

**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: Nebraska

FISCAL YEARS:

**Effective Date: October 1, 2020-2023**

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## CHECKLIST FOR SPIL DEVELOPMENT

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

- The provision of Independent Living services in the State;
- The development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living (CILs); and
- Working relationships and collaboration between:
  - Centers for independent living;
  - Entities carrying out programs that provide independent living services, including those serving older individuals;
  - Other community-based organizations that provide or coordinate the provision of housing, transportation, employment, information and referral assistance, services, and supports for individuals with significant disabilities; and
  - Entities carrying out other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities.

1. How did the SILC and CIL directors meet the aforementioned requirements during the SPIL development process?

### 2.3 Coordination

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

- Facilitate the expansion of the IL Network by including all IL Partners in all communication regarding IL in Nebraska. Disseminating information about IL to disability organizations and all stakeholder in the state.
- Meet with representatives of the IL Network at least once every quarter per year
- Include CIL representatives on SILC committees
- Consult with IL Network on potential joint position statements on IL issues in Nebraska
- Routine sharing of information with the IL Network, including the SRC and member organizations of the Nebraska Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities.

- NESILC will collaborate and coordinate with the CILs to avoid any duplication of services while promoting consumer choice
- NESILC will maintain a representative to the SRC and collaborate on activities as appropriate
- NESILC appointed representative to Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council
- NESILC will look for opportunities to partner with other disability organizations to include but not limited to the DD Planning Council, People First of Nebraska, Brain Injury Alliance.
- Representation of the DSE on the SILC.
- Representation from state disability agencies plus reports of activities at quarterly NESILC meetings plus annual presentations about the services they provide.
- Either the NESILC Executive Director, NESILC staff member and/or a NESILC Board member will attend and participate in the Nebraska Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities (NCCD) with other statewide disability organizations, including the Brain Injury Association, Mental Health Association, to promote community living.
- NESILC & CILs will monitor development of Olmstead Plan & share information on changes to Medicaid and other programs/services related to Independent Living this includes the ADRC.
- Services to ensure that IL remains viable

2. What steps were taken to ensure full participation by the directors of CILs in the State?

All meeting dates were determined by when SILC Chair and CIL Directors could attend, but meetings were opened up to other members of SILC, CIL representatives, DSE representatives and State agency representatives. Everyone's input was valued, and we developed a good working relationship. The entire SILC, both CILs Directors and additional staff that they chose and the DSE Director and staff attended in person day long meeting to begin discussion of what would be included in the SPIL. Then 4 meetings were held by video and telephone conferencing that included same individuals to finalize areas of the SPIL. In addition, more meetings were added as needed

3. How was public input gathered before the SPIL was drafted?

The SILC developed survey that was disseminated by the CILs and other disability organizations. In addition, when SILC attended conferences for other state organizations, we

disseminated paper copies of the survey to be completed by attendees. The SILC also held drawings from those that completed the survey for \$25.00 Gift cards for Amazon.

4. Did the SILC provide the following when gathering both public input and feedback? (check yes or no)

- Appropriate and sufficient notice of public forums/meetings?  Yes  No
- Accessibility of notice and location(s) of public forums/meetings?  Yes  No
- Alternate formats of all materials provided at public forum/meetings?  Yes  No If requested
- Reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication including sign language interpreters and audio loops/assistive listening devices?  Yes  No If requested
- Alternate formats of the Draft SPIL?  Yes  No If requested
- Were any state imposed requirements made available to the public at or prior to the public forums/meetings?  Yes  No Changes made to open meeting law for State of Nebraska to allow meetings by video and telephone conferencing without needing in person site due to closures and travel restrictions.

5. How was public input used in the development of the SPIL?

SILC and CILs reviewed survey results and had group discussions. For issues such as transportation which is huge issue in Nebraska other organizations plus Department of Roads has more money to deal with issue. But either a CIL representative or a representative of the SILC will be member of committees to ensure disability perspective is addressed. This was included in SPIL. In addition, the need to continue developing the IL Network in our state was addressed.

6. What changes were made to the SPIL as a result of public comment/feedback?

Nobody attended any of our SILC public meetings.

7. What process was used to secure the approval of SILC and CILs prior to submission of the SPIL?

SILC scheduled quarterly meeting in May to discuss State Pan and vote if SILC chair would sign it. All CILs attend all SILC meetings and we provided opportunity to discuss any concerns. However, since SILC and CILs were active participants in developing SPIL concerns had previously been discussed and resolved. It was determined what process would be used to collect signatures both electronically and in person signatures.

## **SPIIL Executive Summary**

The mission, goals, objectives, and support activities of the Nebraska (NE) 3-year Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIIL) for 2021-2023 are defined in Section 1 of the State Plan. The mission of the NE IL network, and this SPIIL, is that Nebraskans will have opportunities to receive IL services, especially the 5 core services.

The SPIIL contains three goals to achieve intermediate progress toward the mission:

- People with disabilities in NE will have access to IL services & supports to maintain Independent lives.
- People with disabilities will have access to information about Independent Living.
- Increase the capacity & sustainability of IL network in NE.

The SPIIL contains five objectives directed toward the achievement of these goals. Each objective contains a set of measurable indicators to assess their progress and impact. A consistent set of measurable indicators will assess impact for each objective to the ultimate areas of change identified in the IL network mission statement. Additional information for these objectives includes geographic scope, target performance levels, documentation for the targets and funding source(s) and amount(s). The information is supplemented with necessary activities to support the completion of the objectives and measurable indicators. This includes the creation of surveys, distributed on an annual basis, to help verify several measurable indicators.

The fiscal aspects of the SPIIL are explained in Section 1.4 and define amounts in the financial table by plan year. The financial narrative provides a summary of the anticipated sources, amounts and proposed uses of funds to support the SPIIL objectives by plan year. It includes an explanation of the state match.

The SILCs evaluation plan is identified in Section 1.5 to assess the effectiveness of the SPIIL. The section describes the use of a SPIIL Committee to monitor and evaluate the SPIIL and lead the discussions at our quarterly meetings. In addition, Consumer satisfaction surveys and needs assessment will be reviewed.

The scope of services provided by the IL network is identified in Section 2. The appropriate services are checked in the updated table in 2.1A, Independent Living Services.

Outreach related to underserved populations or groups, including minority groups and urban and rural populations, is identified in Section 2.2. Narratives are provided to address the definition of underserved, will be defined by the Center for Independent Living serving an area. The underserved population is dependent on the makeup of that area.

Plans for coordination of services and cooperation among programs and organizations that support community life for persons with disabilities, are described in Section 2.3. As noted, there is no actual plans but cooperative efforts, some of which have been mentioned previously in the SPIL.

The network of NE centers is identified in Section 3. The existing NE network is defined in Section 3.1. Both CILs in Nebraska are Federally funded. However, they do receive funding from some additional sources. One of our proposed activities for this new SPIL will be to seek state funding for IL Services.

Section 4 represents the Designated State Entity's (DSE's) response to their administrative responsibilities related to the SPIL.

Section 5 defines the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). Section 5.1 relates to the establishment of the SILCs and explains how the council was established and assures their autonomy. Section 5.2 explains the SILC resource plan to confirm that the funding is necessary and sufficient to fulfill all duties and authorities. Staffing/personnel are described to support duties/authorities. Authorities addressed by the SILC in the approved SPIL are identified. The process used to develop the SILC resource plan is explained. The maintenance of SILC, Section 5.3 provides narratives to address the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b). It also includes an affirmation of SILC staffing requirements and description of SILC policies and practices supportive of the maintenance of the SILC.

Section 6 provides legal certifications for the identified entities involved with authorities and responsibilities for the SPIL. Section 7 identifies the DSE assurances and articulates the administrative role and responsibilities of the DSE. Section 8 provides the SILC Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance, detailing the functions, authorities, and requirements for operating as a SILC.

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

### 1.1 Mission:

Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL.

Nebraskans with disabilities have opportunities to receive IL services

People with disabilities in Nebraska will receive the following from the IL programs and services:

- Information and referral on Independent Living
- Independent Living skills training
- Self and systems advocacy
- Peer Mentoring
- Transition
  - Nursing Home
  - Youth with disabilities to higher education, the workforce and/or the community
  - Diversion of people with disabilities from Nursing Homes
- Expanded IL service delivery in underserved areas of the state

Direct services utilizing Part B dollars:

1. Part B dollars are utilized to provide IL services by the Centers for Independent Living throughout entire state of Nebraska ( 23 Part B funded counties and 70 Part C funded counties).
2. Part B Funds are also utilized to support NESILC to carry out the mandate stated in Section 705 as amended in 2014
3. Part B Funds will be utilized to provide information to individuals with disabilities in accessible format for the individual.
4. Part B Funds will also be used to improve the sustainability and capacity for NESILC and the CILs, this includes the funding for the DSE.

### 1.2 Goals:

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

1. People with all disabilities in Nebraska will have access to Independent Living supports and services necessary for individuals to have the

choice to achieve and maintain Independent Living; these include but are not limited to the core IL services as set forth in the Rehab Act as amended in 2014

2. People in Nebraska have access to information on Independent Living services, philosophies and the history of the disability movement.
3. To improve the capacity and build sustainability for the Centers for Independent Living, NESILC and Independent Living services and supports

### 1.3 Objectives

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

The geographic scope for the entire State Plan on Independent Living (SPIL) is all 93 counties of Nebraska that are served by either Part C or Part B Funds.

- People with all disabilities in all 93 counties will have access to Independent Living supports and services necessary for individuals to have the choice to achieve and maintain Independent Living; these include but are not limited to the core IL services as set forth in the Rehab Act as amended in 2014.
  - a. NESILC & CILs will meet to discuss options to obtain additional funding from the state, local, city, community or Foundations to increase opportunities to reach underserved populations in Nebraska to provide needed supports & services.
    - i. Representatives of NESILC & CILs will meet to develop strategy/plan to obtain additional funding to expand the IL services. They will meet at least quarterly.
    - ii. CILs will provide leadership in all phases of the plan. First draft of plan will be completed by September of 2021.
    - iii. NESILC will operate in supportive role in this process.
    - iv. State Budget was impacted by COVID-19 so may require extra time.
    - v. Success will be determined by getting new funding of 5%.

The indicators for this objective will include:

Number of meetings-meetings will be held at least quarterly;  
minutes

SILC will be responsible for initiating meetings. Meetings will include SILC and both CILs.

The first meeting will determine timeline & planning process. The planning organization will identify tentatively a Senator to introduce legislation to increase funding.

This will begin by January of 2021 then at least quarterly after that.

Success will be determined by at least a 5% increase in funding at the end of this SPIL.

- b. NESILC and CILs will identify and develop a strategy to address the gaps and barriers to the provision of IL services
  - i. Improve on the Needs Assessment to include questions about satisfaction with IL services and to identify the gaps and barriers to the provision of IL services. This survey will be completed by June 30, 2021.
  - ii. The IL Needs Assessment will be promoted by the CILs and at various state conferences or community forums held at CILs other partner agencies such as VR, ATP, and CAP. The dissemination of the needs assessment will begin by July 30, 2021.

The indicators for this objective will include:

Number of meetings-meetings will be held at least quarterly, minutes will document changes.

The SILC will initiate meetings with to include SILC staff, members and CILs in Nebraska.

First meeting will be set up prior to February of 2021.

We will develop timeline and have final needs assessment by 6/30/21.

Will monitor number of needs assessments through newsletters, distribution lists and hard copies.

Report of distribution will be from CILs and SILC in limited case.

Number completed will be monitored. The dissemination of survey will begin 7/21.

- c. NESILC and CILs will be active participants in activities/events/discussions that may impact Independent Living
- i. Initiate or Identify Legislative, Rules, Regulation, administrative meetings/hearing or forums that may impact Independent Living. NESILC & CILs will meet after Bill introduction and as needed for regulatory changes.
  - ii. Disseminate information and develop testimony or provide public comment for relevant meetings or hearings that will impact IL to include but not limited to email, social media, newsletters and web pages.
  - iii. The SILC will have 5-10-minute reports from all non-voting members at each quarterly meeting regarding activities over past 3 months. Each CIL will make presentation to NESILC annually on function and services for areas that utilize Part B funding.
  - iv. Identify items such as Disaster Preparedness and relief or others that the CILs and other organizations involved with disability community to increase collaborative activities.

The indicators for this objective will include:

NESILC will work with CILs to determine changes in regulation or legislation that impact Independent Living.

Locate consumers to testify and aid in preparation as needed (This will be lead by CILs and SILC will assist as needed.

CILs will report to SILC at February meeting annually.

NESILC will meet with other organizations at least 3 times per year on to increase collaborative activities. This will include reapplication of waivers, first meeting will be scheduled by November of 2020. This will be monitored by minutes of meetings.

- People in Nebraska have access to information on Independent Living services, philosophies and the history of the disability movement.

- a. NESILC and CILs will collaborate with the UCEDD and other IL Partners to explore the use of technology to provide information that focus on the core IL services, and any other subjects that we deem appropriate. This will include activities such as webinars or other types of electronic communication.
  - i. Formulate steering committee of interested organization to determine how this might evolve.
  - ii. The first webinar will be completed by July 30, 2021.

The indicators for this objective will include:

NESILC will work with CILs, UCEDD and others determine topics and methods to utilize technology to provide information to individuals in Nebraska. This will be done at least 2 times per year

These meetings will be scheduled in conjunction with DSE, SILC and CILs and any of IL partners as needed. The first meeting will be held by January of 2021.

- b) NESILC will attend disability events by other organizations to disseminate printed material in accessible formats as needed about Independent Living in Nebraska annually.
  - iii. NESILC members will attend conferences by other organizations to have exhibitor's booth and possible presentation. This includes but not limited to Statewide Brain Injury Conference, Statewide Behavioral Health Conference and People First of Nebraska. This will be done annually.
  - iv. The NESILC will have an Outreach Committee that will work to promote IL services and collaborate with other disability and aging agencies throughout the State of Nebraska.

The indicators for this objective will include:

NESILC will attend at least 2 state conferences and will give out at least 50 brochures from either NESILC or other IL partners. Outreach Committee will develop plan to seek potential new members. These meetings will begin by December of 2020, and will be determined by meeting minutes.

- To improve the capacity and build sustainability for the Centers for

Independent Living, NESILC and Independent Living services and supports

- a. Centers for Independent Living will have the necessary resources to provide staff training and to provide the mandated services as well as new and developing disability needs. CILs can apply for grants to help meet training requirements based on needs outlined in 704 Report.
  - i. CILs will apply for training grants of up to \$5531.00 total that will be split between the CILs. These will be submitted to NESILC and NESILC will provide funds based on criteria established to disseminate funds. The training grants will be available every year.
  - ii. Requests for funds will be made at quarterly meetings.
  - iii. SILC will receive quarterly updates on use of Part B funds. This will allow the SILC to determine if Part B funds are being used.

The indicators for this objective will include:

NESILC will work with CILs to determine need for this goal. The SILC will receive updates from CILs about uses or plans to use funds once a year during February meeting. Financial report will include status of CIL grant requests.

- b. NESILC will participate in activities to strengthen the organization
  - i. NESILC will receive 30% of the Part B Allocation and will change organizational structure to strengthen NESILC, this includes providing annual training for SILC, CIL representatives and DSE.
  - ii. Conduct at least one fundraising activity annually
  - iii. NESILC will allow designated members (in compliance with NESILC policies) to attend the annual conference of a National organization to gain knowledge on Independent Living and receive training. Consideration will be based upon availability of resources.

The indicators for this objective will include:

NESILC will monitor finances at quarterly meetings to monitor and ensure adequate funding. Develop plan for NESILC to develop fundraising activity to be conducted by volunteers to be done at least 1 time per year.

- c. The NESILC will collaborate with the CILs to develop and implement advocacy efforts that promote the IL philosophy and results in meaningful and measurable systemic change
  - i. The NESILC will collaborate with state agencies to advocate for advancements in Independent Living Services and Supports in Nebraska; this includes Legislature upon their request. NESILC will support CILs in their advocacy efforts.
  - ii. We will check in with both CILs at least quarterly to determine how we can support them.

The indicators for this objective will include:

NESILC will work with CILs to ensure that NESILC is supporting them quarterly. The SILC will continue to meet with CILs to have discussions about minimum funding levels and other subjects regarding IL in Nebraska. Meetings will begin in January of 2021.

- d. The Designated State Entity (DSE) for NESILC will continue to be the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) The DSE is the agency that acts on behalf of the State for Title VII Part B programs.
  - i. The responsibilities include:
    - a. Receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State based on the SPIL;
    - b. Provide administrative support services for a program under part B,
    - c. Keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator (of ACL) finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;
    - d. Submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and
    - e. Retain not more than 5% 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).<sup>1</sup>

- f. The CILs and NESILC will develop a plan to redistribute funds in any amount if any member of the IL Network receiving Part B dollars fails to comply with expectations. NESILC & CILs will discuss this annually.

The indicators for this objective will include:

NESILC will receive quarterly reports from UCEDD on how the fiduciary process is working (are Part B recipients giving them required paper work and they are disseminating money as outlined in SPIL.)

- e. NESILC and CILs will support youth (16-29) to enhance their leadership skills
  - i. NESILC will work with CILs and VR Youth Leadership Council to expand voting membership for at least 1 youth (16-29). NESILC will expand voting membership for 2 youth members by March, 2021.
  - ii. Investigate and Support Youth Leadership Opportunities for youth in Nebraska to include sponsorship to the APRIL Conference for at least one youth that is a resident of Nebraska. NESILC & CILs will develop application & criteria for attendance by June, 2021.
  - iii. Youth member to attend will be determined by applications received. Decision will be made by August 15, 2021.

The indicators for this objective will include:

NESILC will expand voting membership with 2 youth members by 3/2021. Create process to send youth representative to APRIL by 6/2021.

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<sup>1</sup> See Section 704 (c) of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 796c(c).

#### 1.4 Evaluation

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

Currently NESILC, both CILs and DSE attend the quarterly SILC meeting we will allocate part of meeting time to evaluate SPIL. In addition, we will review consumer satisfaction surveys that are distributed by CILS. We will review completed PPR documents and review needs assessment.

CILs will develop a couple of standard questions that are same for consumer satisfaction at both CILs.

CILs will provide opportunities to have consumers complete a satisfaction survey. There is objective that will develop shared questions for survey. Survey responses will be shared with SILC annually (no identifying information), responses shall be compiled and shared annually.

CILs will provide an annual report about activities regarding Part B counties to the SILC. CILs and SILC will provide reports at quarterly meetings about progress on various goal. See chart below to determine responsible party.

Timeline	Goals (copy from section 1.2 above)	Objectives (copy from section 1.3 above)	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection (please check as many as apply)
meet at least quarterly	1. <u>People with all disabilities in Nebraska will have access to Independent Living supports and services necessary for individuals to have the choice to achieve and maintain Independent Living; these include but are not limited to the core IL services as set forth in the Rehab Act as amended in 2014</u>	<u>NESILC &amp; CILs will meet to discuss options to obtain additional funding from the state to increase opportunities to reach underserved populations in Nebraska to provide needed supports &amp; services.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Representatives of NESILC &amp; CILs will meet to develop strategy/plan to obtain additional funding to expand the IL services. They will meet at least quarterly.</u></li> <li>• <u>CILs will provide leadership in all</u></li> </ul>	Number of meetings, minutes, identify Senator to introduce legislation	Report to NESILC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CIL</li> <li>○ DSE</li> <li>○ SILC</li> </ul>

<p><u>September of 2021.</u></p> <p><u>September 2023</u></p>		<p><u>phases of the plan.</u>  <u>First draft of plan will be completed by September of 2021.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NESILC will operate in supportive role in this process.</u></li> <li>• <u>State Budget was impacted by COVID-19 so may require extra time.</u></li> <li>• <u>Success will be determined by getting new funding September 2023.</u></li> </ul>			
		<p><u>NESILC and CILs will identify and develop a strategy to address the gaps and barriers to the provision of IL services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Improve on the Needs Assessment to include questions about satisfaction with IL services and to identify the gaps and barriers to</u></li> </ul>	<p>Number of meeting</p>	<p>Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CIL</li> <li>○ DSE</li> <li>○ SILC</li> </ul>

<p><u>June 30, 2021</u></p>		<p><u>the provision of IL services. This survey will be completed by June 30, 2021.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>The IL Needs Assessment will be promoted by the CILs and at various state conferences or community forums held at CILs other partner agencies such as VR, ATP, and CAP. The dissemination of the needs assessment will begin by July 30, 2021.</u></li> </ul>			
<p><u>July 30, 2021</u></p>		<p><u>NESILC and CILs will be active participants in activities/events/discussions that may impact Independent Living</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Initiate or Identify Legislative, Rules, Regulation, administrative</u></li> </ul>	<p>Track meeting/hearings that we attend, minutes</p>	<p>Report to NESILC/PPR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CIL</li> <li>○ SILC</li> </ul>
<p><u>meet at least twice a year</u></p>					

		<p><u>meetings/hearing or forums that may impact Independent Living. NESILC &amp; CILs will meet after Bill introduction and as needed for regulatory changes.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Disseminate information and develop testimony or provide public comment for relevant meetings or hearings that will impact IL to include but not limited to email, social media, newsletters and web pages.</u></li><li>• <u>The SILC will have 5-10-minute reports from all non-voting members at each quarterly meeting regarding activities over past 3 months.</u></li></ul>			
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		<p><u>Each CIL will make presentation to NESILC annually on function and services for areas that utilize Part B funding.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Identify items such as Disaster Preparedness and relief or others that the CILs and other organizations involved with disability community to increase collaborative activities.</u></li> </ul>			
	<p>2. <u>People in Nebraska have access to information on Independent Living services, philosophies and the history of the disability</u></p>	<p><u>NESILC and CILs will collaborate with the UCEDD and other IL Partners to explore the use of technology to provide information that focus on the core IL services, and any other</u></p>	<p>Meeting minutes and disseminating webinar. Document #</p>	<p>Minutes &amp; # of attendees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SILC</li> <li>○ CIL</li> <li>○ DSE</li> </ul>

<p><u>November 2020</u></p> <p><u>July 30, 2021</u></p>	<p><u>movement.</u></p>	<p><u>subjects that we deem appropriate. This will include activities such as webinars or other types of electronic communication.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Formulate steering committee of interested organization to determine how this might evolve. Committee will meet by November 2020.</u></li> <li>• <u>The first webinar will be completed by July 30, 2021.</u></li> </ul>	<p>attende es</p>		
<p><u>Annually</u></p>		<p><u>NESILC will attend disability events by other organizations to disseminate printed material in accessible formats as needed about Independent Living in Nebraska annually.</u></p>	<p>Track conferen ces we attend and report on them</p>	<p># of materials we distribute</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SILC</li> <li>○ CIL</li> </ul>

<p><u>Annually</u></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NESILC members will attend conferences by other organizations to have exhibitor's booth and possible presentation. This includes but not limited to Statewide Brain Injury Conference, Statewide Behavioral Health Conference and People First of Nebraska. This will be done annually.</u></li> <li>• <u>The NESILC will have an Outreach Committee that will work to promote IL services and collaborate with other disability and aging agencies throughout the State of Nebraska</u></li> </ul>			
	<p>3. <u>To improve the capacity and build sustainability for</u></p>	<p><u>Centers for Independent Living will have the necessary resources to</u></p>	<p>CIL Grant Request</p>	<p>Minutes &amp; Report from CIL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SILC</li> <li>○ CIL</li> </ul>

<p><u>Annually</u></p>	<p><u>the Centers for Independent Living, NESILC and Independent Living services and supports</u></p>	<p><u>provide staff training and to provide the mandated services as well as new and developing disability needs. CILs can apply for grants to help meet training requirements based on needs outlined in 704 Report.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>CILs will apply for training grants of up to \$5531.00 total that will be split between the CILs. These will be submitted to NESILC and NESILC will provide funds based on criteria established to disseminate funds. The training grants will be available every year.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>Requests for funds will be made at quarterly</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
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<p><u>quarterly</u></p>		<p><u>meetings.</u>  b. <u>SILC will receive quarterly updates on use of Part B funds. This will allow the SILC to determine if Part B funds are being used.</u></p>			
<p><u>Annually</u></p>		<p><u>NESILC will participate in activities to strengthen the organization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NESILC will receive 30% of the Part B Allocation and will change organizational structure to strengthen NESILC, this includes providing annual training for SILC, CIL representatives and DSE.</u></li> </ul>	<p>minutes</p>	<p>How much money raised. Training subjects</p>	<p>○ SILC</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Conduct at least one fundraising activity annually</u></li> <li>• <u>NESILC will allow designated members (in compliance with NESILC policies) to attend the annual conference of a National organization to gain knowledge on Independent Living and receive training. Consideration will be based upon availability of resources</u></li> </ul>			
<u>quarterly</u>		<p><u>The NESILC will collaborate with the CILs to develop and implement advocacy efforts that promote the IL philosophy and results in meaningful and measurable systemic change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>The NESILC will collaborate with state agencies to advocate</u></li> </ul>	Minutes	How NESILC supported CILs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SILC</li> <li>○ CILs</li> </ul>

		<p><u>for advancements in Independent Living Services and Supports in Nebraska; this includes Legislature upon their request.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NESILC will support CILs in their advocacy efforts.</u></li> <li>• <u>We will check in with both CILs at least quarterly to determine how we can support them.</u></li> </ul>			
Will be DSE for entire 3 year period		<p><u>The Designated State Entity (DSE) for NESILC will continue to be the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) The DSE is the agency that acts on behalf of the State for Title VII Part B programs.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>The responsibilities include:</u></li> </ul>			○ DSE

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State based on the SPIL;</u></li><li>• <u>Provide administrative support services for a program under part B,</u></li><li>• <u>Keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator (of ACL) finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;</u></li><li>• <u>Submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and</u></li><li>• <u>Retain not more than</u></li></ul>			
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Quarterly		<p><u>5% 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)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>The CILs and NESILC will develop a plan to redistribute funds in any amount if any member of the IL Network receiving Part B dollars fails to comply with expectations. NESILC &amp; CILs will discuss this annually.</u></li> </ul>			
		<p><u>NESILC and CILs will support youth (16-29) to enhance their leadership skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NESILC will work with CILs and VR Youth Leadership Council to</u></li> </ul>	Applicati on process, minutes	Send youth to APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SILC</li> <li>○ CIL</li> <li>○ DSE</li> </ul>

<p>March 21, 2021</p>		<p><u>expand voting membership for at least 1 youth (16-29). NESILC will expand voting membership for 2 youth members by March, 2021.</u></p>			
<p>June 21, 2021</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Investigate and Support Youth Leadership Opportunities for youth in Nebraska to include sponsorship to the APRIL Conference for at least one youth that is a resident of Nebraska. NESILC &amp; CILs will develop application &amp; criteria for attendance by June, 2021.</u></li> </ul>			
<p>August 15, 2021</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Youth member to attend will be determined by applications received. Decision will be made</u></li> </ul>			

		<u>by August 15, 2021.</u>			
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1.5 Financial Plan

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

<b>Fiscal Year(s): 2020-2021</b>					
<b>Sources</b>	<b>Projected Funding Amounts and Uses</b>				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs
<b>Title VII Funds</b>					
Chapter 1, Subchapter B	101615		96195 IR 96195 LHD	5981-training 4,709-APRIL 10,000-needs assessment 10,000-webinarr	16935
Chapter 1, Subchapter C			168,471-IR 804,343 LHD		
<b>Other Federal Funds-CARES Act</b>			650,000-LHD 85,000-IR		
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)					
Social Security Reimbursement					

Other					
<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>					
State Funds	9000		8520 IR 8520 LHD	2460	1500
Other					

<b>Fiscal Year(s): 2021-2022</b>					
<b>Sources</b>	<b>Projected Funding Amounts and Uses</b>				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs
<b>Title VII Funds</b>					
Chapter 1, Subchapter B	101615		96195 IR 96195 LHD	5981-training 4,709-APRIL 10,000-needs assessment 10,000-webinarr	16935
Chapter 1, Subchapter C			168,471-IR 804,343 LHD		
<b>Other Federal Funds</b>					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)					
Social Security Reimbursement					

Other					
<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>					
State Funds	9000		8520 IR 8520 LHD	2460	1500
Other					

<b>Fiscal Year(s): 2022-2023</b>					
<b>Sources</b>	<b>Projected Funding Amounts and Uses</b>				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs
<b>Title VII Funds</b>					
Chapter 1, Subchapter B	101615		96195 IR 96195 LHD	5981-training 4,709-APRIL 10,000-needs assessment 10,000-webinarr	16935
Chapter 1, Subchapter C			168,471-IR 804,343 LHD		
<b>Other Federal Funds</b>					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)					
Social Security					

Reimbursement					
Other					
<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>					
State Funds	9000		8520 IR 8520 LHD	2460	1500
Other					

Description of financial plan narrative.

The SILC will receive 30% of Part B funds for an estimated amount of \$101,615.00 plus 30% of state match of \$9,000.00 for a total of \$110,615.00. The DSE will receive 5% of the part B dollars for an estimated amount of \$16,935.00 plus 5% of the state match for \$1,500.00 to total \$18,435.00. Each of the Center for Independent Living will receive 28.4% of the Part B funds for an estimated total of \$96,195.00 and 28.4% of State match for \$8,520.00 for a total of \$104,715.00. There will be small training grants through an application process developed by CILs. SILC and DSE to be given to each Center every year of the SPIL to total 1.5% of part B Funds for \$5,081.00 and 1.5% of State match for \$450.00 which totals \$5,531.00. Up to \$4,709.00 will be allocated for youth attending APRIL. We will allow up to \$10,000.00 for technical expertise to develop webinar and \$10,000.00 for aid in developing any aspects of Needs Assessment.

Currently we are only receiving \$30,000.00 of the State Match, it should actually be \$33,871. The paperwork has been submitted to rectify this however, the legislature ended early because of the COVID-19 Pandemic prior to changes in budget could be made. Therefore, the DSE has agreed to provide in-kind training to help with preparation for webinars.

The IL Network has determined that the minimum funding level for Nebraska is \$250,000.00.

If there is any additional new federal Part C Independent Living allocation made available, which are not a general PART C or Cost of Living Part C funds for existing Part C funded centers, and the Nebraska SILC, CILs and DSE have determined that both CILs have

reached \$250,000.00 minimum funding level in federal funds, the award of these additional funds would be divided between the Part C centers in a formula of 50%/50% between the two CILs.

If for any reason a CIL closes the NESILC and remaining CILs will redistribute funds as needed. NESILC and the CILs will determine process for fund redistribution. RFP will be sent out by ACL since both of our CILs receive Part C dollars. However, if the closure should happen near the end of fiscal year it may be necessary to let the state such as Vocational Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Partnership will help during that time period.

The Grant Process is:

<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>TASK</b>	<b>PROCESSING TIME ESTIMATE</b>
September	DSE Business Office works with the DSE Grant PI to format SPIL Budget	1-2 Weeks
September	<u>Subrecipients forms sent to the DSE Business Office for the upcoming grant year:</u> A. Intent to Form a Subcontract B. Subrecipients Contacts Page C. Budget D. Budget Justification E. Scope of Work	Up to 4 weeks
Oct - Nov	ACL Notice of Award is received at the DSE for the new grant year	Same Business Day

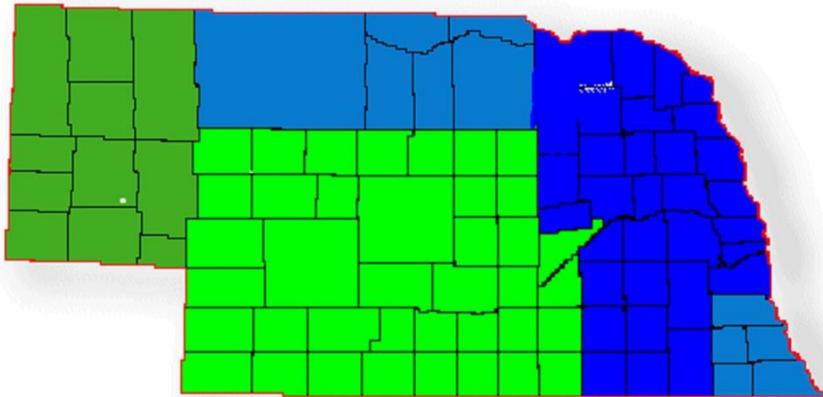
Oct - Nov	DSE Business Office processes UNMC internal forms for Sponsored Programs	Up to 2 Weeks
Oct - Nov	Subrecipients forms are reviewed by the DSE Business Office	Up to 2 Weeks
Oct - Dec	DSE Sponsored Programs reviews internal forms and sets up account	Up to 4 Weeks
Oct - Dec	Subrecipient Contracts drafted by Sponsored Programs DSE	Up to 2 Weeks
Oct - Dec	Contracts routed by DSE Sponsored Programs for signatures by Subrecipients	1-2 Weeks
Oct - Dec	Fully executed agreement is sent to Subrecipients	1-2 Business Days
Oct - Dec	1st Quarter Invoice submitted by subrecipient	Up to 4 Weeks
Oct - Dec	DSE Business Office processes 1st Qtr Invoice for payment	Up to 4 Weeks
January	1st Qtr receipts and expense documents & 2nd Qtr Invoice submitted by subrecipient	Up to 4 Weeks

Independent living services	Provided using Subchapter B	Provided using other funds	Provided by
Core Independent Living Services, as required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Information and referral</li> <li>– IL skills training</li> <li>– Peer counseling</li> <li>– Individual and systems advocacy</li> <li>– Transition services including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transition from nursing homes &amp; other institutions</li> <li>▪ Diversion from institutions</li> <li>▪ Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	X	X	Independence Rising-(IR) League of Human Dignity-(LHD)
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services			
Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with significant disabilities) Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.		X	LHD IR
Mobility training			IR-certified Peer Support
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services		X	LHD IR
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services		X	LHD IR
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services			

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	LHD IR
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities		X	LHD IR
Supported living Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.		X	LHD IR
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation		X	LHD IR
Physical rehabilitation			
Therapeutic treatment			
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices			
Assistive Technology (which includes what was formerly known as “rehabilitation technology” and includes prostheses)		X	LHD IR
Individual and group social and recreational services			
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	LHD IR
Services for children with significant disabilities		X	LHD IR
Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with significant disabilities		X	LHD IR

Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future		X	LHD IR
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities		X	LHD IR
Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act			

**Counties served by Centers for Independent Living in Nebraska**



Source: divmaps.net fcl

- Independence Rising-Part B**
- Independence Rising-Part C**
- League of Human Dignity-Part B**
- League of Human Dignity-Part C**

## **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.

### **2.2 Outreach define unserved and underserved**

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.

Unserved Populations-Currently in Nebraska all 93 counties are being served by the existing CILs.

Underserved Populations is defined for use in Nebraska while all 93 counties in the state of Nebraska are technically served, realistically the services are limited by resources available. In addition, the definition of

underserved populations include urban, rural and frontier populations. As well as minority populations that include but not limited to African American, Hispanic, Asian and Indigenous communities. Communities are also underserved because of limited English proficiency and resources available to family. Due to the very rural nature of the State of Nebraska and because we are a minimum funded state, outreach efforts will be statewide.

The League of Human Dignity serves Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Johnson, Keya Paha, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Rock Counties utilizing Part B Funds. Independence Rising serves Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux, Kimball Counties with Part B Funds.

Each CIL and the DSE has their own outreach plan as how to outreach to the underserved populations in the areas they serve. The SILC continues to reach out to all Nebraskans with disabilities.

The SILC and the CILs also partner with other disability, aging and other organizations in Nebraska, whenever possible, to collaborate on reaching out to these underserved populations. Due to minimum funding levels that Nebraska receives for independent living and the lack of state funding, it is not possible to do any additional outreach activities at this time

The SILC and the CILs also partner with other disability and aging organizations, whenever possible, to collaborate on reaching out to these underserved populations. Due to the inadequate funding that Nebraska receives for independent living, it is not possible to do any additional outreach activities at this time

CILs participate in events, to include but not limited to minority health fairs. CILs will provide report at the SILC quarterly meetings twice a year to discuss of gaps & barriers they are seeing. CILs will develop their own outreach plan a plan to address these gaps. NESILC & CILs will develop a statewide outreach plan as a result of these discussions

In addition, the things being currently done include but are not limited to:

- Regular visits to three different American Indian reservations.
- Coordination with local Hispanic, Vietnamese, Eastern European and Middle Eastern organizations.
- The LHD has key information translated into Hispanic, Asian, Middle Eastern, and Eastern European and provides interpreters for those who experience English as a Second Language (ESL) and require an interpreter
- We will continue efforts to reach out to the Native Americans, Hispanics and other minority groups with disabilities while looking for opportunities to expand our efforts.
- The League of Human Dignity provides Medicaid Waiver Assessments for individuals statewide. They have opened offices throughout the state to aid in this process.
- If an individual needs include the core IL services the individual is referred to the Center for Independent Living that serves the area of the state they live in.
- Center for Independent Living of Central Nebraska dba Independence Rising has established itinerant office locations in Western Nebraska which has ensured continued access to services in underserved parts of the State. This means staff meets with consumer at whatever location is convenient.
- The SILC continues to look for qualified members to round out our membership. The application is posted on our website in both WORD and pdf documents. The website is routinely updated to share information. SILC is scheduled to have displays at various State conferences to include the Annual Brain Injury Conference. The display includes brochures from the member organizations that make up the IL Network.

- The State Independent Living Service partners will collaborate to redirect the allocation of Part B funds as deemed necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives of the SPIIL
- NESILC and the CILs will collaborate to maintain, expand, and sustain a comprehensive network of independent living services to address the needs of Nebraskans experiencing disabilities with emphasis on those currently underserved.

#### 2.4 Coordination

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

- Facilitate the expansion of the IL Network by including all IL Partners in all communication regarding IL in Nebraska. Disseminating information about IL to disability organizations and all stakeholder in the state.
- Meet with representatives of the IL Network at least once every quarter per year
- Include CIL representatives on SILC committees
- Consult with IL Network on potential joint position statements on IL issues in Nebraska
- Routine sharing of information with the IL Network, including the SRC and member organizations of the Nebraska Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities.
- NESILC will collaborate and coordinate with the CILs to avoid any duplication of services while promoting consumer choice
- NESILC will maintain a representative to the SRC and collaborate on activities as appropriate
- NESILC appointed representative to Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council
- NESILC will look for opportunities to partner with other disability organizations to include but not limited to the DD Planning Council, People First of Nebraska, Brain Injury Alliance.
- Representation of the DSE on the SILC.

- Representation from state disability agencies plus reports of activities at quarterly NESILC meetings plus annual presentations about the services they provide.
- Either the NESILC Executive Director, NESILC staff member and/or a NESILC Board member will attend and participate in the Nebraska Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities (NCCD) with other statewide disability organizations, including the Brain Injury Association, Mental Health Association, to promote community living.
- NESILC & CILS will monitor development of Olmstead Plan & share information on changes to Medicaid and other programs/services related to Independent Living this includes the ADRC.
- Services to ensure that IL remains viable

**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 served	Funding source(s)	Use of Funds	Oversight process	Oversight entity	SPIL Signatory (yes/no)
League of Human Dignity, Inc	<b><u>Part C</u></b> <u>Antelope,</u> <u>Boone, Burt,</u> <u>Butler, Cass,</u> <u>Cedar,</u> <u>Colfax,</u> <u>Cuming ,</u> <u>Dakota,</u> <u>Dixon,</u> <u>Dodge,</u> <u>Douglas,</u> <u>Filmore,</u> <u>Gage, Knox,</u> <u>Lancaster,</u> <u>Madison,</u> <u>Nance, Pierce,</u> <u>Platte, Polk,</u> <u>Saline, Sarpy,</u> <u>Saunders,</u>	<u>Part C</u> <u>Part B</u> <u>Lincoln/Lancaster</u> <u>County Joint Budget</u> <u>Committee</u> <u>ADRC</u> <u>Program service fees,</u> <u>including equipment</u> <u>loan &amp; rental,</u> <u>assistive technology</u> <u>sales &amp; service</u> <u>Donations</u> <u>Medicaid Waiver</u> <u>United Way funding</u> <u>CARES Act</u>	<u>Part B and Part C</u> <u>funds provide the</u> <u>core IL services</u> <u>and respond to</u> <u>LHD CIL</u> <u>Consumer’s needs</u> <u>as they relate to</u> <u>the COVID-19</u> <u>Pandemic. The</u> <u>Part B money is</u> <u>only utilized in</u> <u>Part B counties</u> <u>identified.</u> <u>For the funds we</u> <u>receive that are not</u> <u>Part B or Part</u> <u>C, we will use</u> <u>those to provide</u> <u>services as</u> <u>designated by the</u> <u>respective funding</u> <u>sources.</u>	CIL submits CIL PPR to ACL/OILP and submits PPR to DSE]	ACL/OILP/DSE	YES

	<p><u>Seward,</u> <u>Stanton,</u> <u>Thayer,</u> <u>Thurston,</u> <u>Washington,</u> <u>Wayne, York</u> <b><u>Part B</u></b> <u>Boyd, Brown,</u> <u>Cherry, Holt,</u> <u>Johnson,</u> <u>Keya Paha,</u> <u>Nemaha,</u> <u>Otoe, Pawnee,</u> <u>Richardson,</u> <u>Rock</u></p>		<p><u>We plan to address the needs of Covid as evidenced in our new Initial CARES Act Policy adopted by the board of Directors of the LHD on April 29, 2020</u></p> <p>a. <u>We expect new policies to continually be formulated as we deal with Covid 19 in the coming months. We are making plans as things unfold and as need are identified. We are anticipating resurgence and know that we will be tailoring our response to Covid-19 in reaction to the severity of the resurgence.</u></p>			
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<p>Center for Independent Living dba Independence Rising</p>	<p><b>Part C</b>  <u>Adams,</u>  <u>Arthur,</u>  <u>Blaine,</u>  <u>Buffalo,</u>  <u>Chase,</u>  <u>Clay,</u>  <u>Custer,</u>  <u>Dawson,</u>  <u>Dundy,</u>  <u>Franklin,</u>  <u>Frontier,</u>  <u>Furnas,</u>  <u>Garfield,</u>  <u>Grant,</u>  <u>Greeley,</u>  <u>Gosper,</u>  <u>Hall,</u>  <u>Hamilton,</u>  <u>Harlan,</u>  <u>Hayes,</u>  <u>Hitchcock,</u>  <u>Hooker,</u>  <u>Howard,</u>  <u>Kearney,</u>  <u>Keith,</u>  <u>Lincoln,</u>  <u>Logan,</u>  <u>Loup,</u></p>	<p><u>Part C</u>  <u>Part B</u>  <u>DHHS CFS</u>  <u>Contract</u>  <u>State of Nebraska</u>  <u>Youth Probation</u>  <u>Medicaid Funding</u>  <u>Peer Link</u>  <u>Family Peer</u>  <u>Support</u>  <u>State of Nebraska</u>  <u>Behavioral Health</u>  <u>ARC Census</u>  <u>Project</u>  <u>Independence</u>  <u>Rising Equipment</u>  <u>Loan Program</u>  <u>Independence at</u>  <u>Home Chore</u>  <u>Services Program</u>  <u>CARES Act</u></p>	<p><u>Part B and Part C</u>  <u>funding are used</u>  <u>for independent</u>  <u>living program</u>  <u>expenses</u>  <u>including: office</u>  <u>rent, staff wages,</u>  <u>staff benefits,</u>  <u>office supplies,</u>  <u>mileage and</u>  <u>transportation</u>  <u>costs to visit</u>  <u>consumers and</u>  <u>attend community</u>  <u>meetings (when</u>  <u>COVID-19</u>  <u>Restrictions aren't</u>  <u>in place), training,</u>  <u>and staff benefits.</u></p> <p><u>Fee for Service</u>  <u>Programs</u></p> <p><u>Family Org,</u>  <u>Family Support,</u>  <u>Peer Link,</u>  <u>Independence at</u>  <u>Home, ARC</u>  <u>Census Project,</u>  <u>Driving Program</u></p>	<p>CIL submits CIL PPR to ACL/OILP and submits PPR to DSE</p>	<p>ACL/OILP/DSE</p>	<p>YES</p>

	<p> <u>Merrick,</u>  <u>McPherson,</u>  <u>Nuckolls,</u>  <u>Perkins,</u>  <u>Phelps, Red</u>  <u>Willow,</u>  <u>Sherman,</u>  <u>Thomas,</u>  <u>Valley,</u>  <u>Webster,</u>  <u>Wheeler</u>  <b><u>Part B</u></b>  <u>Banner,</u>  <u>Box Butte,</u>  <u>Cheyenne,</u>  <u>Dawes,</u>  <u>Deuel,</u>  <u>Garden,</u>  <u>Morrill,</u>  <u>Scotts</u>  <u>Bluff,</u>  <u>Sheridan,</u>  <u>Sioux,</u>  <u>Kimball</u> </p>		<p> <u>Respite Across the</u>  <u>Lifespan,</u>  <u>Probation Family</u>  <u>Support, – funds</u>  <u>received from fee</u>  <u>for service</u>  <u>program are used</u>  <u>to pay staff wages</u>  <u>and benefits for</u>  <u>staff that work in</u>  <u>these programs,</u>  <u>pay mileage and</u>  <u>transportation</u>  <u>costs (during</u>  <u>nonCOVID-19</u>  <u>periods) support</u>  <u>administrative</u>  <u>positions that work</u>  <u>within</u>  <u>programs, pay a</u>  <u>portion of office</u>  <u>space, and pay for</u>  <u>independent living</u>  <u>program services</u>  <u>that are not able to</u>  <u>be funded due to</u>  <u>the limitations</u>  <u>with grant</u>  <u>funding. The</u>  <u>agency is also</u>  <u>working on a</u>  <u>transitional youth</u>  <u>shelter project that</u> </p>			
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			<p><u>will be funded by</u> <u>fee for service</u> <u>program funds.</u> <u>Protective</u> <u>Equipment for</u> <u>staff and</u> <u>consumers</u> <u>Information and</u> <u>training on</u> <u>COVID pandemic</u> <u>safety for staff and</u> <u>consumers</u> <u>Collaboration and</u> <u>community</u> <u>partnerships with</u> <u>other agencies that</u> <u>serve consumers</u> <u>with disabilities in</u> <u>regards to COVID</u> <u>information and</u> <u>trainings</u> <u>**Funds for</u> <u>collaboration will</u> <u>only be used by</u> <u>Independence</u> <u>Rising for</u> <u>Independence</u> <u>Rising services</u> <u>and programs</u></p>			
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3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network-define served, unserved, and underserved  
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 state wideness of Network.

Served Populations-Currently all 93 Counties in Nebraska have access to core IL services.

Unserved Populations-There are no unserved areas in Nebraska all 93 counties are being served by the existing CILs.

Underserved Populations is defined for use in Nebraska while all 93 counties in the state of Nebraska are technically served, realistically the services are limited by resources available. In addition, the definition of underserved populations includes urban, rural and frontier populations. As well as minority populations that include but not limited to African American, Hispanic, Asian and Indigenous communities. Communities are also underserved because of limited English proficiency and resources available to family.

The League of Human Dignity serves Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Johnson, Keya Paha, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Rock Counties utilizing Part B Funds. Independence Rising serves Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux, Kimball Counties with Part B Funds  
Served Populations-Currently all 93 Counties in Nebraska have access to core IL services.

The League of Human Dignity serves Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Johnson, Keya Paha, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Rock Counties utilizing Part B Funds. Independence Rising serves Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux, Kimball Counties with Part B Funds.

The League of Human Dignity receives \$804,343 in Part C funds. Independence Rising receives \$168,471 in Part C money. Both the League of Human Dignity and Independence Rising will receive 28.4% of the Part B funds for an estimated total of \$96,195.00 and 28.4% of State match for \$8,520.00 for a total of \$104,715.00. Currently the League of Human Dignity utilizes Part C and Part B money provide the core IL services and respond to LHD CIL Consumer's needs as they relate to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Part B money is only utilized in Part B counties identified above in the chart.

League of Human Dignity utilizes Part B and Part C funds provide the core IL services and respond to LHD CIL Consumer's needs as they relate to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Independence Rising utilizes Part B and Part C funding are used for independent living program for transportation costs to visit consumers and attend community meetings (when COVID-19 Restrictions aren't in place), training, and staff benefits.

#### Fee for Service Programs

Family Org, Family Support, Peer Link, Independence at Home, ARC Census Project, Driving Program Respite Across the Lifespan, Probation Family Support, – funds received from fee for service program are used to pay staff wages and benefits for staff that work in these programs, pay mileage and transportation costs (during nonCOVID-19 periods) support administrative positions that work within programs, pay a portion of office space, and pay for independent living program services that are not able to be funded due to the limitations with grant funding. The agency is also working on a transitional youth shelter project that will be funded by fee for service program funds.

## Methodology of distribution of funds

For Part B funds the amount is estimated in the SPIL, each CIL receives the same amount. When the DSE receives the Notice of Award the final amount for the contract is determined based on percentages outlined in SPIL. The money is obtained by submitting a proposal to the DSE that includes Intent to form a subcontract, with subrecipients contact information, budget, budget justification, and scope of work. After contract is executed an invoice is submitted. Funds are sent to recipient. At end of quarter all receipts and expense documents are sent to DSE to be processed in addition the invoice for next quarter is sent in.

To increase the capacity of the Centers for Independent Living to provide core IL services, the network will develop plan to augment the budgets with State funds and implement the plan to make the changes happen. All 93 counties in Nebraska are currently able to be served by a Center for Independent Living but it is limited by the availability of resources.

The current minimum funding level that was determined by the SILC, CILs and DSE a few years ago was \$250,000.00 of Federal money. This number was determined at that time based on Cost of Living in Nebraska. However, now because of the new core IL service and the cost of doing business we will need to reevaluate that in the near future. Currently both CILs are at the minimum funding level.

Part B Funding is distributed in the following manner:

- 30% to SILC
- 28.4% to each Center for Independent Living
- 1.5% for training grants to Centers for Independent Living
- 5% for DSE
- 2.7% to technical assistance for webinars
- 2.7% to needs assessment
- 1.2% to APRIL Youth

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

If for any reason a CIL closes the NESILC and remaining CILs will redistribute funds as needed. NESILC and the CILs will determine process for fund redistribution. RFP will be sent out by ACL since both of our CILs receive Part C dollars. However, if the closure should happen near the end of fiscal year it may be necessary to let the state such as Vocational Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Partnership will help during that time period.

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

The IL Network has determined that no services provided by CILs will be reduced until after training grants, technical assistance, needs assessment and APRIL youth to be adjusted or eliminated first. If there is a need for further reductions the SILC budget will be examined.

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

There is no plan for a new center at present any additional funds will be distributed utilizing current percentages used in splitting Part B Funds. The division of previously unserved counties was expanded by a series of discussions with CILs and the SILC. Since all counties are served by a CILs in Nebraska no changes to how the counties are divided is going to happen in the near future. Since there were 23 unserved counties the CILs decided to split them and then split Part B Money available 50%/50%. The IL Network has determined that services will be the priority.

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

If there is an increase in funding for one-time the money will be distributed in the following manner: Part C distribution if there is new additional federal Part C Independent Living allocation made available, which is not a cost of living increase for existing Part C funded centers, Nebraska SILC, CILs and DSE have determined that both CILs have reached \$250,000.00 minimum funding level in federal funds the distribution of it would be divided between the Part C centers in a formula of 50%/50% between the two CILs.

If there is any increase in Part B funding it will be divided by percentages outlined above.

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

Monroe-Meyer Institute \_\_\_\_\_ will serve as the entity in Nebraska 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

TIMELINE	TASK	PROCESSING TIME ESTIMATE
September	DSE Business Office works with the DSE Grant PI to format SPIL Budget	1-2 Weeks
September	<u>Subrecipients forms sent to the DSE Business Office for the upcoming grant year:</u> A. Intent to Form a Subcontract B. Subrecipients Contacts C. Page Budget D. Budget Justification E. Scope of Work	Up to 4 weeks
Oct - Nov	ACL Notice of Award is received at the DSE for the new grant year	Same Business Day
Oct - Nov	DSE Business Office processes UNMC internal forms for Sponsored Programs	Up to 2 Weeks
Oct - Nov	Subrecipients forms are reviewed by the DSE Business Office	Up to 2 Weeks
Oct - Dec	DSE Sponsored Programs reviews internal forms and sets up account	Up to 4 Weeks
Oct - Dec	Subrecipient Contracts drafted by Sponsored Programs DSE	Up to 2 Weeks
Oct - Dec	Contracts routed by DSE Sponsored Programs for signatures by Subrecipients	1-2 Weeks
Oct - Dec	Fully executed agreement is sent to Subrecipients	1-2 Business Days
Oct - Dec	1st Quarter Invoice submitted by	Up to 4 Weeks

	subrecipient	
Oct - Dec	DSE Business Office processes 1st Qtr Invoice for payment	Up to 4 Weeks
January	1st Qtr receipts and expense documents & 2nd Qtr Invoice submitted by subrecipient	Up to 4 Weeks

#### 4.3 Oversight Process for Part B Funds

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

- The recipients of Subchapter B funds are required to submit to the DSE the following prior to release of Part B funds:
  - Intent to Form a Subcontract
  - UNMC Sub-recipient Contract Page
  - Budget for the fiscal year
  - Budget Justification
  - Scope of Work

The DSE then releases quarterly the allocated funds as outlined in the SPIL and based on receipts, funds requested. The exception to this is that the DSE will release the entire amount of the first quarter funding following receipt of the paperwork outlined above. Receipts for the first quarter release must be received prior to any additional release of funds. An invoice must be submitted to get any funds must be submitted quarterly. Since all proposals are outlined in the SPIL the proposals will be reviewed by staff designated by DSE. At the end of each quarter every subrecipient must submit all receipts and expense documents to be reconciled by DSE before any additional funds will be given out.

The oversight process for the League of Human Dignity and Independence Rising will include submission of the PPR to ACL/OILP for Part C money and to the DSE for oversight of the Part B funds.

4.4 Administration and Staffing Did not describe how the DSE will not create a conflict of interest with the SILC.

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE.

- No staffing from DSE. The DSE follows the subaward assurances requirements of ACL on the distribution and accounting of the Part B funding without any restrictions. In the SPIL it indicates only 5% and the DSE reports to the SILC quarterly on the expenditure of and Part B funds. The DSE assurances, specifically state:
  - 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;
- 7.5 - 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
  - 7.8 - The DSE shall make timely and prompt payments to Subchapter B funded SILCs and CILs: (1) (2) and (3).

#### 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

There are no additional requirements, nor regulations that are imposed by NE. There are requirements for accounting oversight imposed by MMI/UNMC.

In regard to autonomy of the SILC the DSE participates in the development of the SPIL and follows the subaward assurances requirements of ACL on the distribution and accounting of the Part B funding without any restrictions. In addition, the SILC must comply with the Open Meeting Law in Nebraska for any meetings (in person, video or telephone conferences).

#### 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 5.1 Missing a description of the establishment, placement, and/or organizations status of the SILC, and how autonomy and independence from the DSE is assured How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.

The Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council was established as a committee of Vocational Rehabilitation in 1993. There was no Executive Order or action taken by the Legislature that we could find. I have discussed this with individuals who were members of the SILC at that time and the exact establishment is unknown. Vocational Rehabilitation provided staffing and operated as the Designated State Unit. After two years the administration and staffing were shared by Vocational Rehabilitation and a organization that provided Administrative Assistant by contract. In 2001 the SILC determined they were going to hire their own staff and terminate the contract for assistance with administration. The Articles of Incorporation with State of Nebraska were filed in September of 2001. SILC members took on the responsibility of operating the Council and hiring staff In July of 2002 we received our Non-Profit-501(c )3 status from the Internal Revenue Service. The first SILC office and staff was opened in 2003. The Council developed its own bylaws which it updates regularly and operates under. The office is located at 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 519, Lincoln, NE 68508 and has its own operating budget which is approved and reviewed by the full council

The Nebraska SILC is an independent entity with respect to the DSE and all other state agencies. The DSE and various state agencies have a non-voting membership on the SILC and they provide quarterly reports on their activities. All decisions are made by the voting membership. As indicated by the Nebraska Bylaws:

### Article V. Membership

#### 5.1- Composition

- A. NESILC will provide statewide representation, representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds. NESILC membership shall always remain at or above 51% of people with significant disabilities representing a broad range of disabilities and are knowledgeable about Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Independent Living services.
- B. At least 51% of the voting NESILC membership shall consist of individuals with disabilities who are not employed by a CIL or by any state agency, including agencies which provides services to persons experiencing disabilities.

- C. The NESILC will be composed of, no less than 11 and no more than 19, voting members nominated by the members of the NESILC and approved by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents in conformance with the Act.
- D. One director of an Independent Living Center chosen by the directors of centers for independent living will be included on the NESILC as required under the Act.
- E. A representative from the DSE and state agencies will be nonvoting members. All CILs will be included as nonvoting, ex officio members and will be except for the one voting member chosen by their respective agencies. The voting CIL Representative will be decided by all the CIL's in the state.
- F. The remaining members may be appointed to represent family members of people with disabilities and other groups concerned with independent living services for individuals experiencing a significant barrier to independent living due to a disability.
- G. The membership application will be made available on the NESILC web site plus copies of the application are available upon request.
  - 1) After the completed application is submitted to NESILC office it will be distributed to the NESILC Outreach Committee.
  - 2) Two members of the Committee, that do not know the applicant, will interview the applicant utilizing questions developed by NESILC and make a recommendation to the NESILC for approval.
  - 3) The NESILC will annually review the composition of the SILC and make recommendations to the Outreach Committee for their new member recruitment.
- H. All new members will receive training prior to attending first meeting.
- I. Each new member to NESILC will be assigned a mentor from full NESILC voting membership
  - 1) The Outreach Committee will oversee the mentoring program.
  - 2) The responsibilities of the mentor include:
    - i. Meeting by email or in person with new member prior to 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly meeting.
    - ii. Offer any explanation, clarification, or guidance needed.
    - iii. Mentor will continue in this role during the probationary period or longer if both parties agree.
- J. No family members shall be on NESILC at the same time. ("Family member" is defined as anyone who is biologically related or related by adoption or domestic partnership and/or legal guardianship as defined by Nebraska Statutes.)
  - 1) Exceptions will be granted to individuals on NESILC prior to 1/1/2018

5.2 SILC Resource plan 5.2 Sources and amounts of funding are not included.

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.

The SILC will receive 30% of Part B funds for a n estimated amount of \$101,615.00 plus 30% of state match of \$9,000.00 for a total of \$110,615.00. Part B is the only funding source for the NESILC at the present time. We do receive a small amount in donations. This was \$1000.00 the past fiscal year. This is used to purchases items not allowed by federal dollars. The amount of money received by SILC is disbursed by DSE in quarterly amounts after submission of receipts and expense documents and invoice is received. SILC will support CILs in developing plan to obtain state funding or other funding sources. Also, SILC holds at least one community fundraising event per year. This is done by SILC members and staff on their own time. The SILC is staffed by a part time Executive Director and part time Receptionist/Clerk. All voting members provide all their time to support the SILC as volunteer except for CIL designee that is required by Rehab Act

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

For the resource Plan in the SPIL the CILs, SILC and DSE meet to determine how Part B funds will be utilized.

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

The process used to determine the resource plan for the SILC is determined by committee including treasure and Executive Director will develop a draft that is based on previous years

expenses, including a slight increase. This draft is then presented to full council for approval.

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

The SILC only uses 30%

5.3 Maintenance of SILC 5.3 Does not describe how the SILC is established or operating.

The Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council was established as a committee of Vocational Rehabilitation in 1993. There was no Executive Order or action taken by the Legislature that we could find. I have discussed this with individuals who were members of the SILC at that time and the exact establishment is unknown. Vocational Rehabilitation provided staffing and operated as the Designated State Unit. After two years the administration and staffing were shared by Vocational Rehabilitation and a organization that provided Administrative Assistant by contract. In 2001 the SILC determined they were going to hire their own staff and terminate the contract for assistance with administration. The Articles of Incorporation with State of Nebraska were filed in September of 2001. SILC members took on the responsibility of operating the Council and hiring staff In July of 2002 we received our Non-Profit-501(c )3 status from the Internal Revenue Service. The first SILC office and staff was opened in 2003. The Council developed its own bylaws which it updates regularly and operates under. The office is located at 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 519, Lincoln, NE 68508 and has its own operating budget which is approved and reviewed by the full council

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

The IL Regulations §1329.12 (b)(2) says the DSE has to "allocate necessary and sufficient resources needed by the SILC to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities". DSE will report to the SILC on the allocation of the Part B funds as part of the SILC monitoring the implementation of the SPIL . . .

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

The chair of the SILC is determined by the voting membership following procedures in our bylaws. Term limits for all members are 2 three-year

terms as outlined by the Rehab Act and our bylaws. The ending dates for each term is listed on the SILC Roster that is distributed annually to members and reviewed by Outreach Committee to either determine who was entering second term or who would need replacing. Outreach committee will begin process to look for new members. New members are obtained by contacting CILs and other disability organizations within state. Notices of openings are also posted on Facebook page. Application requirements are on website. Process that is outline in our policies:

The Outreach Committee shall solicit new member nominations through recruitment process developed through the SILC. The Chair of the Outreach Committee will report to the full SILC at quarterly meetings throughout this process to ensure adequate progress.

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- The Outreach Committee will review the roster every February to determine who is eligible for their second term and who will be terming out. By May 1<sup>st</sup> every year the Outreach Committee will review current membership to determine make-up of SILC and gaps in membership.
- Those eligible for second term will be contacted by a member of the Outreach Committee to determine their availability to serve a second term. If they agree the application will be forwarded to SILC office.
- The Operation Committee will update solicitation letter, interview questions and application form by January each year.
- Solicitation letter will be broadly distributed within two weeks of being updated. SILC will disseminate recruitment letter to all Centers for Independent Living and other disability organizations to have it posted on their websites and included in their newsletters annually.
- All applications will be forwarded to the Outreach Committee for review. They will include application and resume.
- Non voting members will complete application and submit resume for approval.
- Once an application is submitted 2 current members of SILC who do not know the applicant will interview the applicant via conference call. Questions for interview developed and updated by SILC members.
- The chair of the Outreach Committee will assign committee members to call references for each application received.

- Hold at least one meeting after applications are received at least one month prior to the day of the SILC meeting where nominations are to be considered
- Submit report to SILC Chair and Executive Director two weeks prior to the day of the SILC meeting where nominations are to be considered – including:
  - Names of all current members eligible for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term
    - Names of current members who applied for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term
    - Names of applicants recommended for nomination
  - Names of all new applicants for membership
    - Vacancies to be filled
    - Names of applicants recommended for nomination
- Based on information SILC members will vote to move application to next step in the process. With an affirmative vote the application is moved on to SILC Executive Director or Officer will submit letter to Designated State Entity (DSE) outlining background of SILC, current needs, names and positions of individuals terming/leaving SILC and name of new applicant with application. The DSE will then submit request to designee for approval
- Upon notification by the SILC Executive Director or Officer, the DSE Director (Dr. Stuber as of 10-1-2016) will develop a letter addressed to the President of the University of Nebraska who is the chief executive officer of the University of NE and MMI as an entity within the University. This letter will be cc'ed to: 1) the SILC Board, 2) the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, 3) the Director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute who with the UNMC Chancellor have administrative oversight of the MMI UCEDD. SILC Executive Director will be notified of decision by DSE. The applicant will be notified of all decisions.

No potential applicant can be reimbursed for expenses incurred during application process prior to final approval. A non-affirmative vote could either table the application or dismiss the application. In the case of non-affirmative vote, a letter will be sent to the applicant from SILC office clarifying disposition.

Staff and SILC members meet regularly with DSE to identify problem areas and to develop ways to address issues.

Staffing needs of SILC will be discussed annually at quarterly meeting.

**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 Monroe-Myer Institute/UNMC.

Authorized representative of the DSE Dr. Wayne Stuberg Title Director of UCEDD.

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 Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council.

6.3 Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

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

- Independence Rising
- League of Human Dignity
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

6.4 Authorizations

6.4.a. The SILC is authorized to submit the SPIL to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living. Yes (Yes/No)

6.4.b. The SILC and CILs may legally carryout each provision of the SPIL. Yes (Yes/No)

6.4.c. State/DSE operation and administration of the program is authorized by the SPIL. Yes (Yes/No)

**Section 7: DSE Assurances**

Dr. Wayne Stuberg acting on behalf of the DSE Monroe Meyer Institut/UNMC

located at 985450 Nebraska Medical Center | Omaha, NE 68198-5450, 402.559.6483, wstuberg@unmc.edu

*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;<sup>1</sup>
- 7.4. The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in *45 CFR 1329.14*;
- 7.5. The DSE will not interfere with the business or operations of the SILC that include but are not limited to:
  1. Expenditure of federal funds
  2. Meeting schedules and agendas
  3. SILC board business
  4. Voting actions of the SILC board
  5. Personnel actions
  6. Allowable travel
  7. Trainings
- 7.6. The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff:
  1. If the SILC informs the DSE that the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff, the DSE assures that management of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC is the sole responsibility of the SILC in accordance with Sec. 705(e)(3) of the Act (Sec. 705(e)(3), 29 U.S.C.796d(e)(3)).
- 7.7. The DSE will fully cooperate with the SILC in the nomination and appointment process for the SILC in the State;
- 7.8. The DSE shall make timely and prompt payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs:
  1. When the reimbursement method is used, the DSE must make a payment within 30 calendar days after receipt of the billing, unless the agency or pass-through entity reasonably believes the request to be improper;
  2. When necessary, the DSE will advance payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs to cover its estimated disbursement needs for an initial period generally geared to the mutually agreed upon disbursing cycle; and
  3. The DSE will accept requests for advance payments and reimbursements at least monthly when electronic fund transfers are not used, and as often as necessary when electronic fund transfers are used, in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693-1693r).

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

Dr. Wayne Stuberg, Director of UCEDD

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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

Don Dew acting on behalf of the SILC Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council located at 215 Centennial Mall S., Lincoln, NE 68508/ 1-402-438-7979/kathy@nesilc.org/director@drcsiouxland.org  
*45 CFR 1329.14* assures that:

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

## Section 8.2 Indicators of Minimum Compliance

Indicators of minimum compliance for Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILC) as required by the Rehab Act as amended in 2014 (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:

Don Dew  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council \_\_\_\_\_ and the centers for independent living in the state agree with and intend to fully implement this SPIL’s content. These signatures also indicate that this SPIL is complete and ready for submission to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON DATE

Don Dew  
 NAME OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

League of Human Dignity  
 NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

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

Kathy Kay  
 NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Independence Rising

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

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SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Irene Britt

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NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

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