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with disabilities for similar services in the future
- Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities
- Such other necessary services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act

### **Outreach to Unserved and Underserved Populations**

**Targeted Populations:** Seniors with disabilities; Youth with disabilities in transition to adulthood (16–24); 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, Asian-Americans, and Hispanics with disabilities; Alaska Natives with disabilities.

Because of the expanse of the state and the relatively small areas routinely covered by IL staff, targeting one specific geographic region is difficult. The IL Network works to find new ways to reach communities and bring services to individuals living 50 or more miles from a CIL or its satellite. Outreach efforts include participant satisfaction surveys via U.S. mail, social media (particularly influential in rural Alaska), participation in rural health fairs and cultural events, peer mentoring, and partnerships with sister boards and disability-specific organizations.

### **Coordination**

The IL Network maintains active coordination with the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the State Rehabilitation Committee on employment, youth transition, assistive technology, and service dogs. The Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) remains a major stakeholder in providing IL services, transportation, housing, youth transition, health care access, emergency preparedness, and information and referral statewide.

The SILC works with the DD Council, the Alaska Commission on Aging, the Alaska Long Term Care Ombudsman Office, AgeNet, the Alaska Mental Health Board, the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC), the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Consortia (TVRC), the UAA Center for Human Development, and the Alaska Disability Law Center on issues including transportation,

emergency preparedness, Medicaid reform, assistive technology, and disability rights. The SILC actively blends and braids funding and responsibilities with federal (FEMA), state (ADOT&PF), and local partners to increase accessibility and awareness across Alaska.

## SECTION 3: NETWORK OF CENTERS

### Existing Centers for Independent Living

#### Access Alaska, Inc.

Service Areas: Anchorage (Full), Denali (Limited), Fairbanks North Star Borough (Full), Matanuska-Susitna (Full), North Slope (Limited), Southeast Fairbanks (Limited). Funding: Title VII Chapter 1 Parts B and C, other federal funds, state funds, and other non-federal funds. Oversight: ACL/OILP and DSE. SPIL Signatory: Yes.

#### Arctic Access

Service Areas: Nome (Full), Northwest Arctic (Full). Funding: Title VII Chapter 1 Part B, state funds, and other non-federal funds. Oversight: DSE. SPIL Signatory: Yes.

#### Independent Living Center, Inc. (ILC)

Service Areas: Kenai Peninsula (Full), Kodiak Island (Full), Valdez-Cordova (Limited). Funding: Title VII Chapter 1 Parts B and C, other federal funds, state funds, and other non-federal funds. Oversight: ACL/OILP and DSE. SPIL Signatory: Yes.

#### Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Inc. (SAIL)

Service Areas: Haines (Full), Juneau (Full), Ketchikan (Full), Prince of Wales (Full), Sitka (Full), Skagway (Limited), Wrangell (Limited), Yakutat (Full), Angoon/Hoonah (Full), Petersburg (Limited). Funding: Title VII Chapter 1 Parts B and C, other federal funds, state funds, and other non-federal funds. Oversight: ACL/OILP and DSE. SPIL Signatory: Yes.

### How Services Are Configured

IL services in Alaska are provided by four CILs, each eligible to sign the SPIL: Access Alaska, Arctic Access, Independent Living Center, Inc., and Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Inc. Access Alaska serves the largest population centers from offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Wasilla, reaching over 518,000 people including itinerant service areas. Arctic Access serves the Northwest Arctic Borough and Nome census areas (approximately 17,839 people). ILC serves the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island, and itinerant communities (approximately 73,410 in primary areas). SAIL serves six census regions in Southeast Alaska from seven office locations (approximately 64,859 people), plus itinerant service areas.

### Disaster and Emergency Response Services

Alaska's IL entities are committed to playing a role in addressing the challenges individuals with disabilities and their families face during disasters and emergencies. The Network has begun working with other disability organizations and FEMA on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Response and will continue to develop long-term strategies. Unless specifically prohibited, funding streams identified in the SPIL's financial plan may be used at the discretion of the recipient for emergency response within the entity's assigned service area, in another CIL's area (guided by a memorandum of agreement), or in areas unserved by any CIL. Use of funds follows ACL/OILP Disaster Services Policy and guidance issued at the time of the emergency.

### Expansion and Adjustment of Network

The minimum funding level for a CIL is \$250,000. The funding formula ensures all four CILs receive at least this minimum. There are no proposed changes to service regions at this time, though CILs may enter MOAs with one another to provide IL services outside designated service regions. With current funding levels, expansion into southwestern Alaska is not anticipated in the near future; instead, focus will be given to integrating Independent Living into existing services in unserved rural areas.

In the event that funds are relinquished or removed from a CIL and/or a CIL closes, the SILC will lead formation of a review committee with representation from the SILC, DSE, and stakeholder organizations to issue a competitive RFP to the remaining CILs. The funding formula will be updated to reflect any change in service areas. Any increases in federal Part B and/or state funding will result in a commensurate increase to CILs based on the current funding formula; decreases will likewise be applied proportionally.

## **SECTION 4: DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY (DSE)**

The Alaska Division of Senior and Disability Services serves as the entity designated to receive, administer, and account for funds made available to the state under Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Act. The DSE does not retain any percentage for administration of Part B funds or state match, and does not provide staff to the SILC. There are no additional state-imposed requirements beyond federal regulations.

### **DSE Responsibilities**

- Receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under this chapter based on the plan.
- Provide administrative support services for programs under Part B and Part C.
- Keep records and afford access to such records as required by the Administrator with respect to the programs.
- Submit additional information or assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs.
- Retain not more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for performance of the above services.

### **Grant Process and Distribution of Funds**

The DSE distributes Part B funds with additional state match to the designated CILs based on the funding formula. Funds are distributed through a grant agreement with activities described in CIL responses to a Request for Proposal. The DSE complies with all requirements outlined in Alaska Administrative Code 7.AAC.78 (Grant Programs) in developing proposal formats and reviewing submissions. A proposal evaluation committee of at least three trained State staff reviews each responsive proposal independently before meeting to make recommendations. Grantees collect and report data using the MiCIL system and submit Cumulative Fiscal Reports, biannual 704 reports, and an annual Performance Measure Framework. The DSE monitors each contract for compliance with state and federal regulations, including the federal standards and indicators for Centers for Independent Living.

## SECTION 5: STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

### Establishment of the SILC

The SILC of Alaska was established in SFY1994 when the Governor appointed 13 interim members through Executive Order. In SFY1995, the Alaska Senate passed an act establishing the SILC, described in Alaska Statute 47.0780.300. In SFY2002, the SILC became a nonprofit with nine voting members and two ex-officio, non-voting members. In SFY2016, Executive Order 117 moved the Designated State Entity to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services/Division of Senior and Disability Services (DHSS/SDS), effective SFY2017.

Operating as an independent nonprofit clarifies the relationship between the SILC, DSE, and the State, allowing the SILC to carry out its operations free of outside interference. The SILC ED and SILC Finance Committee develop the annual budget, approved solely by the voting members of the Council. The SILC board independently hires the SILC ED, who independently hires all other SILC staff. Annual Advocacy Agendas are approved solely by the voting members of the Council.

### SILC Resource Plan

The SILC will receive \$350,000 in State Funds for FFY 2025, 2026, and 2027. No Innovation and Expansion funds have been dedicated to the SILC for these fiscal years. The DSE contract is negotiated each May and does not include conditions that would compromise the independence of the SILC. The DSE provides the SILC with an advance at the beginning of each fiscal year to ensure continuous operations, with a second advance provided well before the initial advance is drawn down. The DSE provides a funding contract that spans beyond one SPIL cycle for greater continuity during transitions.

Note: Without additional funds such as Innovation and Expansion, the SILC will be at risk in the next SPIL cycle. The DSE has implemented a short-term solution by providing a 10-year contract for \$2 million total, allowing the SILC to draw down \$350,000 per year. At this rate the contract will be fully drawn down in approximately five years (less accounting for CPI), making it essential to resolve this funding issue in the near term.

### Maintenance of the SILC

Members are appointed by the Governor of Alaska. Per federal requirements, the SILC must include a representative from the DSE and the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (as nonvoting, ex-officio members), and at least one director of a CIL as a voting member. A majority of voting members shall be persons with disabilities who are not employed by any state agency or CIL. The Council elects the chair from among its voting members. Each member serves a three-year term, with a maximum of two consecutive terms; a person who has served the maximum must wait one full term (3 years) before reapplying.

The SILC strives for representation from all geographic regions of the state with cultural, ethnic, and disability-category diversity reflective of Alaska's population. If a vacancy occurs, the SILC Executive Committee, SILC ED, and Boards and Commissions staff work together to fill it as soon as possible. The SILC ED maintains regular communication with Boards and Commissions when compliance issues arise. The SILC's personnel policy, approved solely by the Board of Directors, governs hiring, conflict of interest, and ethics for all staff. The SILC possesses the autonomy necessary to fulfill all of its duties and authorities.